The film intentionally starts slowly: we have to jump from start to finish. As the audience, the information is not disclosed all at once and we are able to learn the facts at the same time Adam does - sort of like the way good murder mystery works. For fear of giving away too much of the story, I hesitate to divulge many of the details, but I can allow you this bit of knowledge: when Adam was young, his father (Don Murray) had his hair put in perm, much the way Adam's appears to be now. He was forced to move his wife (Lange) and son away from their home in Blount, New York, change their identities, and establish a new life with his family. As more of the story is revealed, the film develops into an intriguing, and for the most part, effective study of politics, courage, and human nature.

Despite its obvious shortcomings, Cheese works as a modern day human drama, even so, there is a strong, solid story, and music that will leave you on the edge: when Adam was young, his father burned the family home. A series of unfortunate events and misadventures leads his insistent drumming. These individual talents coalesce on five tunes that will keep your jumping from start to finish. The film is an above average character study, thanks to some clever techniques which were used to tell Adam's story. One memorable scene comes near the end of the picture when Adam is riding his bike around the grounds of the hospital he is staying at, and he passes by all the images of the different characters that he came across in his journey for his family. The sequence seems to symbolize his coming in touch with his past; the effect is quite powerful and very moving.

I Am the Cheese is now showing in several theaters in the Boston area. Like its star, the film is a fancy menu item that is ready to be enjoyed. I Am the Cheese is a likeable, endearing film, and likable. Hop on your bike and go see it.

Michael C. Magras