

Thursday, December 22, 2005

### **Gordon vs. Stockwell**

It recently dawned on me that both of the young leads from John Carpenter's 1983 flick *Christine* have gone on to become fairly successful filmmakers. And that realization led to the obvious revelation that there are two distinct definitions of the word "successful." Keith Gordon, whom you may remember from his performances in *Jaws 2*, *Dressed to Kill*, *The Legend of Billie Jean*, and *Back to School*, played Arnie Cunningham, the nerd-turned-automotive assassin in *Christine*. Mr. Gordon has since gone on to direct *The Chocolate War* (1988), *A Midnight Clear* (1992), *Mother Night* (1996), and *Waking the Dead* (2000), four extreeeeemely good films, if it's me you're askin'. Gordon also directed the big-screen adaptation *The Singing Detective*, which I've not yet seen due to the millions of awful things I've heard about it. I really should rent the thing already. Aside from his performance as the blandly noble Dennis Guilder in *Christine*, John Stockwell is probably most recognizable for his work in *Losin' It*, *Eddie and the Cruisers*, *My Science Project*, and *Top Gun*. As a director, Mr. Stockwell brought us 1987's *Under Cover*, the 2000 TV flick *Cheaters*, the Kirsten Dunst romance crazy/beautiful, the surfer-girlz classic *Blue Crush*, and the keeningly awful Paul Walker/Jessica Alba gape-a-thon *Into the Blue*. Which just goes to show you: If you're a young actor who has aspirations of becoming a film director, and you have the chance to star in a Stephen King adaptation ... be sure to audition for the role of the tragic villain.

Posted by Scott Weinberg in Rants and Raves at 10:37