

# Movies' material is routine, unsophisticated

NEW YORK (CNS) — A horror film in which three stories are told within a fourth, "Tales from the Darkside: The Movie" (Paramount) is woven together by a young boy who relates tales from a storybook to stall a sinister housewife (Deborah Harry) who plans to serve him as dinner.

The first story, "Lot 249," is about revenge. A mummy is ordered by college student Ed (Steve Buscemi) to murder a young couple — in grossly hideous fashion — for cheating him out of a fellowship. Not even a fellow student, Andy (Christian Slater), who does not turn in the guilty student, is spared in this gruesome piece.

"Cat from Hell," based on a Stephen King story, features a diabolical cat avenging the thousands of cats sacrificed in experiments by an aging millionaire, who has hired a professional hit man to obliterate the deadly feline. Suspense is heightened by eerie photography, in part shot from the cat's point of view, and providing viewers a feast of stomach-turning special effects.

The only tale to exhibit some originality is "Lover's Vow," in which a murderously grotesque monster refrains from killing a lonely artist, who goes on to enjoy the love of a good woman — until the monster reappears.

In an ironic finale, which turns tables on the housewife with a taste for a human tree, the young boy smugly congratulates "Tales from the Darkside" for its "happy" ending.

Director John Harrison merits praise for crisp cinematography and slick production values, but the story material is derivative, routine and unsophisticated — even to the point of making viewers laugh at, not with, the film.

Excessively graphic scenes of evisceration, decapitation, mutilation, plus a sexually promiscuous scene and some rough language result in a U.S. Catholic Conference classification of O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

## 'Opportunity Knocks'

Nothing much happens in "Opportunity Knocks" (Universal) that we haven't seen before in better rags-to-riches comedies.

Infamous "Church Lady" Dana Carvey, the latest member of the "Saturday Night Live" TV team to set his sights on a film career, stars as small-time con artist Eddie Farrell. Eddie works the streets and suburbs of Chicago with his sleazy childhood pal, Lou (Todd Graff).

The film follows Eddie's slippery con of wealthy businessman Milt (Robert Loggia), who thinks Eddie is son David's yuppie Harvard roommate and an all-around business whiz kid. David is conveniently in India or some such out of town 'burb.

Playing essentially the same role he played in "Big," Loggia is a tad too dim-witted here as he easily slots Eddie into a vice-president position in his bathroom fixture firm and encourages a romance with daughter Annie (Julia Campbell), a beautiful doctor who initially wants nothing to do with fast-talking Harvard lotharios.

Due to some comic-book violence and bathroom humor, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



Demmie Todd-Paramount Pictures  
In "Tales from the Darkside: The Movie," Betty (Deborah Harry) prepares for a dinner party.



**BRING CHRIST  
TO THE WORLD**

## 1990 Collection for the Works of the Holy Father (Peter's Pence)

*Weekend of  
June 23-24*

### Purpose of the Collection

The Holy Father's work as universal pastor and spokesperson for peace requires support from all of us. Funds from the Collection enable the Holy Father to bring the Gospel message to all the nations of the world — especially the poorer Third World countries. In so doing, he not only raises people's consciousness of Christ's presence, thus strengthening their faith, but he also promotes the issues of justice and peace among all the nations of the earth.

Your support will make it possible for Pope John Paul II to extend his arms as he brings Christ to an often-times troubled world and to maintain the work that the Universal Church does in this world. Please be generous!

Thank You.