

MOVIES

'Quilt' examines meaning of love

TICKETS PLEASE



JOHN MONAGHAN

In "How to Make an American Quilt," Winona Ryder plays Finn, a 26-year-old graduate student at work on her master's thesis. Her topic: the ritual of tribal craft work with her grandmothers' quilting bee as a

primary source.

And, for the most part, the attitudes and patterns of this movie are well in place, the kind of job that even Maya Angelou, as the very particular leader of the quilting group, would not quietly and call a nice job.

Ryder, still one of Hollywood's most likeable young actresses, is surrounded here by some of the screen's best veterans, ones that you don't see nearly enough. Each shares with Finn her own heartfelt and often painful love story while sewing the panels for what will eventually be the young woman's wedding quilt.

She learns, for instance, that her grandmother (Ellen Burstyn) had an affair with her sisters' husband. When Finn asks her great-aunt Gladys Joe (Anne Ban-

croft) if she ever forgave him, the older woman replies, "It's only right to forgive someone when they die."

One of the most eye-opening stories belongs to a crutchy neighbor (Lois Smith) who has always intimidated Finn. "She had the most beautiful figure as a girl," recalls Aunt Gladys Joe, who relates a story of a romantic swim and the woman's marriage to a young geologist.

These stories are each beautiful little set pieces, short movies of their own. Director Jocelyn Moorhouse films them in a sort of tribute to vintage Technicolor, which makes the present-day light that pours through the windows of her great-aunt's Victorian farmhouse literally pale in comparison.

Finn, meanwhile, has heartaches of her own. The product of a hippy-era marriage, she has mixed feelings about commitment to her fiancé (Dermot Mulroney), who is quietly pressuring her about a baby's room in the house he is renovating.

A summer with grandma is supposed to clear her head and conclude her thesis, but she gets sidetracked by a handsome young man she meets at the pool. In a frank discussion with family friend Anna (Maya Angelou), the

older woman tells her from experience that a wild night can lead to years of kicking yourself in the pants.

Though she doesn't have that much screen time, poet Angelou is the emotional anchor of the movie. Her strong voice and rock-solid demeanor keep the proceedings from getting too sappy, from making you think how much this is like "The Joy Luck Club."

Australian director Moorhouse (who made "Proof" in 1991) composes a great shot, a closeup of Anna facing the camera at the center of the screen, flanked by women on either side, as she examines the colors of the wedding quilt. The women appear to hold their breath as they wait for her verdict.

The makers of the movie don't need to worry. "American Quilt" has a built-in audience of women who will recognize themselves somewhere in this intelligent, occasionally weepy portrait of several generations.

To leave a message for John Monaghan, dial 953-2047, mailbox number 1866, on a touch-tone phone, fax him a note at 691-7279, or write him in care of Entertainment, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

A summer with grandma is supposed to clear her head and conclude her thesis, but she gets sidetracked by a handsome young man she meets at the pool. In a frank discussion with family friend Anna (Maya Angelou), the

older woman tells her from experience that a wild night can lead to years of kicking yourself in the pants.

Though she doesn't have that much screen time, poet Angelou is the emotional anchor of the movie. Her strong voice and rock-solid demeanor keep the proceedings from getting too sappy, from making you think how much this is like "The Joy Luck Club."

Australian director Moorhouse (who made "Proof" in 1991) composes a great shot, a closeup of Anna facing the camera at the center of the screen, flanked by women on either side, as she examines the colors of the wedding quilt. The women appear to hold their breath as they wait for her verdict.

The makers of the movie don't need to worry. "American Quilt" has a built-in audience of women who will recognize themselves somewhere in this intelligent, occasionally weepy portrait of several generations.

To leave a message for John Monaghan, dial 953-2047, mailbox number 1866, on a touch-tone phone, fax him a note at 691-7279, or write him in care of Entertainment, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

A summer with grandma is supposed to clear her head and conclude her thesis, but she gets sidetracked by a handsome young man she meets at the pool. In a frank discussion with family friend Anna (Maya Angelou), the

older woman tells her from experience that a wild night can lead to years of kicking yourself in the pants.

Though she doesn't have that much screen time, poet Angelou is the emotional anchor of the movie. Her strong voice and rock-solid demeanor keep the proceedings from getting too sappy, from making you think how much this is like "The Joy Luck Club."

Australian director Moorhouse (who made "Proof" in 1991) composes a great shot, a closeup of Anna facing the camera at the center of the screen, flanked by women on either side, as she examines the colors of the wedding quilt. The women appear to hold their breath as they wait for her verdict.

The makers of the movie don't need to worry. "American Quilt" has a built-in audience of women who will recognize themselves somewhere in this intelligent, occasionally weepy portrait of several generations.

To leave a message for John Monaghan, dial 953-2047, mailbox number 1866, on a touch-tone phone, fax him a note at 691-7279, or write him in care of Entertainment, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

Redford painter wins contest

Derek Tyburczyk, owner of Hi-Lite Painting in Redford, won our "sexiest painter" contest.

He and his wife, Jillian, and four other women chosen randomly by WNIC, were treated to dinner out, and other surprises. They attended a special preview screening of "Moonlight and Valentino" at the Star Theatre John R. in Madison Heights.

"It was a lot of fun," said Jillian. "I enjoyed the movie, but my husband thought it was a 'chick flick.'"

Contest runners-up received a pass for two to the preview screening of "Moonlight and Valentino," a bittersweet drama about the reunion of two sisters with their stepmother following a family tragedy. The women are bound together by a single tragic event and liberated by a single sexy house painter who inspires unforeseen passion within themselves and unexpected compassion for each other.

"My sister Paula called me, and told me about the sexiest painter contest," said Jillian. "She learned about it from her friend Barb, and I said 'that's my husband,' and hurried up and dropped off his picture at the Observer office in Livonia." Paula

and Barb both live in Farmington Hills.

Derek is the owner of Hi-Lite Painting, and popular with his customers. "His customers really like him," said Jillian. "He's even brought us home dinners that

they made for him."

"Moonlight and Valentino" written by Ellen Simon, Neil Simon's daughter, stars Elizabeth Perkins, Whoopi Goldberg, Gwyneth Paltrow and Kathleen Turner. It is rated R.

Derek is the owner of Hi-Lite Painting, and popular with his customers. "His customers really like him," said Jillian. "He's even brought us home dinners that

they made for him."

"Moonlight and Valentino" written by Ellen Simon, Neil Simon's daughter, stars Elizabeth Perkins, Whoopi Goldberg, Gwyneth Paltrow and Kathleen Turner. It is rated R.

Derek is the owner of Hi-Lite Painting, and popular with his customers. "His customers really like him," said Jillian. "He's even brought us home dinners that

they made for him."

"Moonlight and Valentino" written by Ellen Simon, Neil Simon's daughter, stars Elizabeth Perkins, Whoopi Goldberg, Gwyneth Paltrow and Kathleen Turner. It is rated R.

Derek is the owner of Hi-Lite Painting, and popular with his customers. "His customers really like him," said Jillian. "He's even brought us home dinners that

they made for him."

"Moonlight and Valentino" written by Ellen Simon, Neil Simon's daughter, stars Elizabeth Perkins, Whoopi Goldberg, Gwyneth Paltrow and Kathleen Turner. It is rated R.

Derek is the owner of Hi-Lite Painting, and popular with his customers. "His customers really like him," said Jillian. "He's even brought us home dinners that

they made for him."

"Moonlight and Valentino" written by Ellen Simon, Neil Simon's daughter, stars Elizabeth Perkins, Whoopi Goldberg, Gwyneth Paltrow and Kathleen Turner. It is rated R.

Derek is the owner of Hi-Lite Painting, and popular with his customers. "His customers really like him," said Jillian. "He's even brought us home dinners that

they made for him."

"Moonlight and Valentino" written by Ellen Simon, Neil Simon's daughter, stars Elizabeth Perkins, Whoopi Goldberg, Gwyneth Paltrow and Kathleen Turner. It is rated R.

Silent film series features classics

You can experience the sound of silent films at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor beginning 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28 with F.W. Murnau's horror classic, "Nosferatu."

Based on Bram Stoker's "Dracula," Max Schreck gives an

unforgettable performance as the dreadful creature of the dead.

Call (313) 668-TIME for ticket information. The series of six films continues through April 28, 1996. Gillian Anderson, a film music scholar, conducts the

Michigan Theater Sinfonica playing the Hans Erdmann film score, reconstructed by Anderson.

The silent film series continues November 10 with "The Sea Beast," based on Herman Melville's "Moby Dick."

The silent film series continues November 10 with "The Sea Beast," based on Herman Melville's "Moby Dick."

The silent film series continues November 10 with "The Sea Beast," based on Herman Melville's "Moby Dick."

The silent film series continues November 10 with "The Sea Beast," based on Herman Melville's "Moby Dick."

The silent film series continues November 10 with "The Sea Beast," based on Herman Melville's "Moby Dick."

The silent film series continues November 10 with "The Sea Beast," based on Herman Melville's "Moby Dick."

The silent film series continues November 10 with "The Sea Beast," based on Herman Melville's "Moby Dick."

The silent film series continues November 10 with "The Sea Beast," based on Herman Melville's "Moby Dick."

The silent film series continues November 10 with "The Sea Beast," based on Herman Melville's "Moby Dick."

The silent film series continues November 10 with "The Sea Beast," based on Herman Melville's "Moby Dick."

The silent film series continues November 10 with "The Sea Beast," based on Herman Melville's "Moby Dick."



Painter: Derek Tyburczyk, owner of Hi-Lite Painting in Redford, the winner of our sexiest painter contest.

THE SCARLET LETTER

STAR THEATRES

FAMILY FILM SPECTACULAR

Week 1: October 13 - October 19
1) Casper

Week 2: October 20 - October 26
2) The Pebble and The Penguin

Week 3: October 27 - November 2
3) The Indian in the Cupboard

Week 4: November 3 - November 9
4) Mighty Morphin Power Rangers

Week 5: November 10 - November 16
5) Magic in the Water

TWO FREE KIDS ADMISSIONS

STAR THEATRES