

**The Devil's Advocate delivers with interesting script**

**Movie Review**

*The Devil's Advocate*  
Starring **Al Pacino** and **Keanu Reeves**  
Directed by **Taylor Hackford**  
showing at Hollywood 16  
★★★ (out of five)

**T**he Devil's Advocate delivers both more and less than expected. The story revolves around a superstar attorney, Kevin Lomax, played by Keanu Reeves, and his wife Mary Ann, played by Charlize Theron. Lomax is hired by the world's largest and most powerful law firm, headed by John Milton (Al Pacino), a.k.a. Satan. Lomax eventually finds his responsibilities at the firm far exceed his standards of decency, and the race is on for his immortal soul.

In several ways *Advocate* fails to meet the standards of what could have been an entertaining plot line. Many of the devices making up the script are borrowed from other films and liberally spread throughout the movie. After all, how many stories can there be about the devil posing as a lawyer? Homer Simpson has been down that route.

There's even a bargaining showdown between Reeves and Pacino in a "The Devil and Daniel Webster." This is only the most obvious of several sources the movie unabashedly exploits. In a vain attempt to make Reeves' character more colorful, he is directed to deliver his lines in a deep-fried Southern drawl about as believably as Dixie as the New England Patriots. This oversight comes close to removing any sense of believability in the story.

*Advocate*, apparently out of a misguided belief that Reeves can act on a par with Pacino, reaches high for content and comes up with Kitty Hawk instead of the moon.

A cursory attempt is made to explore themes like seduction of power, final redemption and good old-fashioned temptation of the flesh.

Instead of power, the movie delivers a Marilyn Manson version of *The Firm*.

Finally, instead of temptation, moviegoers are offered gobs of flesh shots and dialogue filled with sexual overtones.

The movie almost offsets these tragic miscues with excellent writing and production values that rival *Waterworld*.

Pacino's dialogue is darkly humorous and bent ten degrees off-kilter, a treasure trove for the careful listener of devil's eye one-liners.

The actors' collective timing is spot-on, and is coupled with a script almost free of flaws that carries the movie efficiently through the varied trials and tribulations of the Lomax's lives.

Theron's performance is a nice blend of talent and make-up artistry as she descends into madness. The special effects are subtly crafted but technologically on a par with *Spawn*, rewarding the careful viewer with enough eye candy to overlook areas where the storyline is glossed over.

*Advocate*, despite its flaws, is just plain fun to watch. From the first scenes the plot is set in motion and drawn out little by little like a Michael Crichton novel. The beauty of the show is that it closes the circle tighter and tighter around Reeves with every scene until the time comes



**Al Pacino** and **Keanu Reeves** star in the new thriller *The Devil's Advocate*. Reeves plays a top notch lawyer who starts working at a law firm run by Pacino. Reeves has to put up or shut up with all the chips on the table, then delivers a surprising ending which dishes up just the right amount of closure.

—By Stephanie Lee

**PEOPLE in the news**

**Ford celebrates fifth grandchild**

**RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. (AP)** — Former President Gerald Ford and his wife, Betty, are celebrating the birth of their first grandson. Christian Gerald Ford, the son of Jack and Juliann Ford, was born Oct. 14 in San Diego. He weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces. "We are ecstatic," the former first

lady said. The Fords also have five granddaughters.

**Stones perform to sellout crowd**

**FOXBORO, Mass. (AP)** — Whether they're called the Rolling Stones, or the Strolling Bones, these old rockers can still bring a crowd to its feet. In the sold-out crowd Monday night at Foxboro Stadium was Carol Robicheau, who came with her 26-year-old son, Donald.

you," said the 50-year-old Ms. Robicheau. "He's always wanted me to go to concerts, but I feel like a fool."



**Richards** Mick Jagger, now a 54-year-old grandfather, bounded around the stage in a red jacket. Guitarist Keith Richards, a silver-haired 53, wore a floor-length animal print frock coat. The tour began last month in Chicago.

**AGGIME**

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MTV recently bought the rights to the series "Neon Genesis." The network has also broadcast shows like "Speed Racer."

Roark said there is a long way to go before the medium is used in America as it is in Japan.

"There is still much prejudice against animation as

anything more than kid's stuff," Roark said.

Melcher said animation in America does the same kind of diversity as Japan.

"Too many companies try and ape the Disney model," Melcher said. "Disney looks great, but to me, the real fun is aimed at little kids."

Roark thinks the situation is starting to change. "Shows like 'South Park,' 'King of the Hill' and 'The Simpsons' are going a long way to dispel the notion that cartoons are only for kids," Roark said.

**LIANG**

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However, when she goes back home, people comment and ask how she is doing. However, she said that is not unusual since she comes from a friendly small town.

"I showed the magazine to a friend and he did not know that it was me; he was amazed that I

looked like that," Liang said.

After this summer with Seventeen, Liang said modeling has not influenced her goal to have a career in medicine.

This experience has helped to open her eyes to the different people and opportunities.

"Modeling is great, but it is long and strenuous," Liang said. "There are so many girls trying to become models, but they do not understand

that not everyone can be a model and that there is going to be one Cindy Crawford and one Nikki Taylor."

Liang said getting an education is her top priority and she is among all young people.

"Without an education, you end up empty," Liang said. "The models are very pretty, but they have nothing to say. You have something to fall back on."

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