



Claire Dolan.(available on video)(Brief Article)

Video Business; 12/4/2000; Hulse, Ed

Color: NR (mature themes, language, nudity, sexual situations), 95 min., VHS \$94.98

Street: Dec. 13, Prebook: Jan. 2

Cast: Katrin Cartidge (Breaking the Waves). Vincent D'Onofrio (The Cell), Colm Meaney (Mystery, Alaska), Patrick Husted (Cradle Will Rock)

Director: Lodge Kerrigan

NEW YORKER

Story Line: Irish immigrant Claire Dolan (Cartlidge) works as a Manhattan call girl to repay her pimp (Meaney) the money he advanced to cover medical expenses incurred by her recently deceased mother. After meeting a cab driver (D'Onofrio), she tries to rebuild her life but finds the past difficult to escape.

Bottom Line: The sophomore effort of talented filmmaker Kerrigan (Clean, Shaven) is pretty much like its eponymous protagonist--cold, clinical and bleak. Dolan, as we see in the opening sequence, knows how to talk to men but doesn't trust any of them. She doesn't enjoy sex with her tricks and doesn't seem able to sustain a meaningful relationship. She craves a different life but fears making a break from her pimp. None of this is stated explicitly, but the skillfulness of Cartlidge's performance and Kerrigan's direction make it apparent. D'Onofrio, whose screen characterizations often tend to be grotesque, is surprisingly tender. Dolna's no Pretty Woman-type hooker, and that might prevent some from warming up to this well-made, well-acted indie drama best suited arthouse patrons.

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