

## Theatre Tickets

by

Michael L. Martin

Scene: Four people are standing on line in the lobby of a movie theater waiting to buy tickets.

Ticket sales lady: Yes, can I help you?

First person in line (a man): Yes, I would like one ticket to "Purple Dawn."

Ticket sales lady: You're making a big mistake.

First person in line: I beg your pardon.

Ticket sales lady: It's not a good movie.

First person in line: "But it got good reviews. Three and one half stars."

Ticket sales lady: Trust me. It's not good. I majored in film at UCLA. Although the cinematography is excellent it's poorly acted and overly sentimental.

First person in line: So what do you recommend?

Ticket sales lady: "The Merry Life." Really an excellent comedy, insightful and touching. You'll love it!

Second person in line (a man): Don't listen to her! "The Merry Life" is terrible! I saw it last week. Although it got three stars it's really a one and one half star movie. It's a bad comedy of bad manners.

Ticket sales lady: You've completely misunderstood the major premise of the movie. Perhaps you need to read Nathan Boswell's analysis of this movie in the July issue of Current Cinema . . .

Second person in line: I've already read that! Have you read Sinclair Brent's rebuttal of Boswell in . . .

Third person in line (woman): I didn't like either "Purple Dawn" or "The Merry Life." I strongly recommend "Dog Ladies," a documentary about lesbian dog trainers.

Ticket sales person: But that film is not showing in this theatre.

Third person in line: Yes, I know. It's showing at the Cinema Plus down the block. If you hurry you can make it. You'll be amazed at the horrible lives these women dog trainers live. Why . . .

Fourth person in line (a man): For Christ's sake will you get on with it! If you keep this up, we'll miss the opening of the movie we want to see!

First person in line: You're begging the question. I no longer know what I want to see. Serious questions have been raised about my original choice.

Fourth person in line: Well I am damn sure what I want to see. So allow me to take your place . . .

Second person in line: What do you want to see?

Fourth person in line: (proudly) "Delta Force From Hell."

The other three people and the ticket sales lady look at the fourth person in line with horror and all say at once: NO!!!

First person in line: You can't be serious! It glorifies war and violence!

Second person in line: It's extremely anti-Islam!

Third person in line: It's grossly anti-women!

Ticket sales lady: Sir, I really can't sell you a ticket to that film!

Fourth person in line: (He tries to push himself to the front of the line and is blocked by the others.) This is outrageous! I demand to buy a ticket to "Delta Force From Hell!" Now!

Ticket sales lady: I'm sorry. For your own good and the good of society I can't.

First person in line: That's the spirit!

Second person in line: Good for you!

Fourth person in line: (still trying to push to the front of the line and speaking in an angry voice) Well we'll see about that, you pathetic milk toast pansies! I'll go to the manager! . . . (Ringing noise. He takes cell phone from his pocket) Hello! Honey! What's up? Oh, they let you off work early? Sure I'll get another ticket. . . "Delta Force From Hell". . . I like those kinds of films OK! OK! Yea, I know. It glorifies violence. It is anti-women. OK, I understand. . . "Love in Malta?" . . . Never heard of it. I don't know if I'll like it. OK! OK!

(He looks around belligerently at the other people in line.)

Ticket sales lady: (reassuringly) A very sweet love story. Very romantic.

First Person in Line: Good choice!

Second Person in Line: Beautifully acted!

First Person in Line: It has subtitles!

Third Person in Line: Your wife and you will both love it.

First Person in Line: It is set in WW2. There is a battle scene at the beginning.

Fourth Person in Line: (mellowing) A battle scene, you say? Well maybe it will be enjoyable after all.

Other people in line step out of his way and usher him to the head of the line.

Fourth Person in Line, now at the head of the line: "Love in Malta" it is. I'll see you in ten minutes in the lobby. (He puts his cell phone in his pocket.)

Ticket sales lady: Two tickets for "Love in Malta," Sir?

Fourth Person in Line: "Yes, please! (smiling and looking pleased with himself)

Other people in the line smile, pat him on the back, and murmur words of encouragement.

