Blue Valentine: Waits for select few

By Claudia Perry
Blue Valentine, by Tom Waits. Asylum

Tom Waits’ albums have long been known for their simple arrangements and recorded in a technique. His last release, Foreign Affair, was probably his best effort, combining original songs and melodies with exemplary music.

Blue Valentine, Waits’ latest effort, is a pleasant change. The lush arrangements overpower Waits’ moody verses in a few cases. This is particularly evident in “Somewhere,” the song that opens the album. Strings are recklessly employed.

Paving the cut with saccharine sludge. Originally from West Side Story, this song is sentimental enough, the treatment it receives makes it ludicrous.

Waits’ own compositions fare much better. Departing from his usual spare approach, the arrangements are jazzy without being derivative. “28th,” the tune that closes the first side, ropes, along, reeling out phrases that are deceptively simple. Although the song on Blue Valentine is excellent, Waits’ lyrics are the main attraction. “If Roess is the Blanders,” a song of a dying gang, leader and his underlings, describes a scene that only Waits could have written.

The Godfather

Dave (Eric Roberts) and his sister Tita (Susan Sarandon) are one or two irritating loose ends. Unfortunately, these codes don’t contain a gypsy in a grey suit. The Social Beaver (Photo by John Borland)

Do not hallucinate.

Davesis grandfather the King is dying; so the music underlines his grave, but humorous life; it just moved gypsies into New York and New Jersey. It is a very moving tragic car

By Bruce Naurock
Paramount’s big advertising campaign for King of the Gypsies is in full swing, getting audiences primed for its arrival just before Christmas. The movie bills itself as “the first film to deal realistically with these mysterious people, the gypsies.” This doesn’t sound particularly appealing, but the film didn’t change my concepts of gypsy life: it just moved gypsies into New York and New Jersey. It is a very moving tragic car

King of the Gypsies - Brooke Shields returns

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Dave eventually becomes the thief himself in a corner of the picture, but the plot...