

Neil Simon's 'Lost in Yonkers' opens Friday



Set in 1942
Yonkers, N. Y.,
Neil Simon's
"Lost in Yonk
ers," Opening at
suburban the
sters Friday,
May 14, is a comedy-drama about
two young brothers forced by circumstances to live with they
grandmother (frene Worth), aunt
(Mercedes Ruehl) and uncle
(Richard Dreyfuss).
"... Ever notice there's something wrong with everyone on
pop's side of the family?" 15-yearold Jay Kurnitz (Brad Stoll) asks
is 13-year-old brother Arty
(Mike Damus). "Mom told me
that." that."
The two boys, sent by their re-

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cently widowed father Eddie (Jack Laufer) to live with the un-forgiving Grandma Kurnitz while he pursues a job opportunity in the South, learns how right mom was. What they learn will change their lives

was. What they learn will change their lives.

Grandma owns a candy store and comes from the old European tradition of, "You will obey, you will work hard." She teaches the boys the hard lessons life has taught her, but not the compas-

sion that makes them bearable.

Their Uncle Louie (Richard Dreyfuse), a tough-talking gangster, who learned the hard truths of survival from Grandma, will give them lessons in larcney.

Uncle Louie is in trouble with this hoodium, Hollywood Harry (Robert Guy Miranda), from whom he's stolen money. The ability to defy danger — whether from a gangster or Grandma — is what Louis teaches the boys; that's something they've never seen in their father and didn't know existed.

"They're enamored of him, and

"They're enamored of him, and he's a romantic figure in their eyes," said director Martha Coo-lidge. "They don't realize he's a third-rate gangater."

third-rate gangster."

Eccentric and childlike Aunt
Bella (Mercedes Ruehl), who has
a learning disability, and was
over-protected by her mother, will
teach the boys the most amazing
lesson of all — how to generate
and sustain love in an atmosphere where it has never been permitted to exist.

Neil Simon screenplay

Presented by Rastar Produc-tions and Columbia Pictures, "Lost in Yonkers" is based on Neil Simon's Pulitzer Prize-win-ning play, produced by Ray Stark

Impressions

Have you seen any good or bad movies lately? We want to hear from you. Call Keely Wygonik, Entertainment editor, 953-2105, to comment on newly released movies, including "Dave," Be sure to leave your name and a phone number where you can be reached. To FAX comments, call 591-7279.

Or write Wygonik: Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 35251
Schooleraft, Livonia, MI 48160.

and directed by Coolidge from

and directed by Coolidge from Simon's acreenplay.

The executive producer is Joseph M. Caracciolo. Emanuel Azonberg is co-producer.

"I'm always trying to find the human comedy in whatever I write," Simon said. "In this, the boys provide a lot of it because they're sort of the Greek chorus who look at the family from the outside and say, "What a crazy bunch."

Other characters Jay and Arty encounter include Bella's mental.



his mother too well."

"Arty is almost the complete opposite of Jay," Damas said.
"Hie's very laid back, doean't have many worries. He's very sheltered by Jay, who also keeps him from getting in trouble."

Set in Ohio River Valley

Production of "Lost in Yonk-ers" began on Aug. 10, 1992. The cast and crew filmed their way through three states around the Ohic River Valley — Ohic, Ken-tucky and Indiana — before fin-

ard Drey-fuss) are siblings living in Yonkers, New York circa 1942 in Lost in Yonkers."

drama: Bella (Mercedes Ruehl) and

Louie (Rich-

counse Perunes
ishing on the Sony Pictures lot in
Culver City, Calif., on Oct. 16.
"We looked at Yonkers, as well
as some other places in and
around New York," said executive
producer Caracciolo. "But there
were more buildings that had the
architecture of that era, without
modern buildings either obstructing or in the background, in the
Ohio-Kentucky region. It also had
the terrain and the river, which
we doubled for the Hudson."

'Dave': at times funny but short on real political satire



Starring: Kevin Kline, Sig-ourney Weaver, Frank Lan-gella and Kevin Dunn Directed by: Ivan Reitman Produced by: Lauren Shuler-Donner and Ivan Reitman Written by: Gary Ross Rated: PG-13

(Parents are strongly cautioned) Running time: One hour, 57

Rating (out of a possible four):





The exaggerated hand gestures, wire-rimmed glasses and fragmented speeches recall. George Bush. The sexual appetite, however, is strictly John F. When President Bill Mitchell and the pretty young side, the White House staff is androus to

ell suffera a stroke while dallying with a pretty young side, the White House staff is anxious to cover it up. They hire look alike nobody Dave Kovie to temporarily step into the oval office. While the spin is slightly different, "Dave" offers only mildly entraining presidential hijinks. There's little here that you haven't seen before.

n't seen before. Actor Kevin Kline resurrects

another Hollywood version of the wide-eyed everyman, the Mr. Smith who finds himself in a Washington rife with waste and corruption. One person can make a difference, movies like this say, and Dave is up to the task at hand.

With Dave in charge, popularity polls soar. Where President Mitchell could have cared less about homeless shelters in the path to move appears to show greath to now appears to show greath to now appears to show greath to the sound of the sound of

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office like this, I'd be out of busi-

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ness."
Directed by Ivan "Ghostbusters" Reitman, "Dave" works because it does exactly what Ross Perot still harps on. It puts government in the hands of the little guy who, after replacing bureaucratic red tape with old-fashloned

cratic red tape with old-fashioned common sense, can actually get something done. Kevin Kline, whose bland theatricality has always irritated me, screams oddball sincerity in every shot. His Dave knows presidential speeches by heart, yet he's naive enough to be strung along by an evil Chief of Staff (Frank

set on the top position.

In one of the few funny gags, aides brief Dave over breakfast on the fundamentals of his executive power. A large sign marked "YOU" at the top splits down into the different branches of government. '

ment.
Sigourney Weaver was born to
play the First Lady and she registers passionate hatred for her
husband. When she discovers the
masquerade, the movie stops
dead in its tracks with a predictabily plotted love story and climax.

One of the few surprises in "Dave" comes from spotting the celebrity cameos, probably the

Langella) who has his own sights set on the top position.

In one of the few funny gags, aldes brief Dave over breakfast on and Oliver Stone all appear, along

and Oliver Stone all appear, along with actual senators and news media people.
"Dave," which has already proved successful in its opening weekend, is probably to good-natured to write off completely. Look elsewhere, however, if you want some real fun in the White House. "Dave" delivers toothless, not biting, political satire.

Now showing at these suburban theaters: AMC Abbey, AMC Old Orchard, AMC Wonderland, AMC Southfield City, AMC Laurel Park, Showcase Westland, Star Rochester.



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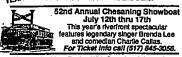
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