



INDY'S FREE THINKING ENTERTAINMENT SOURCE | FREE WEDNESDAY

Keep Your Distance

(R) ★★☆☆☆

BY ED JOHNSON-OTT

Stu Pollard, the Louisville filmmaker whose first feature, the affable *Nice Guys Sleep Alone*, is still making the rounds on pay-cable, has returned with a thriller about trust. *Keep Your Distance* is a clear step forward for Pollard. The movie may cover familiar turf, but it does so with an assured hand and a solid cast. Along the way, Pollard shows Louisville at its most beautiful. The Chamber of Commerce owes this man a thank-you note.

The story: David Dailey (Gil Bellows) has been the No. 1 man in Louisville radio for the last eight years. He and his beautiful wife Susan (Kim Raver) have been named "Kentuckians of the Year" by a magazine. Life is a dream for the power couple.

Make that a nightmare, at least for David. He finds a hotel key and a cryptic note on his car and heads to the inn, expecting some spicy loving with his honey-bunny. Susan is there, all right, but with someone else, and damned if she didn't forget to wait for David before starting the spicy loving.

Uh-oh.

Meanwhile, Melody Carpenter (Jennifer Westfeldt), who is trying to get her bearings following her recent divorce, notices that someone in a black Mercedes is following her around. So is Sean Voight (Christian Kane), who longs to make Melody his wife. Emphasis on the word "make."

Uh-oh.

Things get complicated fast. Melody and David meet and become friends. Such good friends that when David gets arrested, he calls her instead of the missus to bail him out. Still, he continues trying to make the marriage work. But he also keeps receiving notes, while Melody continues to encounter the black Mercedes, not to mention Sean the Smitten. Clearly, all hell is eventually going to break loose.

The film is well-acted, even by supporting players forced to deal with characters that are



PHOTO BY RAFAEL WINER

Sean Voight (Christian Kane) concocts a master plan

little more than rough sketches. The surprises in the screenplay are not all that surprising and a subplot involving a politician wastes time. Still, *Keep Your Distance* is entertaining enough overall that I plan to see it again.

EJOHNSONOTT@NUVO.NET

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE (R) *Gil Bellows, Kim Raver, Jennifer Westfeldt, Stacy Keach, Christian Kane, Elizabeth Pena.* Key Cinemas hosts the Indiana premiere of a suspense thriller from indie filmmaker Stu Pollard (*Nice Guys Sleep Alone*). The film, which just won the Audience Award for Best Feature at the 25th Annual Breckenridge Festival of Film, was shot near Pollard's hometown of Louisville, Ky., including several scenes in Southern Indiana. Pollard will be present at 7:30 and 9:30 evening shows on both Friday and Saturday to introduce the film and take questions afterwards. 94 minutes.