

# Gumshoe satire offers wonderfully quirky characters

NEW YORK (CNS) — Alan Rudolph's 11th film, "Love at Large" (Orion Pictures), could easily be subtitled "You Don't Know What Love Is." This smoky romantic ballad is breathily delivered by the film's femme fatale during this delightful comic satire of 1940s gumshoe movies.

Writer-director Rudolph updates the genre with 1990s sensibilities, but his unidentified location sets in and around Portland, Ore., evoke a timeless quality as do the wonderfully quirky characters whose love lives are a mess of contradictions and lost causes.

When a mysterious damsel-in-distress known only as Miss Dolan (Anne Archer) hires ruffled private eye Harry Dobbs (Tom Berenger) to follow her sinister boyfriend, Harry is immediately launched into a case of mistaken identity and lost and found loves.

The alluring Dolan is a woman of obvious wealth and idle pursuits whose only talent seems to be decorating posh hotel rooms with her sexily clad presence. She provides so little for Harry to go on that he immediately begins following the wrong man.

Harry's prey at first seems to be a straight arrow named Frederick King (Ted Levine), a corporate executive with a well-appointed suburban home, a lovely wife (Annette O'Toole), two children, a dog and maid. But King has a secret life.

He's also James McGraw, a gentleman cattle rancher with another wife (Kate Capshaw) and young daughter at home on the range.

As he is pulled deeper and deeper into King/McGraw's double life, Harry finds that he too is under surveillance by novice gumshoe Stella Wynkowski (Elizabeth Perkins). Stella is keeping tabs on Harry for his jealous girlfriend, Doris (Ann Magnuson).

But just as King/McGraw is ultimately forced to stick with one wife, Harry must choose between Doris and the winsome Stella and stifle his growing lust for the magnetic Dolan.

Rudolph and his cast have a ball with these offbeat characters. Archer's riotous performance as the quintessential, ruby-lipped vamp is a departure from her most noted performance as the martyred wife in "Fatal Attraction." Berenger's gravel-voiced schlump of a gumshoe manages to retain his dignity despite the fact that he spends most of the film trailing the wrong man.

Perkins ("Big") is vulnerable and feisty as the liberated female gumshoe, and volatile Magnuson nimbly throws lots of



Joyce Rudolph/Orion Pictures  
When Miss Dolan (left), played by actress Anne Archer, hires private eye Harry Dobbs, portrayed by Tom Berenger, to follow her sinister boyfriend, Harry is immediately launched into a case of mistaken identity and lost and found loves in Orion's "Love at Large."

crockery in the name of love. O'Toole and Capshaw also are refreshing as the bigamist's frustrated, love-starved wives.

Although there are a few awkward cuts that jolt the chain of events, "Love at Large" is wildly entertaining on two levels. It's an uncommon spoof of '40s film noir private-eye films and a comical,

timeless reverie on the "no pain, no gain" philosophy of romance.

Due to its many sexual innuendoes, a subplot about bigamy and some comic-book violence, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III—adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R—restricted.



**Johnny asked us for a best friend.**

*Even with a good home and a loving mother, he was shy and introverted, falling behind in school... and in life. Until a United Way agency helped Johnny find what every 11-year-old boy*

*should have—a male role model to be his friend. This year, more children will ask us to give them the support they need to grow up and face the world with more confidence.*

*So, this year, when you make your gift to United Way, please remember the one thing we need most of all.*

**We need more of you**

**The 1990 United Way/Red Cross Campaign**

## Natural Family Planning

To Achieve or Avoid Pregnancy

- A scientifically proven method
- Highly effective for properly instructed couples
- Has no side effects
- Promotes shared responsibility

**25% OFF** with this coupon Good thru June 30th, 1990

Call for FREE Brochure **464-8705**

At St. Mary's Hospital A United Way Agency

## First Holy Communion

Let us help you capture and preserve the reality of a child's happiest day.

*Veils • Rosaries • Jewelry  
Ties • Invitations • Gifts  
Prayerbooks*



**TRANT'S INC.**

Church Supplies and Religious Articles

696 South Avenue, Rochester  
716/442-7120

HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 10a.m. - 5p.m.  
Saturday - 10a.m. - 4:45p.m.