

British film takes revealing look at teen's coming of age

Lynda's father really did love her, or so her aunt says. The problem is that Lynda, desolate, pregnant and sitting in a dumpy cafe, does not know it. But it isn't her father's fault; as her aunt says about love, "You can't show that sort of thing in this day and age."

So goes life in the new David Leland film "Wish You Were Here." The day and age of which the aunt speaks is 1950s England, and the weather is anything but beautiful.

Lynda (Emily Lloyd) is a confused teenager with a dirty mouth, a willful attitude and a strong streak of exhibitionism. Coming to maturity in a stuffy coastal town where her father is a respectable Freemason and her younger "bloody boring sister" is a model Girl Guide, Lynda herself is just bloody bored.

Lynda's problems are many. She loses several jobs because of her outrageous behavior (such as modeling her new underpants before co-workers at the carriage company). She feels alienated from her father and misses her mother, who died when Lynda was still young. And she cannot control her emerging sexuality.

Since affection is a commodity in short supply in Lynda's life, she becomes virtually addicted to the attentions of men, something which

Elizabeth Ellen Cinema

she discovers is not difficult to obtain. Playing the wild child, she rides her bicycle about town with her skirts hiked up to the limit of legal decency. A would-be teenage Betty Grable, she exposes long stretches of legs to anyone at the drop of a hat.

Despite her uninhibited public behavior, Lynda really isn't ready to handle her sexuality. In her first romantic encounter, she bursts into tears because she enjoys the advances of a bumbling teenage Romeo. It is only moments before she loses her virginity that she discovers that condoms (or, as she calls them, "plunkers") are not oral contraceptives. And after gaining first-hand knowledge of the proper use of plunkers, she still feels dissatisfied and disappointed. "Is it always that quick?" she asks.

Her father (Geoffrey Hutchings) knows Lynda is out of control, and takes her to a psychiatrist. One of the film's funniest scenes is in the psychiatrist's office, when he asks her to recite an ABCs of curse words. She obliges him by naming words begin-

ning with A, B, and D, but staunchly denies knowing the obvious words starting with C and F.

Lynda's sexual curiosity eventually gets the best of her, as she begins a sleazy affair with a middle-aged man (Tom Bell). Never pretending to love her, he refuses to wear a "plunker" or to hold her when she tearfully begs for comfort. He probably represents a father figure to her, but, sadly, he does a dismal job of filling such a role.

Lynda, showing signs of the Electra complex, cannot comfortably accept her father's sexual relationship with his lady friend. In their confrontation over her affair, she bluntly asks him why it is all right for him but not for her. "I'm a man" is the ambiguous explanation he offers. Whether he means he is a man as opposed to a woman or as opposed to a child is

unclear, but either way, his coldness drives her away.

Bell portrays Lynda's lover Eric with all the sliminess called for, and Hutchings is properly staid, but Lloyd is the one who really shines in "Wish You Were Here." A pretty 16-year-old English actress, she plays Lynda with transparent rebelliousness. Lynda's innocence shows through clearly, and the effect can be heartbreaking, as in the scene after she leaves home. Though Lynda is a brat with lots of bravado, she comes across as very sympathetic and incredibly vulnerable.

Writer and director Leland masterfully uses visual details to convey deep meanings. For instance, when Lynda decides to leave home, she takes her mother's clothes from the closet while photographs of her mother and herself as a young child

loom large in the foreground. Near the end when a despondent Lynda strolls by the ocean, a ubiquitous presence throughout the film, she walks past her younger self riding a bike.

Several disturbing images recur in the film. One of these is the old tap dancer who shuffles out of rhythm down on the seaside boardwalk. Another is Lynda wearing a gas mask. She first wears it as a pouting child sitting on the curb. Later it shows up in the unlikely but somehow appropriate context of a rendezvous with Eric.

Lighting adds much to the film, especially in its creative use as an indicator of time passages. Several times, the camera circles behind Lynda seated at a window, only to white out in blindingly bright light. When the refocus comes, Lynda is

at a different stage of life.

The movie is unmistakably British and terribly authentic in setting. Worthing in West Sussex was selected as the filming location, and many of the town's existing features are as perfect for Leland's purpose as anything which could be constructed on a sound stage. The English flavor is delicious, even though occasionally, especially in highly emotional exchanges, the accents make dialogue a challenge for American ears.

"Wish You Were Here" is basically a character study which is, at times, uncomfortably intimate. Bawdy and classy at the same time, it explores emotions without flinching. The study is never objective, and the embarrassment and abandonment felt by Lynda and the characters about her is contagious, even to those who sit in front of the screen.

Sports

Netters rout State in three convincing sets

By LANGSTON WERTZ
Staff Writer

A wildly vocal crowd played witness to a runaway Tar Heel victory in Carmichael Auditorium Tuesday night, and the Dean of coaches was nowhere in sight. Instead, it was coach Peggy Bradley-Doppes and the women's volleyball team who were the recipients of the applause, as UNC sent N.C. State back to Raleigh in straight sets, 15-7, 15-6, 15-12.

The crowd, numbering about 1,000 screaming fans and band members, cheered as junior hitter Andrea Wells sparked the Tar Heels with a couple of crunching kills in the first game, as UNC jumped to a 9-2 advantage and never looked back.

State did mount a comeback of sorts, however. The Wolfpack's Volire Tisdale showed off some Jordanesque leaping ability, drawing State to within five points of the Tar Heels at 10-5 and drawing oohs and aahs from the crowd as well. But the Tar Heel net blockade got the ball back to the offense and a windmill hitter from Canton, Ohio, named Wells. She responded in her usual excellent fashion, and UNC took the first game.

In game two, Sharon German gave the Wolfpack a taste of things to come with a kill that would make Bond jealous, and followed that with a serving performance that staked the Tar Heels to a 7-1 lead. In a key sequence in that second game, the trio of blockers stopped the high-flying Tisdale three consecutive times. A Wells "kill and dance" routine followed, and UNC ran away, 15-6.

With the crowd screaming for State to go where Mephistopheles lives, UNC raced to a 4-0 advantage in the third game. The Wolfpack closed to within three points at 5-2, but the game became German Time. The sophomore hitter from Dillon, S.C., got the fans on their feet with a variety of power kills, aces and digs.

Though German was invading the State court with crunching kills, the Wolfpack hung tough behind Tisdale,

drawing to 9-7 and then as close as 13-12. At that point, Wells got her 13th and final kill of the night to send UNC to a 14-12 lead.

Fittingly, the defense won the game as Tisdale's final attempt was blocked and the white ball crashed onto State's side of the court.

Though Wells played an outstanding game and consistently gave the Tar Heels the lift they needed to overcome State rallies, the evening belonged to German. The sophomore hitter led the team with 14 kills, two aces and 10 digs.

After the game, assistant coach Kevin Kirk talked about German's phenomenal effort, the defense and the impact of the victory on the team.

"It's easy for us to get fired up for State, and any time you beat the Wolfpack it's a big win," Kirk said. "The team really played well, especially German. We passed really well tonight, which you need to do against a good serving team like State."

Kirk also stressed the importance of stopping Tisdale, State's biggest gun.

"We also knew No. 7 (Tisdale) liked to hit the ball down the line," Kirk said. "We had her scouted well and our defense played accordingly."

Both Kirk and Bradley-Doppes said the scouting of State's key players played a major role in the victory.

"We were inspired after Penn State and the kids realized they had to push," Bradley-Doppes said. "We had watched No. 7 (Tisdale) and No. 12 (Patty Lake) and we knew if we stopped them, we'd beat State."

Bradley-Doppes emphasized that the game had been fun, and that spirit was very evident after the game, as the players smiled and danced around with the crowd. Even Bradley-Doppes performed a victory dance, of sorts, with Lady Kill, Sharon German.

The victory, which for some unexplained reason did not count in the ACC standings, improved UNC's record to 10-8. State drops to 5-7.

Field hockey beats UVa; women's golf takes third

From staff reports

The UNC field hockey team solidified its grasp on the No. 1 spot nationally Tuesday night, as it man-handled fourth-ranked Virginia in Charlottesville, knocking off the Cavaliers, 4-0.

The win moves the Tar Heels to 7-0 overall and 1-0 in the conference, while Virginia fell to 7-2, 2-1.

UNC was led by Julie Blaisse, who had two goals, and the passing combination of Lori Bruney and Jennifer Anderson, who collected three assists apiece while together setting up UNC's first three goals.

Those initial three markers all came off penalty corners. For the game, the Tar Heels had 12 corners to the Cavs' one.

The first goal came at the 21:00 mark, as Bruney and Anderson combined to get the ball to Betsy Gillespie, who continued her scoring ways by knocking a shot past Cav goalie Donna DeNoble.

UNC scored thrice in the second half, as Blaisse scored at the 55:00 and the 58:00 mark, with Bruney and Anderson garnering assists on both goals.

Then, at 69:30, Maryellen Falcone took a penalty stroke and beat DeNoble to round out the scoring.

For the Tar Heels, goalie Kathy

Mulvey kicked out three shots, but split credit for the shutout with Evelien Spee, who played the final seven and a half minutes and made one save.

The news from Memphis was less cheery, as for the second year in a row, the Duke women's golf team won the Memphis Women's Intercollegiate Tournament Tuesday after a final round of 305.

The UNC Tar Heels, who began the day in second place, just five strokes behind the Blue Devils, skied to 318 and dropped into third place with a three-day total of 939. Duke finished at 921, and Kentucky took second with 937 after a final round of 313.

Taking the individual title was Kentucky's Kate Rogerson, who shot 75 Tuesday to finish at 222, five strokes ahead of UNC's Donna Andrews, whose third round of 77 gave her a 227 total.

The rest of the Tar Heels did not fare nearly so well. Suzy McGuire, who had opening rounds of 74 and 81, bounced back with a 77, but still finished at 232. Katie Peterson, whose even-par 72 Monday had placed her in a position to take the title, blew up Tuesday and shot 86 for a disappointing total of 234.

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