

'Last Embrace' baffles viewers

By TOM MOORE

Last Embrace is a fair film, despite a hopelessly confused story line.

Screenwriter David Shaber actually had two stories on his hands, and if he had separated them he might have given birth to one good movie. As it is, *Last Embrace* changes midway from a spy thriller to a tale of personal revenge, leaving the viewer intrigued but befuddled somewhere in between.

Roy Schneider plays Harry Hannan, a secret agent recovering from a nervous breakdown brought on by the death of his beloved wife in a shoot-out in a Mexican bar. Hannan returns to New York City, only to find that his own agency is trying to kill him; he doesn't know why.

a movie review

Nor does Hannan know why a beautiful graduate student has moved into his apartment during his absence. Hannan is additionally disturbed by an ancient Hebrew death threat left for him at his apartment, an additional burden for the worried spy, which also encumbers the plot.

The intertwining of these mysteries—the attempts on his life, the new roommate and the old threat—keeps *Last Embrace* from being a really good movie.

Director Jonathan Demme works effectively against the muddled story line to make *Last Embrace* an enjoyable film. Demme's virtuoso command of film technique keeps the story suspenseful in spite of moments of confusion.

In *Last Embrace*, Demme captures the look and feel of detective thrillers in the popular style of the 1940s, such as *The Big Sleep* and *The Maltese Falcon*. The camera in *Last Embrace* never stops moving; it views everything suspiciously, waiting—like the film's paranoid hero—for doom.

Demme gets fine performances from Roy Schneider, as the nervous secret agent; from Christopher Walken, as Schneider's creepy, evil-minded boss; and from Sam Levene, as a Jewish man who assists Schneider in his plight.

The best performance in the film comes from Janet Margolin as the vengeance-seeking graduate student. The part gives Margolin a chance to show off her talents—perhaps she will get parts in better films in the future.

Hopefully, Demme will have much better scripts to work with in the future. If he does, then he should soon rank with Coppola, Altman and Allen as a great American director now making films.



Fair to present civic displays

Need free entertainment to fill up your Saturday afternoon? Come out to the People's Fair.

The fair will be held on Saturday, June 16, from 1-6 p.m. on the lawn of Carr Mill in Carrboro. Attractions will include musicians, poets, slide shows, a poetry workshop, and performances by singer and pianist Nyle Frank and juggler Ken Kaye.

More than 40 citizens' groups and

service organizations will present displays and distribute information about their services.

The fair is sponsored by the People's Alliance, a group aimed at helping workers and consumers gain more control over decisions that affect their lives.

Among the groups participating are Kudzu Alliance/Citizens Against Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant, the Chapel Hill Anti-Nuclear Group Effort, the Women's Health Counseling Service, the North Carolina Public Interest Research Group, Lollipop Power, Carolina Friends School, the North Carolina Civil Liberties Union, Committee for Solar and Appropriate Technologies, the Animal Protection Society, the National Lawyers Guild, *Southern Exposure* magazine, the War Resisters League, Carolina Gay Association, and the National Abortion Rights Action League.

Any group not already involved in the fair that wishes to participate can call the People's Alliance at 929-1936 to register.

Visit the People's Fair for an afternoon of entertainment and relaxation while meeting with community residents to share ideas, sing, eat and enjoy.

—LINDA SMITH

Triangle quartet to play jazz in Pit

The agile, upbeat sound of the jazz quartet Hands will be heard in the Pit at 8 p.m. on Tuesday.

Hands is a familiar group in the Triangle area, having performed regularly in local clubs, as well as in the UNC Jazz Festival and the Cafe Deja Vu Jazzfest '79.

Quartet members are Bobby Mack on the tenor sax, soprano sax, flutes, zourna, congas and percussion; Frank Kimbrough on keyboards and percussion; Lyles West on bass and David Womsey on drums. Original music is composed for the group by West, Kimbrough and Mack.

Hands performances have been hailed as "nothing short of brilliant" (Ron Kertzner, the *News and Observer*), and "first rate" (N.C. *Anvil*). The *Raleigh Spectator* said, "They have that special knack for playing hot."

Don't miss Hands with their interplay of piano, bass, drums and sax. In case of rain, the concert will be in the Great Hall.

— KATHY McADAMS

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Coat Sprays Repellent Gas at Assaultant

A 19-year-old University of Minnesota sophomore escaped from an armed assault and early Friday by carrying a repellent gas in his coat.

June C. Lindan, 2500 S. 3rd St., St. Paul, Minn., told police she had just returned home from a production at Dudley Rizzo's Cafe Espresso about 12:15 a.m. and was parking her car in the garage when a man emerged from the darkness and pointed a gun at her.

She screamed, she told police, but he told her to get up and he down to the back seat. He took the car keys and started backing out of the garage.

She told police the man was "stunned" by the spray and allowed her to escape out the back door. The man fled on foot as she screamed for her parents.

THE DAUGHTER told her mother: "If it hadn't been for the spray, I wouldn't have had the courage to try to get away."

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