

# MOVIE REVIEW

## "ALL THE RIGHT MOVES"

Stef Djordjevic wants more than his small Pennsylvania steel town can give him after high school graduation. He wants the freedom to discover himself and develop his engineering skills, and he wants the opportunity to live a full life with his girlfriend Lisa. In fact, Stef wants to share in the American Dream, but that dream has already begun to sour.

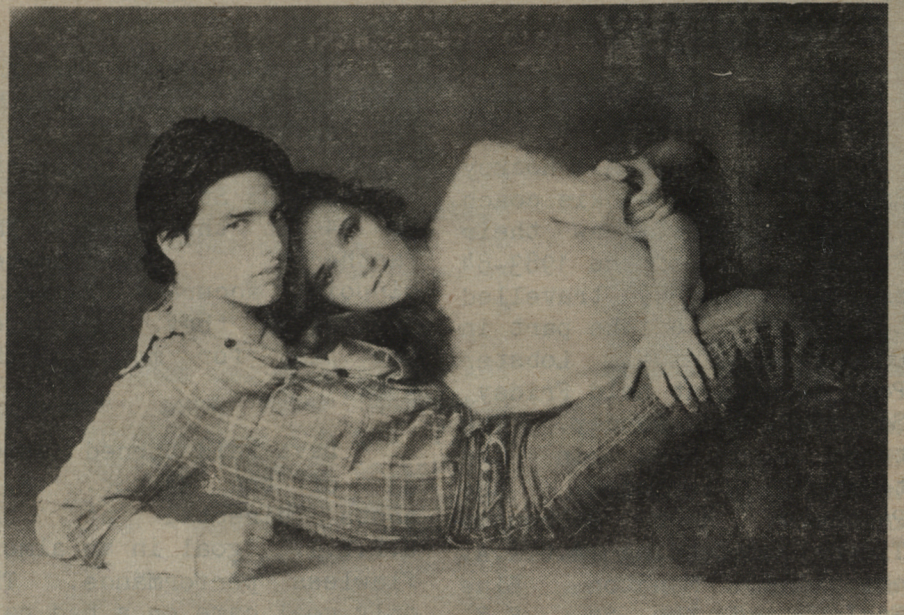
The most tangible obstacle Stef faces is his equally restless football coach. Although they share a deep need to move out of and up from their present surroundings, their common goal makes them adversaries rather than partners in their quest. An even greater obstacle, however, is Stef's own temperament, which threatens to anchor him to the very life he hopes to escape.

Still basking in the glowing notices for his starring role in "Risky Business," Tom Cruise plays Stef, a senior high school football player determined to land an athletic scholarship in "All the Right Moves." Also starring in the 20th Century-Fox presentation are Craig T. Nelson as Stef's headstrong coach, and Lea Thompson as Lisa, Stef's girlfriend who is chasing her own dream of success.

For his role as the greaser in "The Outsiders," Cruise changed his body type, adding 20 pounds to his 5'8" frame; for the more sophisticated, well-groomed Joel Goodson in "Risky Business," he scaled down his body and stopped exercising; for Stef he pumped up.

Stef's girlfriend in "All the Right Moves," Lisa Leitske -- played by newcomer Lea Thompson -- suffers doubly from the situation in which Stef finds himself. She also wants to leave Ampipe and get an education, but musical scholarships are much less abundant than those rewarding athletic achievement. Despite their initial pessimism, however, Lisa and Stef invest each other with the strength and love to overcome their travails.

Answering the cue of Cruise's dedicated regimen, Thompson prepared for her first starring role by going underground to a high school in the Johnstown area in Pennsylvania, where the location filming first took place. "The experience gave me a solid sense of Lisa's everyday life," recounts Thompson. "It also provided me with a picture of her background: what it's like to grow up in a very ethnic steel town where unemployment is imminent for



All seeking athletic scholarship, (L-R) TOM CRUISE, CHRISTOPHER PENN and LEON ROBINSON consider the consequences of their upcoming game against Roslyn Heights in this story of love, hope and determination.

virtually everyone. It helped me understand her roots, the kind of prejudices that are prevalent, and the humour in her banter with the other girls."

Just as important as the film's sociological underpinning is the realistic sense of competitive fervor that was sought in the football sequences. Much of the action takes place on the gridiron where, as Morton describes it, "some pretty heavy hitting occurred during filming."

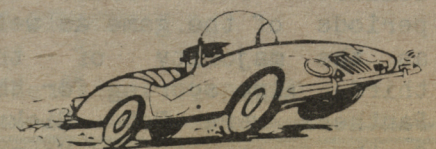
Except for the actors, all the kids in the football scenes were actual players who were recruited from the Johnstown area. "There was no doubling, even for the actors," assures Morton. "We sent kids to the hospital: Tom Cruise suffered a concussion, and Paul Carafotes (who plays Stef's teammate Salvucci) suffered the same fate. Everybody got rather banged up from time to time."

While "All the Right Moves" is set in the fictional town of Ampipe, Pennsylvania, it could take place in any U.S. industrial town: precarious economic conditions, severely limited career options and life-sapping work are pandemic in today's world.

"Regardless of how ambitious they are," Chapman states, "thousands of high school graduates find their goals somehow eluded them. There is nothing clear-cut about their fate. I wanted the audience to recognize the social context in which some people win and some people don't. We see both sides."

"Besides, it seems to me that someone's triumph is all the more interesting and poignant if there are other people who aren't triumphant."

While "All the Right Moves" presents a forthright look at contemporary youth, the story's focal characters embody traditional values in which the responsibilities of young love are met squarely and selflessly and their motivations are dictated by a need for personal accomplishment. In an age where the prevailing credo for teenage movies seems to be "sex, drugs, and rock and roll," "All the Right Moves" provides a refreshing antidote to the notion that sensationalism is the only escape valve for today's filmgoers.



TOM CRUISE is Stef, a high-school senior who wants more from life than his Pennsylvania steel town can give him; Lea Thompson is his girlfriend Lisa, who is willing to sacrifice their romantic future to help him realize his dream.