Dave, Kline mine the comic gold of presidential politics

By Douglas D. Keller

Dave by Ivan Reitman. Written by Gary Ross. Starring Kevin Kline and Sigourney Weaver.

Screenplay by Josiane Morand.


Written by Gary Ross.

Directed by Ivan Reitman.

MAFF REPORTER

By Jonette Lavoie

Bizarre foreign film explores life of a tomato's offspring

LELO


In French with English subtitles.

By Douglas D. Keller

I am not at a loss to pass up a screening of a film described as "Jean-Claude Lauzon's audacious study of a 15-year-old-who is convinced he is the offspring of an armadillo, sporem-covered Sicilian tomato. Léo (Maxime Collin) is a dreamer who hopes to escape his own bizarre family. He continually remarks throughout the film, "Because I dream, I'm not." His father is more concerned with family members having a daily bowel movement than he is with raising Léo. One of Léo's sisters likes to spend her time in the crawl space under their apartment building collecting insects. His grandmother (Julien Guiomar) pays the neighbors the strong visual and aural images make the combination of the strong acting performances by Kevin Kline and Sigourney Weaver plays Ellen with control and conviction, and yes, with hair (for all of you who remember Weaver's last role). Dave and Ellen are obviously perfect for each other and eventually set out to right the wrongs of the Mitchell administration.

Director Ivan Reitman manages to keep the improbable plot light and believable by exploiting the seams of comic gold that presidential politics afford. There are more than a few surprises and a truckload full of comic bits that help make Dave an enjoyable film.

The strangeress of the script is beautifully brought to life by Lavoie's keen eye for cinema, watershed and direction. In addition to the powerful and colorful visual images, the soundtrack, which ranges from Tom Waits and the Rolling Stones to native music of Argentinian and Tibetan monks, can only be described as stunning and powerful. The combination of the stark acting performances by Collins, Reno, Guzmán, and the rest of the cast with the strong visual and aural images make Léo thoroughly enjoyable if you like bizarre foreign films.

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