

'In the Cut' is a weird sexual nightmare

Blake Hinton
Reviewer

In a way, the new Meg Ryan film "In The Cut" is the complete opposite of Woody Allen's masterpiece "Manhattan." While Allen's film celebrated the city of New York, "In The Cut" seems to revel in its decay. "Manhattan" is a love letter to the city while "In The Cut" is a nightmare about the city. It's just too bad "In The Cut" had to be opposite in quality too.

Much like the recent and infinitely better "Mystic River," this a character study masquerading as a murder mystery. Meg Ryan plays a sexually repressed and lonely college professor in New York named Frannie. When the film starts, she's going to a bar to have a student-teacher conference of sorts. The film wants the audience to believe there is a budding sexual relationship here, but that angle is barely and clumsily explored. Wanting to get away from the student, she goes down to the basement trying to find a rest room. While down there she witnesses a man and woman in a sexual act. She can't see the man's face, but can see a distinct tattoo on the arm.

The next day Frannie gets a

visit from Detective Malloy, played by Mark Ruffalo. The woman she saw in the basement was murdered and part of her body showed up in Frannie's garden. Immediately, Frannie notices the same tattoo from the mystery man on Malloy's arm. They begin a dangerous relationship with each keeping secrets from the other.

This sounds like the plot line of a potentially interesting movie. It never happens though. There are so many things wrong with this film, but the biggest problem is character motivations. None of the character's actions make sense. Frannie has good proof that Malloy is a psychotic killer, but she doesn't do anything about it. When the killer's finally revealed, Frannie is shocked while the audience can only say "duh."

Frannie also has a psychotic ex-boyfriend played by the unbilled Kevin Bacon. This character really has nothing to do with the plot, but keeps popping up for some reason. He also shows many times that he is quite dangerous, but Frannie couldn't care less. Later, her student Cornelius assaults her, and she takes that in stride too. By the end, one keeps waiting for a subtitle that would say this is an alternate



Photo courtesy of movies.com

Meg Ryan, Mark Ruffalo and Kevin Bacon star in the sexually-charged character study film "In the Cut."

reality; at least that would make sense.

All these unclear motivations would have made sense if we were given insight into the characters. Obviously, this film wanted to be an important character study. The film expresses this through ludicrous self-conscious dialogue laced with issues. The dialogue is awkward and weird. Do people talk like this in real life? Frannie and Malloy, much like the performances behind the characters, remain static and

boring. Much of the movie is plodding and will put anyone to sleep.

"In The Cut" wants to say something about sexuality, or at least would have to think so with its many sex scenes. In the end though, its message gets muddled through a boring and awkward script, plodding pace and plain performances.

Contact Blake Hinton at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.

Coming Attractions

Now Playing:

Friday

Matrix Revolutions (R)
Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Ann Moss, Laurence Fishburne

Saturday

The Elf (PG)
Will Ferrell, James Caan

Love Actually (R)

Hugh Grant, Colin Firth, Emma Thompson, Rowan Atkinson

Concerts

Thursday

Ziggy's - Winston-Salem
(Millennium Center)
O.A.R./Virginia Coalition
8 p.m., \$20 adv.

Friday

Cat's Cradle - Carrboro
Weekend Excursion
9 p.m., \$8 adv.

In the Bubble

Thursday

McCrary Theater
"Anything Goes"
Nov. 7 - Nov. 10
\$12 or free w/ Elon ID

West End Station- Elon
Lloyd Doppler Effect
9:30 p.m. \$5 cover

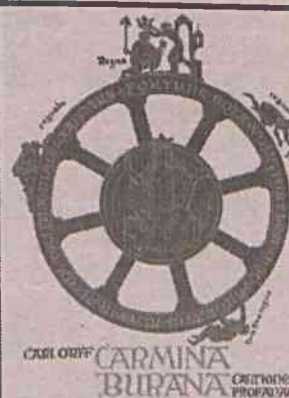
Tuesday

Koury Center
Adeline Yen-Mah
7:30 p.m.
Open to public

Slamming poetry in the Zone



Senior Daniel Watts (left) read a selection from his favorite story at the first Alpha Pi Alpha Poetry Slam Thursday night during Midnight Meals in the Zone. Sophomore Laurentia Richter (right) read from her own work.



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