'The Other Sister' is as cute as a cookie cutter

BY VICTORIA DIAZ SPECIAL WRITER

You might assume that any movie with Juliette Lewis, Diane Keaton, and Tom Skerritt in the cast would be a fairly good movie. And that's what "The Other Sister" (which stars these three) is — a fairly good movie. It's a touchy-feely film that may lidave you feeling warm and fuzzy into next August. It's the kind of picture that prompts some film-goers to murmur approxingly as they leave the theater "That was aweet."

Sweet it is, Cute as a cookie

Sweet it is. Cute as a cookie most of the time, still, it has its

problems.
I don't know exactly what

director Garry Marshall had in mind when he made this movie. My guess is that he wanted to deliver a message or two: the mentally challenged are real people, and they have the right to take risks, just like everybody whose IQ falls within a "normal"

whose IQ falls within a "normal" range.

Nothing wrong with good intentions, and there's certainly something to be said for such goals. But this can be slippery territory, and Marshall occasionally stumbles. Sometimes, his rather superficial screenplay, written with Bob Brunner, makes us feel as if we are laughing at these disabled characters a little too much, instead of

laughing with them.
As the story opens, we meet
Carla Tate, a slightly retarded
young woman who is about to
return home from the special
education institution where she
has spent much of her life. Her
father, who calls her "Pumpkin"
and obviously adores her, hes and obviously adores her, has come to accompany her home to the affluent suburban neighborhood where the family lives near San Francisco. She has two, wouldn't you know it, beautiful sisters, one of whom is about to get married, and one of whom is, wouldn't you know it, gay She also has a mother. Watch out for this mother. As the story progresses, we will see that she has

her own disabilities. Played by Diane Keston, sho's like Annie Hall grown older and turned anal-retentive.

Carla has plans, which involve simply making a life for herself. She wants to get a job, maybe as a veterinarian's assistant, try out some college classes, live in her own apartment and maybe even find the right guy.

Her mother, who always had trouble accepting her daughter's imperfections, reasons desperatoly that maybe some tennis lessons at the club would be the thing, or maybe some quiet visits to some quiet museums, while Carla lives quietly at home in her freshly decorated room upstairs in the seclusion of the family home. But absolutely there will be no apartment, no

COMING ATTRACTIONS

enrolling in college classes and - horror of horrors - no young

man.

Juliette Lewis makes a superconvincing Carla, seeming stubborn and strong-willed, soft and innocent at once. She gets a chance to display a kind of eccen-tric comedic talent here and is an absolute riot in a memorable, birds-and-bees scene with

birds-and-bees seene with Keaton.
As Danny, Carla's Mr. Right, a young actor named Giovanni Ribisi holds his own, and then some. Danny's favorite movic is "The Graduate," and we aren't surprised that he identifies so closely with Dustin Hoffman, or role played by Hoffman. His physical appearence, stuttery speech patterns, and nervous mannerisms seem all highly

reminiscent of Hoffman in his younger days, especially when he played Benjamin Braddock. Several similarities exist between this movie and that one, including a big dinish wedding seems.

Tom Skerritt as Carla's father, acts as if he'd wandered over from some 1950s family sit-com. He just pretty much keeps grinning, no matter what happens, like he'd received a moga-dose of something to render him endlessity patient and above the fray, a kind of hyper-clone of Ozzie Nelson himself.

Victoria Diaz is a Livonia free-lance writer who specializes in book, theater and movie reviews. You can reach her by voice mail at (734) 953-2046, then press 1854.

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A psychiatrist helps a domineering mob boas overcome his various psychological troubles, not the loast of which is ordering a hit. Stars Robert De Niro, Billy Crystel.

Scheduled to open Friday, March 12
"WING COMMANDER"
Science fiction edventure based on the best-selling computer game series of the same name. Stars Freddle Prinze Jr.

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BARRELS*
British gangster comedy about high rollers who find themselves in debt to an underworld boss of 500,000 pounds. "THE CORRUPTOR"

rockie cop who learns first-hand how power and influence have compromised his superiors. Stars Chow Yun-Fat, Mark Wahlberg, Elizabeth Undsoy.

THE RADE: CARRIE 2"
Thillier sequel that picks up 22 after the original about 18/year-old Rachel whose strange powers enable her to take revenge on her school-mate tormentors. Stars Emily Bergl, Jason London, Amy Irving.

Scheduled to open Friday, March 19

"RAVENOUS"
Isolated with eight others in a snow-bound fort in the Sierra Nevadas, circa 1847, an army coptain must fight hunger within himself, as well as killer who dines on men, Stars Guy Pearce.

"TRUE CINEES"

A newspaper reporter discovers proof than an innocent man is about to be executed and has only one day to save him. Stars Clint Eastwood, Frances Flaher, Sydney Politer, James Woods, Lisa Gay Hamilton, and Denis Leary.

Scheduled to open Friday, March 26

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20 DRES

A young filmmaker is struck with an idea that had the potential to change his luck all at once: to make a movie that would chronicle his womed dogged and incelicate quest for true love. The result, an insightful look at one hapless romantic's roller coaster ride through singlehood filmed Cardid Camera Style. Written and directed by Myles

Berkowitz.

Scheduled to open Wednesday, March

712 MATERY

Science fiction tale about a society that lives to unknowingly provide energy for an artificial intelligence known as the Matrix until a few brook free and set out to make changes. Sters Keanu Reeves.

Scheduled to open Friday, April 9

REVER BEXN KISSED
A young looking reporter is given them assignment of going undercover to get-story in high school. Romantic comedy stors Drew Barrymore, David Arquette.

Scheduled to open Friday, April 16

GOODEYE, LOVER
Scheming brothers battle each other as each consider to inherit a \$4 million laurance policy, Stars Patricia Arquette, Don Johnson.

Opening date to be announced

Time 24 HOUR WOMAN*
Contemporary comedy about a
television producer balancing her
personal and professional lives during
her pregnancy and the subsequent birth
of her daughter. Sters Rosle Perez.

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ENTRY_FORM

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BEST Supporting Actor: BEST Supporting Actress: BEST Original Song:

DEST SUPPORTING ACTO
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IN AFFLICTION
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IN A CIVIL ACTION
GET HARID
IN THE TRUMAN SHOW
IN SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE
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A SIMPLE PLAN
SOND OF ☐ Rachel Griffiths in HILARY AND JACKIE

BEST ACTRESS: Cate Blanchett in ELIZABETH

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Lynn Redgrave in GODS AND MONSTERS

D 'I Don't Want to Miss a Thing: from ARMAGEDDON from QUEST FOR CAMELOT

O *A Soft Place to Fall: from THE HORSE WHISPERER O "That'll Do" from BABE: PIG IN THE CITY

BEST DIRECTOR:

☐ Roberto Benigni in LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL

O Steven Spielberg in SAVING PRIVATE RYAN

"When You Believo" from THE PRINCE OF EGYPT

Sond or fax entries by 5 p.m. Monday, March 15, 1999
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