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SURFING THE WAVES OF POPULAR CULTURE
BY MICHAEL GILTZ & FRIENDS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2006

"Kings And Queen" -- The Review

Voted the third best film of the year in the annual Village Voice poll, this is a French (make that *extremely* French) drama about a woman about to get married to a quietly supportive and wealthy man after her first lover committed suicide and the second one went a tad bonkers. Her father gets ill, her son doesn't like his new potential father, the second husband (who plays the viola in a quartet) is rather charmingly unhinged and gets committed and on it goes rather randomly. Terrible score, with intrusive pop songs alternating with awkward underscore. I found certain scenes compelling but it's a mess. Directorboy hated it and said if I weren't there he would have turned it off after 40 minutes, something he rarely does. I've just mocked the NYTimes for saying movies are generally too long and here's a good example of my argument. This movie is 2.5 hours long, but believe me, it certainly wouldn't have been better at 90 minutes. ** (2/4)

POSTED BY MICHAEL IN NEW YORK AT 2:29 AM



2 COMMENTS:

[Ed Sikov](#) said...

Begin with a plug for my new BIOGRAPHY OF BETTE DAVIS ENTITLED DARK VICTORY, then go on to observe that...

As Bette's career progresses through the 40s, her pictures get longer and longer but not necessarily better and better. Whereas most of them in the 30s were about 90 minutes, some under, MR. SKEFFINGTON runs 146 minutes and the original cut of ALL THIS AND HEAVEN, TOO ran over 3 hours. That, to me, is when storytelling efficiency became a lost art.

12:14 PM

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