

Will they fall in love? Yeah, you guessed it

Green Card

G rard Depardieu, Andie MacDowell
directed by Peter Weir

Varsity
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In box office terms, *Green Card* may be seen as successful and therefore (gulp) a good movie. Maybe Hollywood needs this type of film to keep afloat. In the end, though, the movie seemed like it was nothing more than a long introduction of French actor G rard Depardieu to American audiences.

For years, Depardieu has been the main man in French cinema. He's not a typical leading man; he's big, clumsy and he has an amazingly large nose. But he is also utterly charismatic and has a presence that not only steals, but wrenches every scene from whomever he's cast with.

In *Green Card*, Depardieu plays George, a French composer trying to obtain a ... green card! Here's the catch: in order to do so, George has to marry an American. But never fear, Bront , who is a friend of a friend of George's (who of course is played by Andie MacDowell), wants to rent a neat little apartment/greenhouse in New York. But wouldn't you know,

JEFF TRUSSELL

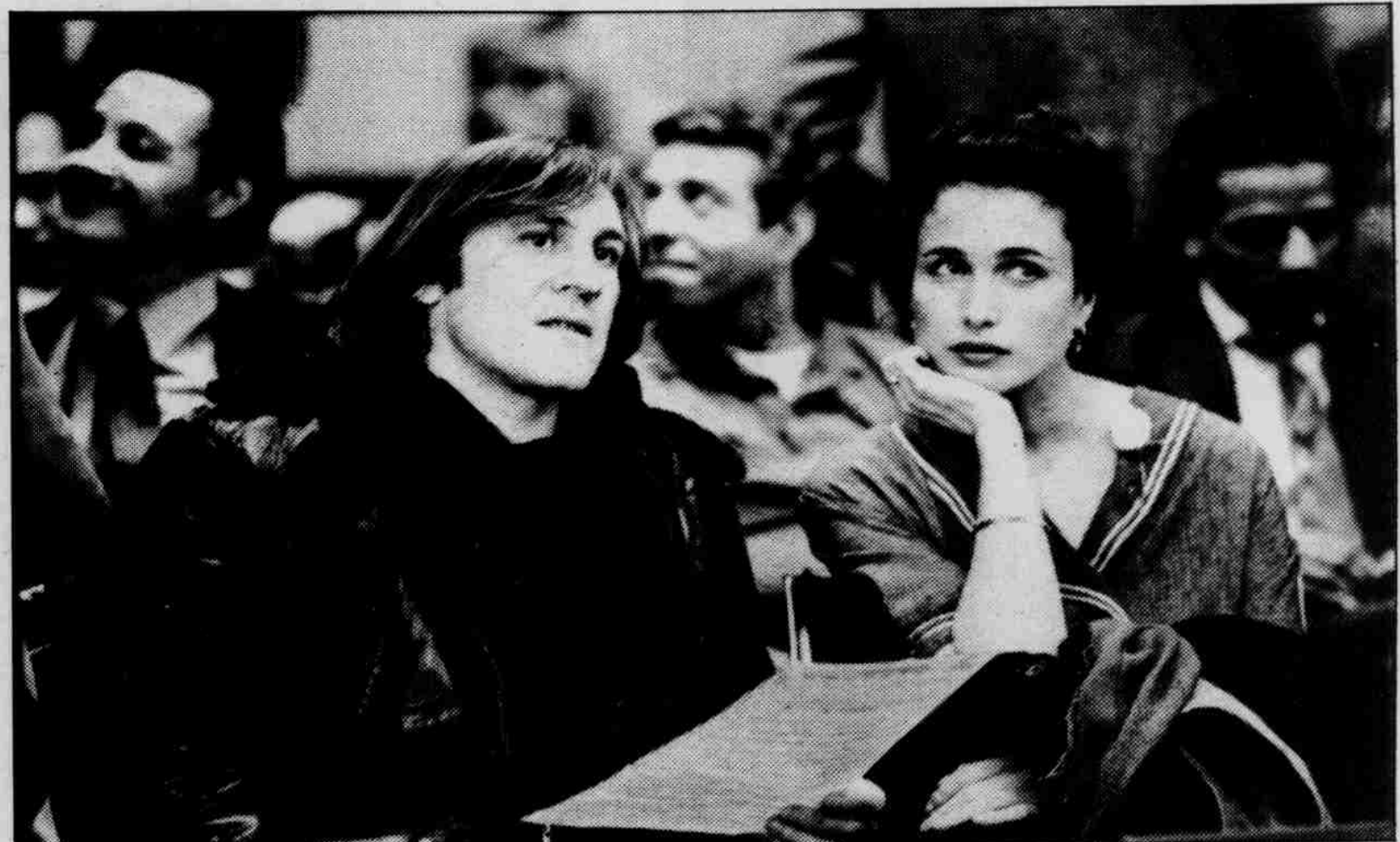
Movies

she has to get married in order to do so. So the two get married, run into problems with immigration and, of course, fall in love.

Comment on the plot is unnecessary, except to say it has all been done before. This movie has big problems and they stem from the casting.

In order to offset Depardieu, a truly amazing actor is needed. Instead, director Peter Weir chose Andie MacDowell, who is best known for last year's *sex, lies and videotape*. Throughout the movie, she acts as though she was handed a script five minutes before the shoot and told, "Act!" She is hesitant and possibly a bit awed by Depardieu. Now, I admit, there isn't much to Bront 's character, but it wouldn't have been asking too much for MacDowell to go a bit further with her part.

Something that has plagued MacDowell throughout her career is her accent. Born in Gaffney, South Carolina, she has a distractingly Southern drawl, something she toned down a bit for *sex, lies and videotape*. Her voice in *Greystoke* was dubbed over by the eloquent speech of Glenn Close, an incident that almost led to MacDowell's early retirement. In



George Faure (G rard Depardieu) and Bront  Parrish (Andie MacDowell)

Green Card, she tries to hide her accent, but ends up sounding like an American faking a British accent.

Green Card did have its funny moments and a surprisingly good supporting cast. One actress who stood out was Bebe Neuwirth, who plays a

wealthy friend of Bront 's. Neuwirth is one of the most exceptionally beautiful actresses to come along in some time, and she manages to seem self-possessed without being aloof. Even in her much smaller role, she overshadows MacDowell.

Overall, there isn't much substance to *Green Card*. It can expect to take its place on the video shelf along side *Home Alone* and *Pretty Woman* in a few months. Other things aside, expect to see more of G rard Depardieu and much less of Andie MacDowell.

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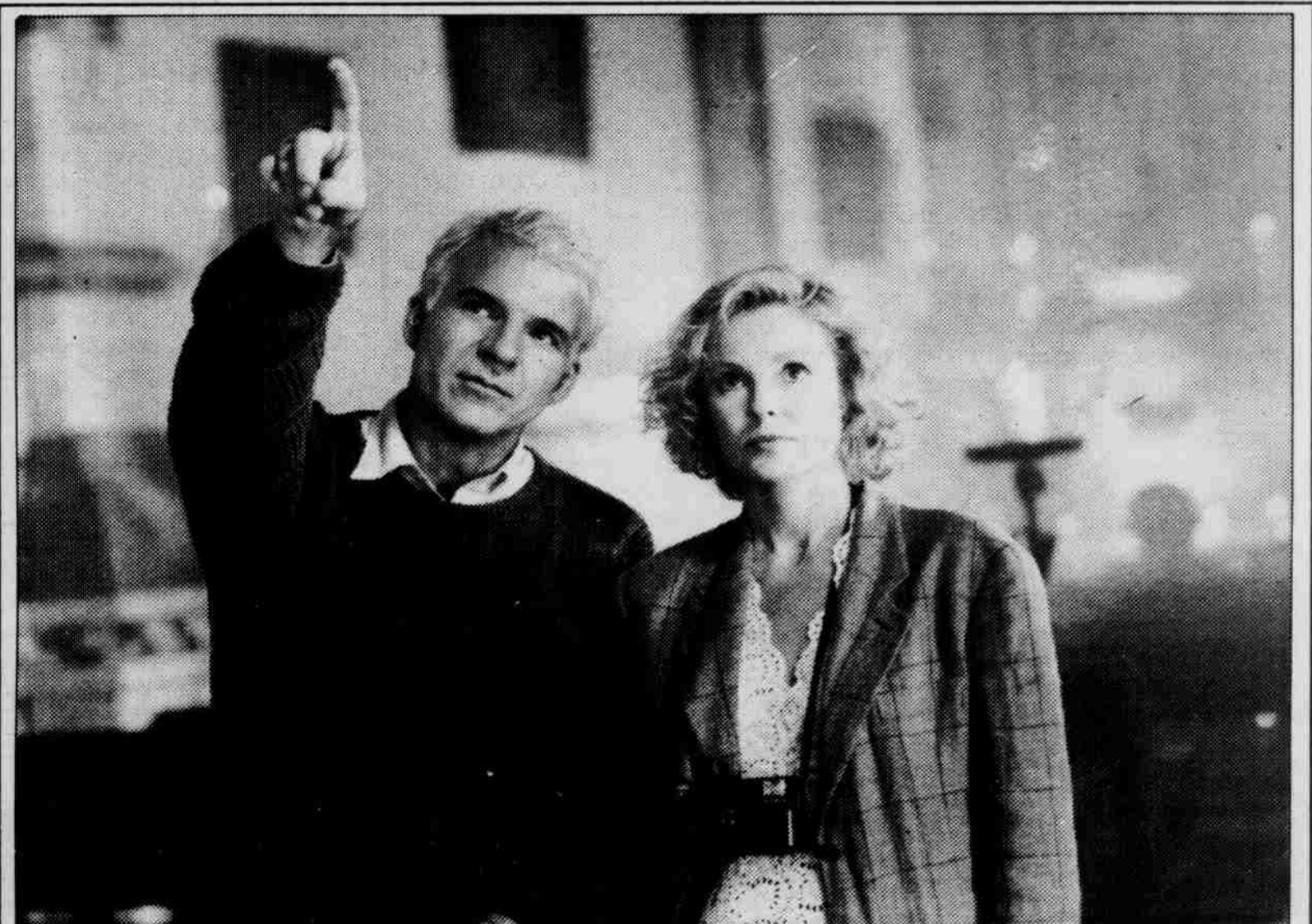
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