

Woody Allen is Broadway Danny Rose, a down-on-his-luck theatrical agent who becomes involved with a Matia hood's widow, played by Mia Farrow.



the movies Dan Greenberg

## Woody Allen's 'Broadway Danny' has strong spirit

Broadway Danny Rose," Woody Allen's latest film, is a powerful example of the impact black-and-white film can have. Allen, who of late has been ataging a one-man crusade to re-estabilish the primacy of black and white, has delivered a touching example of the human spirit at its finest moment.

The footage, as photographed by Gordon Willis, covkes the basic, elemental qualities of human experience. Wanhahttan, any metropoils really, drab on a rainy autumn day, the unique quality of sand and water at the shoreline and the simplicity of hope.

There's also a tremendous nostalgie quality to the soft black and white, 1950th view of Manhattan. But it could be anytime, any huge city where people came to struggle to get their names in lights.

lights.

"Broadway Danny Rose" is pure Runyonesque Manhattan, a 
beautiful example of the little guy just barely surviving. Like 
Chaplin, Boadway Danny (Woody Alien) has the strength of people 
everywhere. They refuse to surrender their humanity. They refuse 
to quit trying.

to quit trying.

THE STORY is a simple one. A group of New York comics is sitting around a delicatessen telling stories. One starts a long, involved story about Broadway Danny Rose and the time he got involved with a Maffa lady. Thus Vitale (Mila Farrow).

To appreciate that mismatch, you have to understand Broadway Danny Rose, Himself a loser, an unsuccessful theatrical spent (I'm in theatrical management."), he believes anyone and everyone can achieve the Broadway dream: "Your name in lights, your career really starting to move." But his clients are cripples—a ventrilequist who atutters, a blind xylophonist, a balloon-folding act and a lady with a parrot. Other acts that he had managed left him for slicker agents when they achieved success. But Broadway Danny always has hope.

A NEW ray of hone, ellent Lou Canova (Nick Apollo Forte), a

A NEW ray of hope, ellent Lou Canova (Nick Apollo Forte), a has-been singer from the 1950s, suddenly is caught up in the nostal a craze. Danny was right. His career is finally taking off. Even Milton Berle (himself) is interested and shows up with Howard Cosell (himself) at a big Waldorf show.

Cosell (himself) at a big Waldorf show.

Canova's marriage, unfortunately, has gone sour and he's got a grifriend, Tina Vitale, widow of low-level Mafta hood Carmen Vitatie — They shot him in the eyes.

Lou is so taken with her and so nervous that he can't do a show unless he's present.

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Pretends on a wite with her and so nervous that he can't do a show unless he's present.

Pretends and Tina is his date. Comic complications ensue when Tina and too light prior to the show. She runs off to the New Jersey estate of Mafta figures, one of whom loves Tina and writes her poems.

BUT SHE REJECTS him and his mother swears vengeance, sending two brothers to do the dirty deed on Broadway Danny who is mistaken yeacused of alleanting her affections.

One of the film's attractions is that seemingly complex plot line is easily and humorous visualized on the screen. All that and more is well-packed into 90 minutes of good, inoffensive, nonviolent

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Even with his familiar New York, wisecracking delivery and nervous hand gestures, Woody Allen manages to underplay Broadway Danny so that the really significant moments are quiet and touching. They remind us of the very best the human spirit has to offer: Hope for the future and the will to survive.

In the end, Broadway Danny has the strength to reject further abuse and the romantic inclination to take a chance on the future. Mila Farrow follows Aller's direction and underplays Tims so that it is clear her silck and sleazy blonde exterior bides an insecure interior decorator longing for recognition and hope. Using simple, natural action rather than artificial histrionics, Farrow projects the lost, fading blonde fearful she has nothing to offer but her exterior.

"Broadway Danny Rose" touchs our very best sensibilities with a warm, humous story about a little guy trying to survive.

## table talk

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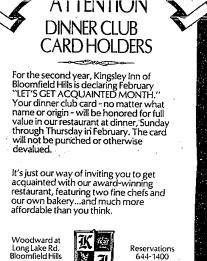
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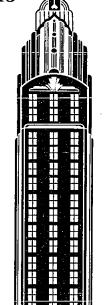
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