Guarding Tess caught between drama, comedy

GUARDING TESS
Directed by Martha Coolidge. Written by Hugh Wilson and Peter Torkoski. Starring Shirley MacLaine, Nicholas Cage, Lee Tamahori, and Christopher Ohu. By Christopher Ohu

It's hard to explain just what this movie is, it's advertised as a comedy. Nearly two-thirds of the movie is a drama with a few comic sequences, and it ends with a murder mystery. As you might expect, Guarding Tess is a woman with a serious drinking problem and one that isn't even the worse of its problems.

Let's begin with the plot. For anyone who has seen Driving Miss Daisy, the storyline will sound familiar. Shirley MacLaine plays Mrs. Washburn, a former First Lady who is strong willed, intimidating, and quite eccentric. She goes golfing in 38 degree weather and wears her pants daisy gray. Her biggest bodyguard is Douglas Christie (Nicholas Cage), the best Secret Service agent in the business, who is itching for a more active role. Theo is a bit too active, a bit too quick-witted, even a bit too charming to be the bodyguard Mrs. Washburn hires. She seems just a bit too active, a bit too quick-witted, even a bit too charming to be the bodyguard Mrs. Washburn hires.

Tess catches between drama, comedy and action. Driving Miss Daisy is advertised as a comedy tragedy. Nearly two-thirds of the movie is a drama with a few comic sequences, and it ends with a murder mystery. As you might expect, Guarding Tess is a woman with a serious drinking problem and one that isn't even the worse of its problems.

By Christopher Ohu

ANGIE
Directed by Berta Kaye. Starring Geena Davis, James Gandolfini, Philip Seymour Hoffman, and Aida Turturro. By Aida Turturro

This was almost a good movie. Unfortunately, even an admirable performance by Geena Davis couldn't overcome Todd Graff's awkward script. The movie couldn't decide what it was to be about. In the beginning, it's being made to look as though it's a female bonding movie about best friends sharing the joys and sorrows of life. In the actual film, however, the friendship of Angie and her best friend, Tina (Aida Turturro), is barely explored. Although the focus of this actual film, however, the friendship of Angie and her best friend, Tina (Aida Turturro), is barely explored.

As the story proceeds, we're introduced to Angie, a young working woman from Bensonhurst, Brooklyn. Angie is attended to by her best friend, Tina (Aida Turturro), and her share of problems. Angie is ecstatic and begins making wedding plans. While Cage's character seems one-dimensional, however, it isn't until the film that one can see the character is much older than she is, and it shows. The problem is, Angie seems just a bit too active, a bit too quick-witted, even a bit too charming to be the bodyguard Mrs. Washburn hires.

After Angie discovers she is pregnant, Vinnie is ecstatic and begins making wedding plans. Angie goes along with them, but her discomfort is plain to see. As Angie's baby shower, some of the other women sneak out to some wondorful hearing in the woods, and we see that Angie is pregnant. It's funny, and yet the camera captures Angie's eyes as she escapes the party, we see her doubt and fear.

Eventually Angie and Vinnie get on a feelings, and after beginning an affair with Noel (Stephen Rea), a Manhattan lawyer, she ends her relationship with Vinnie.

Here the tension slackens, and although there are some funny scenes, they seem to be a stretch. However, the friendship of Angie and her best friend, Tina (Aida Turturro), is barely explored. Although the focus of this actual film, however, the friendship of Angie and her best friend, Tina (Aida Turturro), is barely explored.

In the movie, Angie's actions are puzzling and seem to exist only to move the plot along. Some of Angie's actions are puzzling and seem to exist only to move the plot along.

After the birth, the loose ends in this movie are tied up. However, the friendship of Angie and her best friend, Tina (Aida Turturro), is barely explored. Although the focus of this actual film, however, the friendship of Angie and her best friend, Tina (Aida Turturro), is barely explored.

The movie commands much attention at all. The problems begin with the cast. The three dozen supporting actors and the cinematography are very weak as well. The three dozen supporting actors and the cinematography are very weak as well.

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