

Romance Bridges Gap in 'Madison County'

"This kind of certainty comes but once in a lifetime" Clint Eastwood says in his latest film, "The Bridges of Madison County," and with the same certainty I find this film to be the best hit theater since "Driving Miss Daisy."

Adapted from the best-selling novella by Robert James Waller, "Bridges" is one of the few films that can successfully carry over from the page.

What makes this film so great is its ability to leave behind the sappy, cheesy love of the novel and to transform it into a believable and desirable whirlwind of romance.

DEAN HAIR

Movie Review
Bridges of Madison County

A

The novella is set in Iowa in a four-day romance between a fiftieth National Geographic photographer/writer and a fortyish Italian immigrant, now farm wife.

Meryl Streep, as the Italian wife (Francesca), has a perfect accent and somehow seems European through her simple mannerisms, specifically, the way she slaps her cheeks when she is excited.

Eastwood (Robert Kincaid) who is best known for playing gun-slinging outlaws, now masterfully presents a sincere lover who "needs and loves everyone, but no one in particular."

From their first encounter, when Kincaid pulls up in Francesca's driveway in an old pickup and asks directions to the famous covered bridges he's shooting for National Geographic magazine, the energy between Streep and Eastwood quickly begins to flow. Immediately a sexual tension begins to build and it quickly turns into burning passion.

Robert is a divorced photographer who travels the world as a loner and finds his only satisfaction in his work.

Francesca is a quiet resigned woman who moved from Italy to marry Richard (Jim Haynie), an Iowa farmer who has given her a good life, but regrettably has never fulfilled all of her dreams.

Though Eastwood and Streep seemed like an unlikely match in the film, they work well together and develop a sensuous



With the morning comes the uneasiness that builds inside Streep (Francesca) and Eastwood (Robert) as they realize their four-day romance is quickly coming to a close.

heat and power that escapes from the screen into your heart. Francesca's long-suppressed dreams are finally brought to life in her brief four-day romance.

Soaking in a hot bubble bath, Francesca looks at the shower head still dripping from his recent shower. This is one of several scenes of intense romantic moments that are carefully placed throughout the film.

"Bridges" is a masterpiece with only one discreet flaw. The story is told through Francesca's children who handle the affairs after her recent death. The film reaches intense romantic moments and then shifts gears with the children trying to sort out their lives with the knowledge their mother has left them in her journals. These occurrences interrupt the film's romantic rhythm and could have easily been eliminated.

After reading the book, I made pan-

Though Eastwood and Streep seemed an unlikely match in the film, they work well together and develop a sensuous heat and power that escapes from the screen into your heart. Francesca's long-suppressed dreams are finally brought to life in her brief four-day romance.

cakes from all the sap that leaped from the page at me, however this is not a problem in the film version. Where a somewhat romantic novella with poor writing which

leaves little to desire, the film adaptation brings a sensation to the audience that can only be described as passionate and sexual love.

With Streep and Eastwood combining for one of the most anticipated pairings in recent memory and with the wild success of the novella itself, "Bridges" could bank on being a summer blockbuster. However, romance films are rarely successful during the summer due to the onslaught of dozens of action-adventure films. But "Bridges" has a strength that moves beyond the actors and touches a chord in the audience.

This film will probably not be appreciated by young adults, particularly young men. "Bridges" is geared toward women and older, more mature audiences who have experienced the loss of love in their lives or those who have fallen into a life of conformity.

Seasonal Migration of Students Affects Business

BY ANDREW PARKINSON
STAFF WRITER

Every year, the population of Chapel Hill declines drastically as students finish final exams and go home for the summer.

Only a small number of students stay in town through the summer to continue jobs or attend summer school. Like any other summer in Chapel Hill, this year's reduction in population is affecting local business.

At Healthy Bite, manager Robert Barker said 25 percent of business was completely gone.

"Sometimes we lose even 50 percent, like in the last two weeks, our worst day has been cut completely in half from our average," he said. "Obviously we make less money."

Byron Freeman, owner of the Carolina Coffee Shop, said he expected the drop-off in population.

"Not only the students, but a lot of townspeople leave town too," he said. Freeman said business had gone down at least 25 percent already. "This summer business is starting off real slow," he said.

An employee of Pepper's Pizza also said they were not doing as much business.

"The late nights definitely aren't as busy," he said. "But it's not like everything comes to a halt. We still have meal rushes. They're just not as long or thick."

The Rathskellar's manager Ken Essick said business was down slightly, but it was not too bad.

"We still get a lot of business from summer school and a lot of people who live in Chapel Hill," he said.

They are actually more eager to come out in the summer because they know the crowds are gone.

Essick pointed out that despite a solid increase in tourism during the summer, The Rathskellar was still losing about 20 percent of its business.

Perry Dowd, manager of 411 West, found similar results at her downtown restaurant.

"A lot of locals come out more because they think the students are gone," she said. "We stay busy because we're a small restaurant."

In fact, Dowd said she enjoyed the summer relief. "It takes off a little bit of pressure," she said.

The ice cream business obviously remains strong through the hot summer months in Chapel Hill.

Fred Vom Lehn, manager of Ben & Jerry's, said the store experienced several lulls between final exams, graduation and summer vacation, but it was "nothing too significant."

"We don't really notice that anyone is gone," he said. "We do have a few less available college staff people, but overall we don't get much of a break when the college students are gone... which is good for us... it keeps me getting a paycheck!"

He said instead of disappearing, business tended to change from a college crowd to a family and children focused crowd as many restaurant owners in town have noticed year after year.

Whether business changes or not, most local businesses try harder to attract summer customers and at the same time try to cut back on some costs whether they be advertising or the number of employees.

"We feel we have a social responsibility to the community around us, so when we have our biggest crowds, that's when we like to let people know what we're doing," said Vom Lehn.

"We keep a super-clean store and a friendly, courteous staff."

Ed Donegan, manager of Judges said in order to compensate for the low summer population they try to give better service and diversify their product line a bit more.

"You've got to deal with it, it's just part of being a business here," he said.

Freeman said while the population decreased heavily each summer, most local businesses tended to survive.

"After all, Chapel Hill used to close down totally during the summer. At least now, it's a twelve month business."

'More Enlightened' Stories For Today's Children

In his first collection, James Finn Garner liberated the Seven Dwarves of Snow White from the coal mines by allowing them to run a men's retreat. He empowered Chicken Little by revealing "Little" to be a family name, not a derogatory size-biased nickname as believed by generations of children.

Garner has done it again with his latest collection, "Once Upon A More Enlightened Time."

DEAN HAIR

Book Review
"Once Upon A More Enlightened Time"

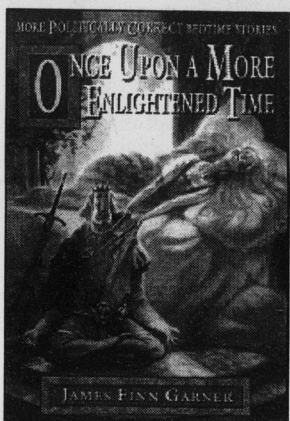
freeing the public once again from those classic fairy tales traditionally written by people with archaic, sexist, ageist, classist, lookist and environmentally unsound prejudices.

Included in this collection are such works as "The Princess and the Pea," "Sleeping Person of Better-Than-Average Attractiveness," "The City Mouse and the Suburban Mouse" and "Hansel and Gretel." The latter refers to several pre-adults who are abandoned in the forest by their tree butchering father in a sad commentary on the plight of single-parent households.

Again, Garner attempts "to fashion these bedtime stories into literature that is totally free from bias and purged from the influences of a flawed cultural past in hopes of freeing our social consciousness from these blights."

His latest book fulfills its purpose, as did the first, and is truly one of the funniest works of literature currently on the best sellers list.

After reading this book creatures of nature will no longer have to bear the burden of insecurities from humanity's flawed



James Finn Garner's bedtime stories create a politically correct world.

this book. However, Garner has assured the world he has made an effort to be more Earth-conscious in the publication of "Once Upon a More Enlightened Time."

"We have made every effort to make this second volume more Earth-friendly, using natural soy inks, people-powered delivery systems and photo-degradable paper that will revert to its basic organic components within a short time if exposed to light or read in the tub," said Garner.

However more upsetting than the innocent slaughter of thousands of trees is the fact that once again printing restrictions have forced "The Duckling that Was Judged on Its Personal Merits and Not on Its Physical Appearance" to be omitted from this edition. One can only hope this story will finally be liberated of its prejudices in an upcoming edition.

What makes this book so humorous an excellent is that Garner recognizes these stories to be extreme and should be taken lightly. However he is subtly voicing his opinion on how Americans can quickly become caught up in the 'political naming' rhetoric in which each person tries to say they like and accept all the ideals of the rest of the planet.

Garner and most of us know that the majority of the population does not love nor like everyone and with this knowledge he is trying to educate the public on how they think they are acting morally correct but in fact are showing the corrupt natures which reside in all of us.

"Once Upon a More Enlightened Time: More Politically Correct Bedtime Stories" is a triumph in creating politically correct masterpieces of stories flawed by centuries of prejudices.

In a world where people (aka Earth residents) constantly attempt to "brown nose" each other these blatantly 'corrected' stories will hopefully remind people that we are all the same regardless of the names we give each other.

If this review is found to be unsatisfactory please accept my most humble apologies for this is the best I can do at this stage in my personal evolution.

'Princess' Can't Quite Dispose of Dad

Is it sweet or disturbing to know that the movie industry hardens children to on-screen disembowelment by age twelve, but can't face the death of a sweet Victorian papa? Like the perky 1939 version with Shirley Temple, director Alfonso Cuaron's film of "A Little Princess," Frances Hodgson Burnett's Victorian children's classic, can't quite dispose of dad.

It would be nice if this were the only way warm fuzzies beat out fidelity. But dodging an everyday Victorian tragedy shows an uneven commitment to substantial drama. It's not the petty differences between the novel and the movie that hurt—it's the lapse into formula at moments when realism, in any time period, is crucial.

MARYA DEVOTO

Movie Review
"A Little Princess"

Burnett's novel narrates the adventures of Sara Crewe, a young girl with an imagination, resources and a wealthy, indulgent papa whose riches impress the pampered darlings at stern Miss Minchin's boarding school.

When papa dies of brain-fever after pouring his fortune into questionable diamond mines, Sara abruptly falls from adored "princess" to drudge and errand-girl half-starved in a drafty attic. After many trials, virtue triumphs and the diamond mines come through. Papa stays dead.

Cuaron's version makes some noteworthy changes. In the novel India is a lost paradise; here it persists as a metaphor for imagination. Sara (Liesel Matthews) tells

her schoolmates stories of a technicolor landscape where a blue-skinned hero battles an authentically terrifying many-headed monster. The schoolgirls' rapt attention suggests how the wonders of the colonies supply something missing in a stodgy Western upbringing.

Miss Minchin's establishment is a model institution where difference evokes resentment, as when Sara's fluency in French derails Miss Minchin's plan to place her in the beginners' class. Her exotic flair is an irritant that Miss Minchin (Eleanor Bron, who is convincingly smarmy) has to stomach, backed as it is by enormous foreign wealth.

The screenplay follows the 1939 "Princess" in replacing Captain Crewe's business troubles with wartime service. Cuaron intercuts Sara's bedtime stories of battling heroes with grim scenes from the front. World War I here is horrible, not heroic; it competes with the violence Sara dreams up.

At one point an imaginary villain's exploding arrow wafts a poisoned mist from the story-world into the tragic world of the front, where Papa's regiment is being gassed. Is Cuaron suggesting that imagination can be violent, or that lack of imagination can produce external terrors far graver? It's never clear. After Sara's fall into poverty, her imaginative flights are merely passive resistance.

It's hard for this movie to develop coherently because it has a chronological identity crisis. Miss Minchin's green-brick castle and the schoolgirls' plush uniforms are lushly Edwardian. But the dialogue

often slips into kid-movie clichés.

Possibly the worst offense against period drama is that the scullery maid, Becky, who in this version is black, sounds like she went to the same Midwestern school as Sara. Miss Minchin, who at some moments resembles the Wicked Witch of the West, can sound like 90's docudrama especially when she has to deliver lines like "Real life has nothing to do with your fantasy games" or "It's my responsibility to protect the girls of this school from animals like you."

As the movie goes along, the plot develops into the "good smart kids versus stupid mean grown-ups" vein; it looks less and less like "A Little Princess" (modern or Edwardian) and more and more like a little girl's "Dead Poets Society." It's less about how imagination can deal with real hardships than about how envious tyrants, who aren't in touch with their feelings, try to oppress the smart and spunky.

Burnett's "A Little Princess" is gripping because it shows Sara's fighting a starving person's obsession with the needs of her body. Sara's imaginings are her fight to keep herself from becoming an animal that thinks only about food.

Becky's misery is a reminder that poverty is stifling the spirit and imagination of a whole class of young girls. As Sara puts it, it's "just an accident" that she has dance lessons while Becky hauls the coal scuttle upstairs.

The movie doesn't just lose a chance to preach by failing to address the stakes of poverty—it loses real pathos by reducing Sara's problems to one angry woman.

TAMMANY HALL

FROM PAGE 3

that time, police discovered an ammunition cartridge in the front seat and a nylon bag containing a handgun.

Levon Hinton, 21, of Durham was arrested and charged with carrying a concealed weapon. Police believe the two incidents to be unrelated.

"The arrest was a result of the crime which occurred at Tammany Hall, but it was not necessarily in connection with the shooting," Cousins said.

This shooting and other acts of violence that have occurred in Chapel Hill recently, seem to discount information from an annual crime statistics report released by the State Bureau of Investigation two weeks ago.

The statistics showed that violent crime had decreased in Chapel Hill by 1 percent over the past year.

Cousins said that people could't take select incidents such as this and compare it with statistics for the past year.

"Violent crime is down, but it isn't gone," she said. "You can't compare a year's worth of incidents to one."

The North Carolina Symphony

Annual Summer Pops Concert!

Thursday, June 8 at 7:00 pm
Polk Place on UNC Campus*

It's FREE! It's Informal! It's Fun!

Bring a picnic & blankets or lawn chairs to the big grassy area between Wilson Library and South Building.

Snacks & beverages will be available for purchase by Marriott.

* Rain site is Memorial Hall

CAROLINA Union

Presented by the Carolina Union Summer Program Board, UNC Summer Student Congress, the Town of Chapel Hill, & The Village Companies.
Media Sponsors: The Daily Tar Heel, WUNC-FM, & The Herald-Sun Newspapers.