‘David And Lisa’ Comes To Houston; Award Winning Film At River Oaks

By JOE PARSONS

The low-budget film is not a rarity in this country, but the successful one is. Especially one like David and Lisa, currently showing at the River Oaks Theater. Its director had never directed a movie; its writer had never written a screenplay; its crew had never worked on feature films before; and of its two award-winning leads (best actor, actress in the San Francisco film festival), only one had ever been in a movie before.

AND YET, in spite of this (or perhaps because of it), David and Lisa is one of the best American movies to grace the screens in a long time.

The story deals with two mentally ill teenagers, and the love which helped each one of them on the road to recovery. The two principals (David and Lisa, of course) are played touchingly, with profound insight, by Keir Dullea and Janet Margolin; their portrayal of the kids with monumental problems is at times downright beautiful.

The work is carefully molded into a whole by director Frank Perry (best new director award, Film Festival, Venice), and the result is a moving, sensitive picture. It is refreshing; there is none of the crass, commercial quality you find in so many of today’s movies. It is a movie (and an experience) you don’t want to miss.