

Film builds dramatic case against Ivy League bigotry

Jewish student hides his identity

By Gerri Pare
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Building a quietly dramatic case for the groundlessness of prejudice, *School Ties* (Paramount) tells of the trials and tribulations of a Jewish student in a posh New England prep school in the 1950s.

A football scholarship allows David Greene (Brendan Fraser) to spend his senior year at St. Matthew's Academy, a universe away from his working class upbringing in Scranton, Pa.

A sweet guy who is accepted by his wealthy WASP fellow students since he restores their football glory, David hides the fact he is Jewish when he hears their anti-Semitic remarks.

His newfound friendships and a budding romance abruptly end when a jealous dorm-mate (Matt Damon) angrily reveals David's religion. The ugly bigotry escalates when a teacher discovers someone has cheated on a final exam.

Director Robert Mandel's modest film builds dramatically and resonates with honesty well after the credits finish rolling.

The dialogue pulls no punches in exposing usually unspoken prejudices that can be passed on through genera-

tions and tacitly accepted.

Central to the movie's strength are the fleshed-out characterizations. David is not a martyr — he too is seen as culpable for having denied his heritage. Nor are his classmates and girlfriend (Amy Locane) given simplistic treatment as despicable bigots. Instead, they are shown as flawed youngsters, but capable of rethinking their views. Only the headmaster and chaplain are sketchily written.

Beyond the hard-hitting message, the movie is an excellent drama. Never trite or predictable, the situations develop solidly and credibly to a satisfying conclusion. In addition, the production design is handsome, finely evoking the closed exclusivity of the privileged private academy in the '50s.

Another minor feat is the film's ability to sympathetically convey the overwhelming pressure the wealthy boys feel to make it into an Ivy League college and not break generations of family traditions.

Both Fraser and Damon bring skill and shading to their performances, which makes the movie's small surprises have extra impact.

School Ties ought to strike a meaningful chord with young and old alike.

Due to minor fisticuffs, a few sexual references and brief rear nudity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



Karl Epstein-Paramount Pictures
In *School Ties*, students attending St. Matthew's Academy in 1955 include (clockwise from center) David Greene (Brendan Fraser), Rip Van Kelt (Randall Batinkoff), McGivern (Andrew Lowery), McGoo (Anthony Rapp), Chris Reese (Chris O'Donnell), Chesty Smith (Ben Affleck), Jack Connors (Cole Hauser), and Charlie Dillon (Matt Damon).

★ ★ ★ ★ MOVIE ★ TRIVIA ★ ★ ★ ★

Question: What ex-television detective starred in *Quigley Down Under*?

WIN ONE YEAR OF VIDEO RENTALS FROM



RULES: ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MIDNIGHT, OCTOBER 16. Random drawing of correct entries to be held OCTOBER 19 by Catholic Courier Representatives. Entries must be returned by mail to: Catholic Courier, Movie Trivia, 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, NY 14624-1899. Winner will be notified by mail. Prize is one year of Wegmans Video Rentals (membership is free and is required). Prize is not exchangeable for cash or other merchandise.

Answer: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Last month's winner: **Marcia Jones** of Rochester correctly identified **Nick Nolte** as the actor who starred in both *Cape Fear* and *Prince of Tides*.

WEGMANS HOME VIDEO COUPON

2 FOR 1 MOVIE RENTAL

Rent any movie at regular price and receive 2nd movie of equal or lesser value free. (Proper I.D. required for membership). Coupon not valid with any other specials. Limit 1 per transaction. Coupon valid on one day rentals. Valid only in stores with video depts. Coupon Value...up to 2.00 Limit 1 thru 10/31/92



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
OCTOBER BINGO CALENDAR						
<i>SPECIAL PAID ADVERTISEMENT</i>						
Holy Family St. Ambrose St. Boniface St. Rita's St. Stanislaus St. Theodore	St. Charles Borromeo St. Mary	Holy Apostles St. Francis Xavier St. Stanislaus Our Lady of Mercy	Bishop Kearney Guardian Angels Holy Family Home School Assoc. Our Lady of Perpetual Help	St. Anne St. James St. Mary Our Mother St. Michael's St. Stanislaus St. Jude the Apostle	Holy Ghost Most Precious Blood St. Cecilia's St. Mark's	Good Shepherd St. Thomas the Apostle
Holy Family St. Ambrose St. Boniface St. Rita's St. Stanislaus St. Theodore	St. Charles Borromeo St. Mary	Holy Apostles St. Francis Xavier St. Stanislaus Our Lady of Mercy	Bishop Kearney Guardian Angels Holy Family Home School Assoc. Our Lady of Perpetual Help	St. Anne St. James St. Mary Our Mother St. Michael's St. Stanislaus St. Jude the Apostle	Holy Ghost Most Precious Blood St. Cecilia's St. Mark's	Good Shepherd St. Thomas the Apostle
Holy Family St. Ambrose St. Boniface St. Rita's St. Stanislaus St. Theodore	St. Charles Borromeo St. Mary	Holy Apostles St. Francis Xavier St. Stanislaus Our Lady of Mercy	Bishop Kearney Guardian Angels Holy Family Home School Assoc. Our Lady of Perpetual Help	St. Anne St. James St. Mary Our Mother St. Michael's St. Stanislaus St. Jude the Apostle	Holy Ghost Most Precious Blood St. Cecilia's St. Mark's	Good Shepherd St. Thomas the Apostle
Holy Family St. Ambrose St. Boniface St. Rita's St. Stanislaus St. Theodore	St. Charles Borromeo St. Mary	Holy Apostles St. Francis Xavier St. Stanislaus Our Lady of Mercy	Bishop Kearney Guardian Angels Holy Family Home School Assoc. Our Lady of Perpetual Help	St. Anne St. James St. Mary Our Mother St. Michael's St. Stanislaus St. Jude the Apostle	Holy Ghost Most Precious Blood St. Cecilia's St. Mark's	Good Shepherd St. Thomas the Apostle

BINGO TIMES & LOCATIONS

- Bishop Kearney**
125 Kings Hwy. S.
671-1065 Wed. 8p.m.
- Good Shepherd**
3288 E. Henrietta Rd.
334-3518 Sat. 7:30pm
- Guardian Angels Church**
2061 E. Henrietta Rd.
334-1412 Wed. 7:30pm
- Holy Apostles**
6 Austin St. 254-7170
Tues. 7:30p.m.
- Holy Family Church**
899 Jay Street
328-3110 Sun. 7:30pm
- Holy Family Home School Assoc.**
899 Jay St. 328-4800
Wed. 7:30p.m.
- Holy Ghost**
220 Coldwater Rd.
247-3535 Fri. 8p.m.
- Most Precious Blood**
179 Stenson St.
458-6079 Fri. 7:30p.m.
- Our Lady of Mercy**
600 Denise Rd.
865-0775 Tue. 7:30pm
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help**
923 Portland Ave.
467-2725 Wed. 7:30pm
- St. Anne**
1600 Mt. Hope Ave.
271-3260 Thur. 7:30pm
- St. Boniface**
15 Whalin St. 271-1468
Sun. 7:45p.m.
- St. Cecilia's**
2732 Culver Rd. 467-4286
Fri. 8p.m.
- St. Charles Borromeo**
64 Maiden Lane
663-3230 Mon. 8p.m.
- St. Francis Xavier**
316 Bay St. 482-3211
Tues. 8p.m.
- St. James** 119 Brockley Rd.
482-9796 Thur. 7:30p.m.
- St. Jude the Apostle**
41 Lyell Rd.
247-4322 Thur. 7:45p.m.
- St. Mark's** 54 Kuhn Rd.
225-3710 Fri. 8p.m.
- St. Mary Lyceum Hall**
Auburn 315-252-9545
Mon. 7:30p.m.
- St. Mary Our Mother**
811 Westlake St.,
Horseheads
607-739-3818
Thur. 7:30p.m.
- St. Michael's**
869 Clinton Ave. N.
325-4040 Thur. 7:30 & 9pm
- St. Rita's** 1008 Maple Dr.
671-1100 Sun. 7:30pm
- St. Stanislaus**
1150 Hudson Ave. 467-1472
Sun. 8:15p.m.,
Tues. 7pm & Thur. 8pm
- St. Theodore**
170 Spencerport Rd.
429-6811 Sun. 7:30p.m.
- St. Thomas the Apostle**
41 Colebrook Dr. 342-2323
Sat. 8p.m.

CLIP & SAVE