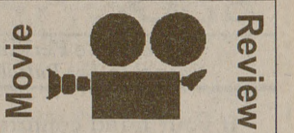


Blood feud: Two views on 'Buffy'



Awful film should be staked, not vampires

By Kim McGuire
The Battalion

"Buffy The Vampire Slayer"
Directed by Fran Rubel Kuzui
Starring Kristy Swanson, Donald Sutherland, Paul Reubens, Luke Perry and Rutger Hauer
Rated PG
Now playing at Manor East 3

So I keep asking myself, "Like, what's the stitch with this movie? The plot was like so five minutes ago. I wish the director would have taken a chill lozenge and quit with all this infantile valley lingo. I mean, like, even Luke Perry was far from toasty with his Hamlet do and not quite goatee. Like, this movie is a total blemish to society!"

Imagine "Valley Girl meets Dracula" and you've got a pretty good grasp on "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," the new movie starring Kristy Swanson as Buffy and Luke Perry as her rebel boyfriend, Pike, (aka Dylan McKay of Beverly Hills 90210).

"Buffy" begins in the Dark Ages, where director Fran Rubel Kuzui makes a vain attempt to explain the whole vampire legacy which goes something like this:

"In each generation since the beginning of time, a female is born who is destined to rid the world of vampires. She is guided by a "Watcher" who trains her in the art of vampire killing.

It just so happens that the twentieth century's fate lays upon the shoulder's of Buffy, a valley girl cheerleader interested in nothing else but shopping and her jock boyfriend. (Randall Batinkoff)

Buffy meets Merrick, the "Watcher" (played by Donald Sutherland) who inform her of her birthright and tells her its her destiny to become the next Slayer and rid the world of the vampires that are now plaguing Southern California.

At first, Buffy is reluctant to accept her destiny. "Like, all I want to do is graduate, go to Europe, marry Christian Slater and die."

But after the vampires knock off a few of Buffy's closest friends, she's ready to kick some supernatural butt.

Surprisingly, the acting in this movie is not that bad. Swanson is pretty good as Buffy. She handles the role as if she were indeed an air-head valley girl. Perry makes the transition from television to the big screen quite well. Although his character is similar to the one he plays on TV, he disguises the obvious.

Also, Director Kuzui managed to somehow pull in big name film stars like Donald Sutherland and Rutger Hauer as the head vampire, Lothos. Both Sutherland and Hauer are excellent actors, but their roles are extremely small and the movie suffers as a result.



Buffy (Kristy Swanson) does what she does best in "Buffy the Vampire Slayer."

"Buffy's" biggest downfall, however, is without a doubt the storyline itself. In the beginning, the whole Slayer legacy is set up, but Kuzui never explains it. There are a lot of unanswered questions: Why Buffy was chosen? What happened to the past slayers? Exactly how does the vampire Lothos fit into the plot?

In one of the most confusing scenes, Donald Sutherland gives Buffy a long, mysterious philosophical babble about her destiny being fulfilled "when the music is stopped," but never again is anything brought up about music.

Supposedly, the movie is about believing and accepting oneself. If it's true, this issue was never ad-

ressed. It is obvious that the maker of "Buffy" were targeting a junior and high school audience with his move. Its pretty clear "Buffy" was supposed to cash in on Perry's 90210 fame, and somehow both he and Swanson just get lost in the shuffle.

In a few weeks or so "Buffy" will be all but forgotten and producers will be scurrying to get it on videocassette by Christmas. Luke Perry will be back on the set of Beverly Hills 90210 hoping none of his cast mates saw it while on summer hiatus, and Pee Wee will probably be somewhere in Florida wondering, "Where's a good Playhouse when you need one?"

Goofy film good for a glorified B-movie

By Todd Stone
The Battalion

"Buffy The Vampire Slayer"
Starring: Kristy Swanson, Donald Sutherland, Paul Reubens, Luke Perry and Rutger Hauer
Director: Fran Rubel Kuzui
Rated PG
Now Showing at Manor East 3

"Buffy The Vampire Slayer" is a goofy film one hates to admit enjoying. But there I was, laughing at the film's infectious silliness.

Basically, "Buffy" is a glorified B-movie, but a talented cast and clever dialogue could elevate this film as the sleeper hit of the summer.

The title alone is good for a laugh. I wonder if the filmmakers thought of the title first and made a movie from there.

The story revolves around a ditzzy, valley-girl cheerleader, Buffy (Kristy Swanson), who discovers she follows a long line of vampire slayers. She has to somehow kill the head vampire, Lothos (Rutger Hauer), to save her fellow high school seniors at the big dance.

Indeed, plot is not the film's strong point. Within five minutes, you can guess who will live, die and fall in love. But, witty dialogue and energetic performances serves the laughs in healthy enough portions to overcome some choppy directing and predictable narrative.

The film spoofs itself and this lack of seriousness is the film's consistent charm.

One great image is Buffy on one of her first hunts. She's all alone in a dark alley, and it's suppose to be a tense moment. But while waiting to kill a vampire, Buffy starts singing "Feelings."

Swanson amusingly plays up all the valley girl stereotypes with Buffy. When her trainer, Merrick (Donald Sutherland), makes an obvious point, Buffy retorts, "Have you ever heard of the word, 'duh?'"

Sutherland's presence gives the film credibility, and his dead-pan delivery of the script's stilted dialogue works well.

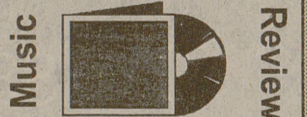
Another of the film's saviors is Paul Reubens (Yes, the man who gave the world Pee Wee Herman) as Lotho's assistant. Reuben's death scene is a classic, as he obviously exaggerates his character's agony and despair. Luke Perry takes a "90210" break as Buffy's clumsy love interest.

The film is fun, but hardly perfect. The story could have used another re-write to fill some holes, and the directing of Fran Rubel Kuzui was predictable at best - typical car chases and fight scenes.

Nevertheless, "Buffy The Vampire Slayer" charms, and the filmmakers willingness to be just plain silly makes this film a reliable matinee.

A&M grad explores new musical territory

Lovett experiments with jazz and blues on album



By Tricia Martinez
The Battalion

Lyle Lovett
"Joshua Judges Ruth"
MCA Records

Lyle Lovett has released his latest project and listeners will hear a new style from him on his new LP "Joshua Judges Ruth."

Lovett, a former student of Texas A&M, has sometimes been referred to as "a rock for country and to country for rock" musician, so where does that leave him? It leaves him creating a new style of music that puts him in a class all by himself.

"Joshua Judges Ruth" is Lovett's attempt at jazz and blues. Not only does Lovett attempt it, but he conquers it like a master.

This LP is definitely the strongest work of music Lovett has done. He really explodes on "Joshua Judges Ruth," and gives listeners his all.

One song in particular, "You've Been So Good Up To Now," has already crossed over into the AOR stations for air play. The song is full of soul and Lovett possesses strong vocals in which he shows his range versatility.

Lovett wrote all the songs for the album and was assisted by Willis Alan Ramsey on "North Dakota." Lovett seems to be writing from the heart and many of his songs are rather sad, but they in no means depress the LP.

It's no wonder the album's sound is solid with musicians such as Leland Sklar, bass, Russ Kunkel, drums, and appearances on vocals from Emmy Lou Harris and Rickie Lee Jones contributing to it.

Other top notch performances are by Matt Rollins, piano, and Dean Parks on guitar.

Lovett country fans can rest assure that he didn't totally cross over. There are a few songs on the album that possess his ever popular country style sound. The only difference on these songs is that instead of being his usual

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