

THE
H & E
REVIEW

For a suspenseful thriller, check out *The Recruit*

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JULIE
HOLLEMAN AND
ELIZABETH
EVANS
Movie Critics

Espionage, torture and betrayal make up a typical day in the life of a CIA agent, according to *The Recruit*. But before you can become an agent, you must pass the test and survive the "farm."

In the film, intelligent and savvy James Clayton, played by Colin Farrell (*American Outlaws*), attracts the attention of CIA recruiter Walter Burke (Al Pacino, *Insomnia*). Clayton is taken to the "farm," the

CIA training grounds, where he is mentally and physically put to the test. In his class of recruits, he meets the intriguing Layla (Bridget Moynahan, *Coyote Ugly*), who challenges him on a more personal level. After leaving the farm, Burke approaches Clayton with a secret mission to uncover a mole infiltrating CIA headquarters in Langley, Va.

Farrell is a somewhat unknown actor to the Hollywood big screen. However, this film proves to audiences that he excels in action-packed films. His character is determined to please those around him

while he is seeking answers to his past. Farrell's character is a likeable CIA agent and draws sympathy from audiences. His acting talent improves in this film, showing that he could possibly be the best Irish export since Liam Neeson.

Pacino is a veteran actor who is known for previous action roles. He portrays the typical fatherly, leadership role that requires him to sway from friend to foe. His acting talents have definitely not diminished over the years; he proves his worth yet again. Although his character is typical, Pacino adds a new dimension to roles that are other-

wise dry and stereotypical.

Moynahan has never had a leading role in the past. However, her experiences in other films have prepared her for this type of film. Although you might think her character is just a love interest, she portrays an independent woman determined to become a CIA agent at any cost. This role opens new doors for her as her acting ability grows.

The film takes the audience on a thrill ride filled with intelligence and

secrets of the real CIA. The suspense mounts as the movie draws closer to the end, proving that the immortal words of Burke are true: "trust no one" and "nothing is as it seems."

Despite otherwise bad reviews, we enjoyed this film. If you are one who likes suspense and action, you should give this film a shot. But if suspense is not your thing, don't bother.

Our Ratings:

H: ***

E: **1/2

Discover the new sound of Northern State

KASEY
OVERTON
Music Reporter

What do you get when you cross the lyrical and rhythmical stylings of the Beastie Boys with three tough ladies from New York? You get Northern State, an all-white, female hip-hop group who brings together intellectual, and sometimes amusing, lyrics with fresh beats. These women know what they want to say and find a unique way of doing so.

Northern State is comprised of three emcees—Hesta Prynne, Guinea Love and DJ Sprout, daughter of Doug Spero, a professor in the communication department at Meredith. These three women get their name from the Northern State Parkway in Long Island. While attending high school together, they "dreamed of possibilities beyond their tame suburban roots." But they held off on

their dreams in order to earn college degrees.

Since joining back together in 2000, they have not been able to stop their free-flow lyrics and beats. Playing to sold-out crowds all over New York City and even appearing on MTV®, the women of Northern State are on a roll. They received four stars from *Rolling Stone* Magazine for their debut album, *Hip Hop You Haven't Heard*. And with the release of *Dying in Stereo* and record companies vying for their sound, Northern State is here to stay.

Dying in Stereo showcases the talent of the three women. Northern State isn't your typical hip-hop group. They aren't rappin' about their "bling bling" or their "Air Force Ones;" they rap what they know, which seems to be a lot. And they don't rip off beats from previous hip-hop songs. These are originals.

With songs like "A Thousand Words" and "The Man's Dollar," Northern State tells you what they are about. "The country's getting ugly and there's more in store/But don't blame me cause I voted for Gore." Their lyrics may be political, but don't mess with these girls. Their beats and rhymes are honest and thoughtful.

After listening to their album a couple of times, I caught myself rapping along and wanting to dance. Northern State stands for something. They get their inspiration from De La Soul and Joni Mitchell, an odd pair. They are something new and fresh, but more important, they are women and with each rhyme we can relate to what they say.

To find out more about Northern State and to listen to their flow, check out www.northernstate.net.

Community Calendar

The North Carolina Theatre will present *West Side Story* Feb. 7-16 at Raleigh's Memorial Auditorium. Contact Ticketmaster for tickets.

The North Carolina Museum of Art's Winter Film Series will present *Breakfast at Tiffany's* on Feb. 7 at 8 p.m. Contact Ticketmaster for tickets.

Raleigh's Theatre in the Park will present the romantic comedy *Dirty Blonde* Feb. 7-8, 13-16 and 20-23. Call 831-6058 for tickets and information.

Duke University will present an evening with playwright, actor and educator Anna Deavere Smith on Feb. 7 at 8 p.m. in Page Auditorium. Contact the University Box Office at 684-4444 for tickets.

The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus will run through Feb. 9 at the RBC Center. Contact Ticketmaster for tickets.

NBC-17 is sponsoring a Health and Fitness Festival on Feb. 8 and 9 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Raleigh Convention Center. The event is free. For more information, visit www.nbc17.com.

The North Carolina State women's basketball team will play the U.N.C. Tarheels on Friday at 7 p.m. in Reynolds Coliseum.