"Radio Days" **Directed by Woody Allen** Starring Mia Farrow and **Dianne Wiest** 

It's no secret to anybody who has ever seen "The Purple Rose of Cairo," "Annie Hall," "Zelig" or "Play It Again, Sam" that Woody Allen loves film. "Radio Days" shows Allen's love for

Film after film, Allen has proven himself to be the best American director alive today. His films are entertaining without being shallow, intelligent without being pretentious. His films address the philosophical questions of life, death, love, happiness, psychology, art, culture, politics and sex with a sense of humor and compassion.

Best of all, in his films Allen looks at himself in such a way that you can understand him, and yourself, a little bit better.

"Radio Days" marks Allen's 15th film as writer and director. Like his best films, "Radio Days" is somewhat

autobiographical. Aside from a couple of Hitchcockian cameos (look for him in a radio studio and on the cover of a Life magazine), Allen doesn't appear in the film. He just provides the narration.

Allen begins the film by telling about a strange event that happened in his neighborhood when he was growing up during the late '30s. One night a couple of burglars broke into a neighbor's house and began ransacking the place, looking for valuables. The phone rang and one of the burglars answered it. The voice on the other end was the host of "Guess That Tune," a popular radio program. The burglars answered the questions and finished robbing the house. When the neighbors came back they found that their house had been trashed, some money and silverware was stolen, and that they had won the grand prize on "Guess That Tune.'

That incident sets the tone for the rest of the

film. Radio was an important aspect of life during the '30s and '40s. Sometimes the unreal life on the radio invaded the lives of those in the real world.

Mia Farrow (Sally) is an extremely versatile actress and her talents shine in "Radio Days." Sally is much different than characters Farrow played in some of Allen's previous movies.

Dianne Wiest (Aunt Bee), who had a small role in "The Purple Rose of Cairo" and a larger role in "Hannah and Her Sisters," is on her way to establishing herself alongside Farrow and Diane Keaton as a great Allen actress.

Those under 50 might have trouble understanding the way radio ruled the lives of so many people. But the humor and warmth of "Radio Days" shine through so brightly that everyone will enjoy the film if they just give it a chance.

—Review by Karl Pallmeyer

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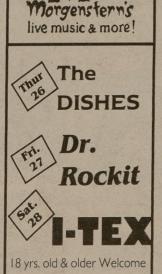
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