

Audiences will find much to identify with in 'Dad'

NEW YORK (CNS) — The theme of aging rarely has been well-served in cinema. With the exception of such sporadic big screen efforts as "On Golden Pond" and "I Never Sang for My Father," the theme of making peace with one's elderly parents and coping with their physical and mental decline apparently has been thought too painful and unprofitable to film.

Writer-director Gary David Goldberg takes these issues out of the closet in "Dad" (Universal), a sudsy serio-comic adaptation of the William Warton novel.

"Dad" opens in the comfortable California home of Jake and Bette Tremont (Jack Lemmon and Olympia Dukakis). With decor frozen in the '60s, the Tremont home is Bette's fortress.

When Bette is felled by a heart attack, Jake's total helplessness sets off a chain of crises that opens old wounds and changes the family forever.

Shocked by his father's deterioration and guilty over his self-involved lifestyle, divorced Wall Street wheeler-dealer John Tremont (Ted Danson) arrives to care for his father.

Since Jake was never sick or senile — just snafued by his overbearing wife — he easily catches on and enjoys the father-son interaction to no end. But that's the problem with this well-intentioned effort. There are too many endings and too many crises to cope with effectively in one film.

Since cancer is his biggest fear and his insensitive doctor spills the beans before John can prepare him, Jake snaps into senile dementia and a coma before a kinder, gentler doctor (Zakes Mokae) comes up with a miraculous cure.

Jake resumes his new life with a vigor that sees him prancing about the neighborhood in colorful outfits, taking up sports, learning foreign languages, babysitting neighborhood kids and pursuing his wife with renewed sexual ardor.

All of this gets to be pretty exhausting and far-fetched, but there are wonderful, insightful touches throughout to make it palatable. As played by Danson, John's devotion to his father is evoked with moments of real tenderness and believable powerlessness, especially when he's faced with the realization that his father's inadequate medical care is par for the course



Jack Lemmon as Jake shares a moment of pride with his son, John, played by Ted Danson, in "Dad," a film that explores role reversal.

with elderly, disposable patients.

Dukakis is also believable and often hilarious as the compulsive wife and mother, who easily falls into the trap of mothering her husband when her nest is empty. She and Lemmon catch all the bodily nuances of elderly suburbanites.

Since there are so few films on the subject of parenting one's parents and coping

with their illnesses and death, it is easy to applaud this effort and forgive the film's plot lapses and excessive climaxes.

Due to some mild sexual innuendo and minimal rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.



Big Apple Cafe 682 Park Avenue 271-1039

A European cafe atmosphere greets you at the Big Apple Cafe, a comfortable fun place to dine. Located in the chic Park Avenue area, the Big Apple serves foods that are prepared fresh daily. Enjoy outdoor dining this spring and summer. Open menu all day. On Sundays, stop by after mass for a sumptuous brunch, from omelettes to french toast. Hours: 11a.m. to 11p.m. weekdays, Friday and Saturday from 11a.m. to midnight, Sunday 11a.m. to 10p.m.

Cannon's 1551 Mt. Hope Ave. (1 minute north of W. Henrietta Rd. exit off Rte. 390) (716) 461-1026

A Rochester favorite for 23 years, featuring a diverse menu including seafood, steaks, chops, veal, and Italian dishes. For the late night dinner we serve until 1a.m. Mon.-Sat., and midnight Sun. Lunches are served daily from 11a.m. til 3:30.

Charlie Brown's Family Restaurant 495 Goodman St. North One block from Main St. E. (716) 326-3606 Take out

One of Rochester's cleanest and newest restaurants, where you will find delicious food prepared and served in a comfortable atmosphere at reasonable prices. Daily breakfast, lunch & dinner specials. Italian dishes served Friday evenings. Open 7 days 6a.m. to 3p.m., Fri 'til 9p.m. Senior citizen discount available (except specials). Your host, Charles Scanio.

Cheap Charlie's 8 Elm St. (Victor-Holcomb Rd.) Holcomb, NY 1-657-6131

Looking for great food in a relaxed, homey atmosphere? Then try Cheap Charlie's in Holcomb. They offer daily lunch and dinner specials, as well as an all day Friday fish fry. Or sample the prime rib dinner Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. The cocktail lounge features daily specials from 4 to 8 Hours: Monday-Thursday, 11-9; Fri., Sat., 11-10 Sundays, 12-8.

Crystal Barn Corner Clover & Jefferson at the Barn Bazaar in Pittsford (716) 381-4844

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 hosts 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.

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. Featuring Continental, Italian, American cuisine such as Salimbocca, Veal Frech, Fettucine Alfredo as well as traditional favorites like Steak Diane, Beef Wellington and others. Breads and pastas are homemade. Wines and liquors are used liberally in the cuisine as are atrichoke hearts and fruits. Lunch served Monday through Friday, dinner seven nights a week. Banquet and private party rooms are available.

Irondequoit Town Lounge 705 Titus Avenue (716) 342-3465

Serving lunches 11:30-3p.m. daily except Sunday. Featuring a Early Bird Special every night but Friday. Fish Frys every Friday. Our party room can accommodate up to 60

people for your next gathering. Clip out this ad and receive \$5.00 off two dinners (not valid on dinners under \$8.00), offer good Sunday thru Thursday, during the month of February. Please present ad when ordering.

Mr. Dominic's at the Lake 4699 Lake Avenue (716) 865-4630

Noted for their fine Italian dinners that include 11 veal dishes and homemade pasta, Mr. Dominic's is now open for lunch. Early Bird dinner specials Sunday-Friday. Also offering 10% senior discount. Delivery is available for your luncheon group of ten or more. Lunch hours from 11a.m.-2p.m. Tuesday-Friday. Dinner hours Monday-Friday 4:00-9:30p.m., Saturday 5:00-10:00 p.m., Sunday 3:00-9:00p.m.

National Hotel Bed and Breakfast Inn Rte. 20A & 39 Cuylerville, NY 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. 4:30-10p.m. and Sundays, 12-8p.m. A special Senior Citizen menu is featured nightly and Sunday. From Rochester, take 390 South to exit 8. The National Hotel Bed and Breakfast Inn 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 old 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.

Sherwood Manor Restaurant 60 W. Main Street Honeyoye Falls, NY (15 Minutes south of Monroe and Clover Sts.) (716) 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.

Victor Milling Co. Rest. 75 Coville Rd. (off Maple) 924-4049

Tucked away in the heart of Victor you'll find this unique and relaxing restaurant. This Fall, enjoy the open hearth's warmth as you peruse the eclectic menu, which features many original recipes including a well-known seafood bisque. Starting Sept. 14, try the Thursday prime rib buffet for \$12.96. Hours for dinner are Mon-Sat from 5p.m. Lunch, Tues-Fri 11:30-2. Lunch menu changes daily.

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

Come and experience for yourself the casual dining pleasure of the Villa Carlo. Featuring all homemade soups, bread, pasta and desserts. Also serving charbroiled steaks cooked to order for your dining satisfaction by our owner/chef. We have a full-service bar, and fresh ground coffee for espresso and cappuccino. Clip this article and receive a complimentary beverage with any lunch or dinner. Reservations are appreciated. Mastercard and Visa accepted. Open Tues., Wed., Thurs. 11:30 to 9:00; Fri. and Sat. 11:30 to 10:00; Sun. 12:00 to 8:00; CLOSED MONDAY.

Whitney's Cafe 617 Whitney Rd. (at O'Conner Rd.) Fairport, NY 14450 388-1440/FAX#388-1120

Located just outside Fairport village, you'll find the new Whitney's Cafe, recently expanded from a breakfast and lunch restaurant to a full-service one with a very extensive menu that's sure to please. "One of my weaknesses," says chef/owner Charles Lawson, "is my heavy-handedness with portions; it's just that I want Whitney's to be known for its quality food and great prices." Hours: M-Sat, 6a-9p; Sun., 7a-3p.

Dining Around the Diocese

The first issue of each month, the *Catholic Courier* will be 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 *Catholic Courier* at (716) 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."