

reel reviews

★★ *Extremities* Royal Park

Several years ago, an off-Broadway play titled *Extremities* caused quite a stir in New York. The subject, an attempted rape victim who violently turns the tables on her attacker, was controversial enough. But equally shocking was the news that the star of the play was Farrah Fawcett. Apparently, she could act.

If this film had been our first glimpse of the "new" Farrah Fawcett, it might have been more effective. However, the highly successful TV movie *The Burning Bed* has already used the gimmicky appeal of seeing a former

angel who can act. Now, we expect Fawcett to turn in a credible performance.

The film's concept is rather intriguing. A woman is attacked by a man in a ski mask who puts a knife to her throat and attempts to rape her. She manages to fight him off and immediately reports the incident to the police. Without a description or fingerprints, they're not able to offer her much hope.

Inevitably, the rapist tracks her down. He waits till her roommates have left for the day, then spends the entire morning psychologically abusing her.

Remarkably, she manages to fight him off again. This time,

however, she traps her would-be attacker and begins to brutally abuse him, raising questions about personal revenge and its place in modern society.

In the stylized world of the play, this plot device might be an effective way of raising and discussing such provocative issues. On film, though, it comes across as melodramatic and shrill. *Extremities* is occasionally so overwrought that it elicits unintentional laughter from the audience.

The sad result is that *Extremities* comes across as a B-movie with good intentions.

by Michael Glitz