

Critique on the jakes women from 1992



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of the of the Concerned Visual Arts and Film Studies 15 July Movie Critique-
Jake's Women Watching 1996 telepic adaptation of Neil Simon's much
successful and celebrated play Jake's Women turned out to a great extent a
positively unsettling and disappointing experience. Simply speaking, Jake's
Women is a story dealing with a psychotic and successful writer who
prolifically and sporadically engages in conversations with the important
women in his life, both in real life and in his imagination. There is no denying
the fact that though this play was a great success on theatre, it's made for
TV adaptation constantly reminds the viewers of all that could go wrong with
such an intensely personal and utterly ambitious script, primarily intended
for the theatre, when adapted to a TV format, without taking into
consideration the limitations and possibilities inherent in the chosen format.
The good thing about the TV adaptation was that the technology allowed the
director Glenn Jordan to extend a life like veracity to the essentially
phantasmagoric nature of the imaginary and psychotic conversations of the
central character Jake played by Alan Alda. As evident most of these
conversations take place in Jake's head, which are readily conveyed and
managed with dissolves on the TV adaptation, which makes them more
realistically perceivable as compared to the stage adaptation, which
bothered by the expected constraints had to convey the concept by pulling
off the characters imagined by Jake. However, the direction failed to grasp
that the TV screen affords a much wider canvass that needs to be filled in by
much movement, change of scenery and background, over dramatization of
action and emotion to make the overall impact more gripping and interesting
for the audience. In that context, the movie was a big failure. Though the
performance by Alan Alda was almost flawless, yet the direction left much to
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be desired. It goes without saying that the story to begin was definitely too long. To make the matters worse, the failure on the part of the direction to enliven and embellish it with compatible and commensurate action, movement and editing made the whole experience seem depressingly claustrophobic and boring. It would not be a surprise to say that by the time the ordeal ended, most of the audiences were already anxiously waiting for it to end. Director Glenn Jordan was obviously carried away with his obsession with the theatrical devices, like making Jack talk to the camera as narrator, accompanying the entrance and exist of characters by lighting changes and the like to pragmatically remember that he was directing a TV movie. Alan Alda does resort to some physical comedy, anger and tears to jolt audience out of their stupor, yet the direction, editing and sound designing did not do much to back his initiative. If a movie could solely be sustained by the acting level of its cast, Jake's Women could be assumed to be a success. Sadly, unlike a stage production, a thoroughly successful screen production also demands much from other professionals and technicians associated with it.