

Like Water for Chocolate finds sweet success

What do you do when the man you love marries your older sister, and you are forbidden to marry and forced to stay home to care for your overbearing mother until the day she dies? No, this is not the topic for the next Geraldo, Montel Williams, or Jenny Jones talk show. It is, however, the topic in an excellent movie based on the equally excellent novel by Laura Esquivel, *Like Water for Chocolate*. The film, which is Mexican and sub-titled, was released near the end of the past summer season. It swept the Mexican Academy of Motion Pictures, winning a total of eleven awards. The novel itself has been on the best seller list for most of this year. Laura Esquivel has written a fresh and innovative novel and screenplay, bringing inimitable strengths to a classic love story.

The story takes place in Mexico, at about the turn of the century. Tita, the youngest of three girls, is born in the kitchen to Mama Elena, and it is there that Tita makes a way of life and becomes a culinary artist. Tita falls in love with young Pedro who confesses his undying love for her. However, in well-born Mexican families, tradition dictates that the youngest daughter not marry, but remain at home to care for her mother. Mama Elena chooses not to make an exception and instead arranges for Tita's older sister, Rosaura, to marry Pedro. Pedro agrees to this arrangement only because he sees it as the only way to be near the woman he loves. As Pedro

Movie Review

by Rooney King

takes up residence with Mama Elena's family, the tension grows, as does Pedro's and Tita's love. Sensing the undying love, Mama Elena sends Pedro, Rosaura and their newborn son to Texas. When word comes of the death of the son, whom Tita nurtured both physically and emotionally, Tita suffers a breakdown and blames her mother for the death of the child. Mama Elena insists that Tita be institutionalized. Instead, the young Dr. Brown, who is taken with Tita, secretly brings her into his home to care for and nurses her back to health. As Tita gets well, she becomes much stronger and insists that she will no longer take the bullying of her mother. She vows never to return home and decides to marry the loving Dr. Brown.

Due to the revolution that is taking place during this period to time in Mexico, both Tita and Pedro are forced to return home, only to find their situation even more complex.

Like Water for Chocolate is not only romantic but also touched with bittersweet moments of magic, sensuality, but most importantly humor. Through Tita's cooking she is able to magically bring out emotions in those who eat her lavish meals; these feel-

ings come from the emotions that surround her while preparing them, be they sadness or passion. A point which is guaranteed to bring on hysterical laughter is Rosaura's stomach disorder, which manifests itself in the form of severe flatulence. The problem becomes so grave that no one can come near because of the constant gas and the bad mouth odor which accompanies her condition. Pedro resorts to fumigating the house with a strong incense!

The screenplay follows the novel closely, and the characters are accurately portrayed. The earthy actors and actresses bring an intensity of feeling to their characters. This intensity adds to the effervescence and effectiveness of the film since, with many foreign films, there is some loss in meaning when attempting to translate literally.

The bizarre set of circumstances makes for an original, sensual and delightfully entertaining movie that is a must-see.

Correction

In an article in the September 15, 1993, edition of the *Herald*, we incorrectly reported that Beth Meier, counselor Personal Growth and Counseling Center, has her Ph.D. She has her Masters degree.

Cultural Notes

• **Thursday, Oct. 14, 8:00pm** - Recital, works by Wagner, Wolf, Strauss, Poulenc, Pasatieri, Lee Hoiby, David Diamond and John La Montaine.

• **Friday, Oct. 15, 10:00 am** - Nancy Riva-Palacio, Graduate Piano Lecture-Recital, Carswell.

• **Friday, Oct. 15 (7&9pm)** - **Saturday, Oct. 16 (3pm)** - NC Museum of Art's Feature Film Series starring Gene Kelly presents *Cover Girl* with Rita Hayworth. Single tickets at the door \$3.

• **Sunday, Oct. 17, 8:00pm** - Raleigh Symphony Performance, Jones Auditorium.

• **Tuesday, October 19, 7:30pm** - Photography Lecture, Jeff L. Rosenheim from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York will give a lecture in the Kresge Auditorium.

• **Saturday, Oct. 23, 7:00pm** - Samantha Hill, Junior Piano Recital, Carswell.

Family Day '93 Now Improved

Family Day '93 is new. It begins at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 24 with a student-led worship service (casual dress.) At 12:00 p.m., Deja Vu plus the Bathtub Ring entertains. We think that even your little brother will like this band. And if Dad is up for it, we're going to play volleyball at 2:00 p.m. We even talked the student supply store into opening form 1-4 p.m. So, call the family and have them register early for Family Day '93. We'll put the chicken and ribs on.

Family Day '93. It's a Better Idea.

Sunday, October 24, 1993

Sponsored by the Student Foundation

Senior Class Big Sis/Lil' Sis Co-Chairs...

need help with the organization of next social.

Please call to join the committee or give ideas.

Call Jennifer 7959 or Tiffany 7998