MOVIE CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER Too much talk weighs heavily in 'Waking The Dead'

A.P. - "Waking the Dead" begins in 1974. Fielding Pierce (Billy Crudup) learns from watching the news that his giri-friend, Sarah Williams (Jennifer Connelly), has died in a car bombing.

Flash forward to 1982. The governor hand picks Fielding, an up-and-coming young lawyer in the district attorney's office in Chicago, to run for Congress. Fielding has good looks, a Harvard education, a socialite girleiend and powerful political backing. He's on the verge of attaining everything he has ever wanted.

But Fielding can't get Sarah out of his mind. He thinks he sees her and hears her volce overywhere. He slowly starts los-ing his mind and wonders whether she ever really died. Through flashbacks to a snow-covered New York City in 1972, we see Fielding and Sarah meet and fall in love. Both are liberal and idealistic. Fielding wants to make a dif-

and idealistic.
Fielding wants to make a dif-ference by becoming part of the political system. Sarah favors revolution, and her activism is what leads to her early demiso. She dies while helping a group of Chileans flee their country. Director Keith Gordon flashes back and forth in time — too much, really — to reveal their

 ${\bf Z}$ 'He slowly starts losing his mind and wonders whether she ever really died.'

passionate, rocky relationship. It's hard to got emotionally involved with the movie, though, because it skips around so often.

because it skips around so often.
Robert Dilion bogs down his
script, which he adapted from a
1986 novel by Scott Spencer,
with tedious, talky speeches.
Fielding ruins dinner with
Sarah's church friends by spouting his political beliefs. Sarah
makes a similar scene at one of
Fielding's stuffy cocktail parties.

As the two overanalyze their relationship, she also gets to say things like, 'You have to love me,

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too, not in image and not in idea. Granted, Sarah is a philo-sophical woman caught up in the idealism of the Victnam era, but do people really talk like this?

The movie, which Jodie Foster executive produced, also wastes Janet McTeer in a poorly devel-oped supporting role. The Tony

winner, who was nominated for a best actress Oscar for "Tumble-weeds," plays Fieldings dider sis-ter, Carolino. Sho pushes his campaign, and, like the rest of Fieldings working-class family, has pinned her hopes on his suc-cess. But that's all we learn about her. Crudyn and Connelly, who also

Crudup and Connelly, who also worked together in 1997's "Inventing the Abbotts," manage to muddle through, however, and deliver strong performances.

They look great together and have terrific chemistry. Connelly shows warmth and vulnerability as Sarah. She is alternately sultry and strong-willed.

willed.

Crudup looks every bit the ambitious young politician. He also does a good job of making his character's agonizing grief seem real. If only the rest of the film were as compelling as his reofermance.



Keith Gordon forth through his drama "Waking The Dead." It stars Billy Crudup (left) and Jennifer (right).

Farmington resident wins O&E Academy Award contest

BY KEELY WYGONIK STAPP WRITER

kwygonik@oe.ho

kwygonik@oo.homecomm.net

This year's Observer & Eccentric Newspapers' 'Oscar' award
goes to Libby Lucas of Farmington.

Lucas was one of two readers
to pick the winners of this year's
keademy Awards for Best Picture, Best Actor/Actress in a
Leading Role; Best Actor/Actress
in a Supporting Role; Best
Directing, and Best Original
Screenplay. Her name was chosen in a random drawing. Over
300 readers submitted ballots for
the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers' annual Academy Award
contest.

Lucas won an annual movie

Lucas won an annual movie pass for two from AMC Theatres. She was surprised and happy to

win.

"I love movies, I go once n
week," she said. "I like good stories."

"The Cider House Rules," was
her favorite movie of the yenr,
but she chose "American Beauty,"
because she thought it would
win.

Her strategy for choosing this

Oscar winners: Lester Burnham (Kevin Spacey) is enjoying the changes he has made in his life, to the complete exasperation of his wife Carolyn (Annette Bening) in "American Beauty."

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A widower falls in love with the woman who received his wife's heart. Stars David Duchovny and Minnie Driver.

Scheduled to open Friday, April 14 KEEPING THE FAITH

Ed Norton directed and stars in this romantic comedy about two man who fall for the same woman. The twist is that one man is a Catholic priest and the other an Orthodox rabbl, Also stars Ben Stiller, Jenna Elfman and Anne Ban-

Chilling tale, based on a Brad Easton Ellis novel, of a Wall Streeter who goes



One heartfelt story: Minnie Driver and David Duchony fall in love in "Return to Me," opening in metro area theaters Fri-

on a rage-fueled killing spree. Stars Christian Bale, Willem DeFoe, Jared Lete, Reese Witherspoon and Samontha Mathis.

At the Landmark Maple Art Theatre, this take on Shakespeare's :Titus

fusion of costumes and settings from many eras. Written and directed by Julit Toymore, it stars Anthony Hopkins, Jes-sica Lange, Alan Cumming, and Jonathan Rhys Myers.

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Scheduled to open Friday, April 21 JOE GOULD'S SECRET

Director Stanley Tucci stors with lam Holm in this true story of a "New Yorker" writer and the eccentric botteman he turns into as a minor celebrity in the 1940s. JOE GOULD'S SECRET

COSSEP
Suspense drama about a group of college students who innocently begin class by plenting a umor that ascalates out of control, leading to a web of saxual betrayal and revenge. Stars Norman Reedus, James Marsdon, Lena Rieady, Knit Hudson, Directed by Davis Guggensten

Schoduled to open Friday, April 28 DETERRINCE

Political thriller set in the year 2008 stars Kevin Polisck as the incumber