

# THE BUFFALO NEWS

## “GREETINGS FROM THE SHORE”

### Two and a half stars (Out of four)

“Greetings From the Shore” is a tonic after a long Buffalo winter, a fluffy romantic confection as welcome this time of year as a box of salt water taffy and sand between the toes. Billed as a coming-of-age story in the line of “Mystic Pizza” and “Dirty Dancing,” it’s the first feature film from writer-director Greg Chwerchak, who has created music videos for Britney Spears, Billy Ray Cyrus and Ludacris, and who previously directed short films “The Quarry” and “The Hook-Armed Man” with producer Gabrielle Berberich. She share writing credit on “Shores,” and the movie is partly based on Berberich’s own experience and was shot in the same Oceanside town where she spent summers.

Newcomer Kim Shaw brings energy and warmth to the lead role of Jenny, a girl mourning her father’s death and returning to the Jersey shore for onelast summer before college. She has nice chemistry with David Fumero (Cristian Vega on “One Life to Live”), part of a Russian crew hired to work at a yacht club on student visas as a terade-off for lucrative work permits on an Alaskan fishing boat. Other recognizable faces include Paul Sorvino as an old family friend and Jay O. Sanders as the cartoonish villain, the cigar smoking yacht club commodore who cheats at gambling.

The movie stumbles in spots (cringe-worthy dialogue includes the opening scene and Jenny’s phone conversations with her recently widowed mother). Despite some nice offbeat touches (the colorful crew of crusty Russian sailors, the rare art form of mosaics made from dried beans), it has a more mainstream than idie feel. Why not spend a couple hours at the beach, buying into the fairy tale that a girl might find true love AND a way to pay Ivy League tuition in one perfect summer at the shore?

- *Jean Westmoore.*