DePalma's Carriage-magic fails in 'The Fury

The Fury, a Twenty-century Fox release, produced by Frank Yablans, starring Kirk Douglas, Charles Durning, Amy Irving, and Andrew Stevens, screenplay by John Irving, based on his novel, scored by John Williams, playing at Savoy Alley and the Once Cinema.

By David B. Koorer

The most important ingredient of a film of the horror genre should be its ability to grab and keep its audience. Unfortunately, 'The Fury' can barely keep its audience in the theater.

The successful horror movie demands a terrifying, suspenseful screenplay, dynamic acting, innovative directing and a powerful score. One out of four, however, is pretty bad. John Williams' score is only a little short of brilliant, but John Faiss's screenplay is amateurish at best, the acting is pedestrian, and DePalma's direction employs the technological creativity of a 'Lost In Space' episode.

The most apparent flaw is the acting. An aspiring Kirk Douglas plays a government agent with a secret society, Douglas is terribly miscast; by trying to play a man 20 years younger than himself, he overacts even more wildly than he actually does. John Faiss, at the other extreme, walks through the film as Douglas's Benedict Arnold buddy.

Douglas's son (barring Andrew Stevens) has incredible psychic powers. He is abducted by the Agency, which also tries to kill Douglas. Cassavetes, Douglas's long-time 'friend', has engineered the abduction to allow further development of Douglas's psychically transferrable and seemingly worthless powers. Douglas spends the rest of the movie searching for his son, never quite making it clear what would happen should he find him.

Meanwhile, Amy Irving is demonstrating similar psychic powers and psychoses at a girls' school where she makes her classmates boil by holding their hands. (Heaven help her dates.) Scared by these gratuitously bloody scenes, Amy (who has seen eyes -- after Williams's score they're the sexiest feature of the film) goes off to a special institution for the psychiatric rich. The place is run by the ever-bland Charles Durning for Cassavetes's Agency, with the help of a frantic Carrie Snodgress, who often sleeps with -- you guessed it! -- Kirk Douglas. The plot gets even more bogged down as we find out that Douglas's son was once kept in the institution, and there's now a psychic link between Amy and the son.

We then have some filler scenes where the loose ends are made more confusing. Seemingly in the climax in which both Douglas and his son are killed. That's it. No message, no point, no justification for Douglas's perseverance, for Amy's troubles or for Cassavetes's intransigent villainy. The place is run by a one-more-time Amy blows up Cassavetes, and the movie ends with a rubber mask of his head rolling around.

DePalma's work is misdirected. The opening scenes (complete with a terrorist attack on a beach) set a pace that the rest of the movie can't even come close to. He's trying to work with a confusing plot and a dialogue that maintains between corny and soporific. However, he adds little to an already too-bloody-than-chop-socky-cum-monument, not very special effects, and far too much fake blood.

DePalma thought that what worked well in his hit 'Cape' would work well here. Not only has he totally failed to capture any of the terror or suspense of that movie, he hasn't put anything into 'The Fury' that is worth seeing.

AROUND MIT

Guys and Dolls. The Musical Theatre Guild's spring production will play Fri. and Sat., April 7 and 8 at 8pm, Sun., April 9 at 4pm and Thur.-Sun., April 13-15 at 8pm. Tickets $3.75 and $2.50 with MIT ID and for senior citizens. Sun. & Thur. prices are $3 and $2. Call 32-2494 for reservations.

Tryouts. For the MIT Dramashop production of You Can't Take It With You will be held Tues. & Wed., April 4 & 5 at 7:30 in the Kresge Little Theatre. New members welcome, many positions available including Assistant to the Director and Stage Manager. For info., call 493-2398. Performance dates May 5, 6, 11-13. MIT Semi-Formal Ball sponsored by the MIT-Wellesley Ballroom Dance Club. No partner necessary, Sat., April 8 at 8pm, Salo de Puerto Rico. Admission $2.50 call 33-8477.

Jerry Berlin piano recital will perform Wed., Apr., Sat. at 1:15pm in the Music Library. The program will include Dehov's complete Prelude, Book 1 and Four Ballades by Chopin, free.

Michael Steinberg, former music critic for The Boston Globe will give a lecture en titled The Music Of Avatar on Fri., Apr. 19 at 3:15pm in Room 10-250, free.

Strat's Rat, Fri., April 7, cheap beer and wine, good music 2nd floor, Student Center, Start's at 8:30. For info. call the U.A.S. Concert Series, Sanders Theater, Harvard, Sun., April 9 at 8pm. Tickets $2-$5.

Fenway Studios tour, Boston's oldest art studio, Sat., April 8, 1-5pm. 30 Ipwisch St., off Boylston at the Fenway. Tickets $3 call 336-0633.

IN THEATRE

20 October, At Night, Yoshioha Sobeh's award winning Israeli play about seven young Japanese pioneers in 1920, directed by Arie Yans at the Boston Repertory Theatre, One Boylston Place, Boston. Tickets $5.50-$8.50, 547-6545.

The Four Musketeers (Fri.) 7:30 in the Kresge Little Theatre. New members welcome, many positions available including Assistant to the Director and Stage Manager. For info., call 493-2398. Performance dates May 5, 6, 11-13. MIT Semi-Formal Ball sponsored by the MIT-Wellesley Ballroom Dance Club. No partner necessary, Sat., April 8 at 8pm, Salo de Puerto Rico. Admission $2.50 call 33-8477.

Theatre Q, sponsored by the Ford Foundation, directed by Arie Yans at the Boston Repertory Theatre, One Boylston Place, Boston. About a married couple trying to conceive or adopt a child, light and sensitive. For info, call 336-0630.

The Importance of Being Earnest, presented by the Emerson College Theatre Company, 130 Beacon St., Boston, Thur.-Sun., March 30-Apr. 2 & 4, 8pm. April 4, 9pm. Performance 8:30pm; tickets $2.50; call 336-0862.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Forna and Flegas, lecture by Alar Col-}
phantos, sponsored by Harvard Grad. School of Design, Thurs., April 6 at 3:30pm in Piper Auditorium, Grand Hall, 48 Quincy St., Cambridge; free; call 495-2371.

Meet the Candidates on open forum

Hear the UAP/UAVP nominees

Ask questions of the candidates.

In 10-250, Thursday April 6, 4-6 pm.

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Are You Into Freebies...?

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