

Moral satire contrived; 'Cousins' glorifies adultery

By Judith Trojan
NC News

In "The Luckiest Man in the World" (Gilroy), Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Frank D. Gilroy ("The Subject Was Roses") concocts a somewhat pedestrian look at one nasty man's search for redemption.

Wealthy garment manufacturer Sam Posner (Philip Bosco) has spent his life in pursuit of the almighty dollar. In his quest for power and selfish pleasures, Posner squashed the trust and spirit out of his family, friends, mistress, business partner and employees. The guy's a skunk, and everyone knows it.

When he accidentally averts a mortal blow, Posner is jolted into admitting his sins and vows to make amends. Unfortunately for Sam, earning forgiveness is not comparable to springing a deal on Seventh Avenue. His high-pressure efforts to win back the love of his wife, transvestite son, dying business partner and best friends are written off by all concerned. Posner's underhanded past finally catches up with him, and he's forced to face the music, despite his desire to come clean.

This production would have been better served on the stage or on PBS. As a feature film, it unfolds in contrived, heavy-handed

fashion, although writer-director Gilroy attempts to lace his satire with light comic touches and a strong moral. Gilroy overpowers his characters (played by proficient but lackluster stage actors) with pompous, overwrought monologues that seem directed at the last row in the balcony, not the intimacy of the cinema.

Posner finally makes amends, but the time and the terms are determined off-camera by the show in church. He and the gang end his lifelong victims. He and his much-maligned wife (Doris Belack) stand ready to renew their marriage vows. The moral of Posner's story — that one cannot hope to undo years of nastiness in 24 hours — is positive but uninspired.

Due to some rough language laced with sexual vulgarities, the USCC classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the MPAA.

'Cousins'

An English-language remake of the 1976 French hit film "Cousin, Cousine," "Cousins" (Paramount) is a highly romanticized view of adultery as played out by people related by marriage. Filmed in soft focus on the lush coast of British Columbia, this version stars Isabella Rossellini, who steals the show as Maria, the unhappy wife of a philandering husband aptly

named Tom (William Petersen).

Maria falls for and ultimately beds Larry (Ted Danson), the flaky husband of gorgeous Tish (Sean Young), a makeup artist who is fooling around with Tom. During several comically rendered family weddings and one funeral, the foursome become entwined in each others' lives and hearts, and finally change partners and dance.

Slickly Americanized by director Joel Schumacher, "Cousins" features some delightful ethnic (Polish and Italian-American) family sequences and is well cast and acted. Its glorification of adultery and premarital sex, however, renders it morally objectionable.

Correction

A parish note in the Feb. 23, 1989, edition of the *Catholic Courier* contained an error concerning a Lenten retreat at Immaculate Conception Church in Ithaca.

The retreat will begin at 7:30 p.m. on March 5, and continue through Thursday, March 9. Two programs — one at 11 a.m. and another at 7 p.m. — will be offered each day.

Due to its all-consuming romanticization of adultery and its condoning of premarital sex, plus some discreetly filmed nudity and rough language laced with sexual vulgarities, the USCC classification is O — morally offensive. The MPAA rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Panel on abortion planned for Fisher

St. John Fisher College will host a panel discussion titled "Civil Disobedience and Abortion" on Tuesday, March 7, from 7-9 p.m. at the Kearney Auditorium, 3690 East Ave., Rochester.

Panel members will hear a presentation on civil disobedience by Dr. Charles DiSalvo, a visiting professor of law at West Virginia University. Among those on the panel will be: Brighton Town Justice John J. Ark; Dr. Ralph Caschetta, a gynecologist who has been the target of pro-life activists; and Rev. Wendy Williams Spaly, a member of the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights.

The program is free and open to the public. Call 716/385-8104 for information.



DINING AROUND THE DIOCESE

Advertisement

Brandston's
814 S. Clinton Ave.
(one mile from GEVA Theatre)
(716) 461-3756

"It's not often that a restaurant appears offering style, good food and reasonable prices. When one does, we should file it away in our memory bank for frequent recall. Do so with Brandston's." ... Quote from City Newspaper food critic Linda Mushlin.
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A pleasant blend of crystal chandeliers and Victorian motif set in an authentic country barn, creates a memorable atmosphere... for lunch, cocktails or an enjoyable dining experience. Your host George and Katherine Gerkos and Chef Russell Brindisi pride themselves in presenting you with the most carefully selected and prepared dinners as well as unique special creations for each evening. We most sincerely hope that you'll find our quality uncompromising and our service unsurpassed. Reservations are appreciated.

Flaherty's Three Flags Inn
1200 Bay Road, Webster
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Stop in for lunch or dinner and try some of our homemade soups and specials. A neighborhood tavern and grill since 1970, our friendly and relaxed atmosphere has become a favorite spot for people from all over the county. Our full menu offers you a choice of anything from broiled steak and chicken to our now famous chicken wings. For sports fans we offer your choice of five monitors for your favorite sports viewing. Open 7 days a week, 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. See you there!

Fornataro's
2155 Long Pond Rd.
(corner Long Pond & Spencerport Rds.)
(716) 426-1240

Along the streets of Rome or in the Italian countryside, the word "trattoria" conjures up images of a family-like dining room just off a kitchen, fragrant with the rich aroma of simmering meat sauces, tomatoes and fresh peppers. Such could be a description of Fornataro's. Serving dishes like Filet Fornataro (beef dressed in salt sauce with melon balls and grapes), Saltimbocca, Veal Marsala and Madeira, Fettucine Alfredo in its golden cheese dressing, and Beef Tenderloin flavored with spices and cognac in a marinara sauce. Most pastas are homemade. Wines and liquors are used liberally in the cuisine as are artichoke hearts and fruits. Lunches served Monday thru Friday, dinner seven nights a week. Banquet and private party rooms are available.

Grana's Restaurant
875 Monroe Avenue
Rochester, N.Y. 14620
(716) 244-0124

The Granas of the Fountain Blue and Penfield invite you to dine at Grana's Restaurant, a fun place to eat! Specializing in an Italian-American cuisine, Grana's offers a prime rib special Sunday and Tuesday nights for only \$7.95 (including a salad bar). Lunches are served daily from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dinners from 4:30 to 10:00 p.m. weekdays, 4:30 to 11:00 p.m. weekends. Your hosts, the Grana family.

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Noted for their fine Italian dinners that include 11 veal dishes and homemade

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National Hotel
Rte. 20A & 39
Cuylerville, N.Y. 14481
(716) 382-3130

Built in 1837, the 150 year old National Hotel is a landmark in and of itself. Serving dinners only, Tues.-Sat. 4:30-10 p.m. and Sundays, 12-8 p.m. A special Senior Citizen menu is featured nightly and Sunday. From Rochester, take 390 South to exit 8. The National Hotel is located on Rts. 20A & 39 in Cuylerville just 3 miles south of Geneseo or 3 miles east of Letchworth State Park. Reservations are appreciated.

(Oswald's) Hof Brau Haus
406 Lyell Ave.
(716) 458-2084

Authentic German cooking in an olde world Gasthaus decor. Specializing in German wines, and featuring more than 50 imported beers. Special arrangements for groups. Serving lunch and dinner. Live Bavarian entertainment on weekends.

Papa Joe's
8506 Grieb Street
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(315) 483-6372

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Sherwood Manor Restaurant
60 W. Main Street
Honeoye Falls, NY
(15 Minutes south of Monroe and Clover Sts.)
624-3580 Closed Mondays

Your host, Andy Carafos, invites you to dine in relaxed elegance, sampling from a menu featuring the finest quality prime rib served in upstate New York. Fresh seafood, veal, steaks, chops, and poultry, as well as several daily luncheon, dinner and early bird specials round out the extensive menu. Banquet facilities available for parties to 125.

The Villa Carlo
55 Main St., Mt. Morris, NY 14510
1 mile south of Letchworth State Park (Mt. Morris entrance)
(716) 658-2204

Before or after skiing at Swain, come and experience the casual dining pleasure of the Villa Carlo. Enjoy a cup of Cappuccino after a meal featuring all homemade soups, bread, pasta and desserts. Cooked to order for your dining satisfaction by our owner/chef. Reservations are appreciated. Open Tuesday-Thursday, 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and Sundays, 12N-8 p.m. Closed Mondays.

Yellow Rose Cafe
1784 Penfield Rd.
Penfield, New York 14526
(716) 385-3673

Come and dine at this historic landmark; former home of Daniel Penfield, founder of Penfield. We offer good cooking, good service and a quiet, gracious atmosphere. Hours are Mon.-Fri. 11:30 a.m.-1:00 a.m.; Sat. 11:30-2:00 a.m. and Sun. 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Both lunch and dinner are our special talents. See you there!

Dining Around the Diocese
The first issue of each month, the *Dining Around the Diocese* is featuring some prime dining spots in and around the Rochester diocese. If you, or someone you know, would like to have your restaurant included in our *Dining Guide*, call the *Courier-Journal* at 328-4340. Look for our *Dining Guide* in the upcoming months, and pay a visit to the restaurant of your choice, and enjoy a pleasant evening of "Dining Around the Diocese."