

John Hughes serves up trite prose in comedy

By Gerri Pare
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — The wandering days of a carefree hobo and his pint-sized sidekick grind to a halt in Chicago when they cross the path of a yuppie lawyer in *Curly Sue* (Warner Bros.)

Bill Dancer (James Belushi) and his 9-year-old orphan pal, Curly Sue (Allison Porter), hitch rides on freight trains, sleep in homeless centers and trick suckers into buying them free meals.

One such easy mark is wealthy divorce attorney Grey Ellison (Kelly Lynch), who is led to believe she's knocked over Bill with her car.

She fusses over the destitute duo during dinner until her snobby boyfriend (John Getz) spirits her back to her luxury high-rise. But the next day, when she really does hit Bill with her car, she moves the two into her apartment so he can recover off the mean city streets.

The tidy trio get cozy until the jealous boyfriend has Bill arrested for child neglect and Curly Sue sent to a

foster home. It's time for Grey to decide which fellow she wants and if she can fit Curly Sue into the mix.

Formula is the operative word here. John Hughes penned trite prose for *Curly Sue*, which he also produced and directed.

Witless and predictable, the movie tries to trigger emotional involvement with a heartstrings music score that's almost overbearing enough to drown out the cloying dialogue.

The characters are about as well-developed and many-sided as a nail file, and the emotional payoff at the end is as phony as the predictable rags-to-riches story.

There's an overlong scene in a movie house, where the audience is laughing non-stop at a 3-D comedy. Makes you wish you could see that movie, whatever it was, instead of this manipulative clunker.

Because of several instances of slapstick violence, the USCC classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The MPAA rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.



Warner Bros., Inc.

Nine-year-old orphan Curly Sue (Allison Porter) cavorts in the bathtub of a wealthy attorney in the new comedy *Curly Sue*.

November 29-December 31

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- A Christmas Carol
GeVa Theatre
75 Woodbury Blvd.
12 Noon & 4:00 p.m.
232-1363

- Hayrides (FREE)
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RPO Holiday Concert (FREE)
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