

melodrama is tempered by the filter of ten-year-old heroine Eve (Jurnee Smollett). Eve combines wide-eyed innocence with a mischievous tongue and a child's burning curiosity. Another highlight is Samuel L. Jackson as Eve's philandering father, a suave doctor favoured by local lovelies for his, er, bedside manner. A weak link is Diahann Carroll as a creepy, much-feared psychic--the neighbourhood's Boo Radley--whose turn verges on the cartoonish.

But ultimately it's Eve's youthful take on her family's sordid saga, and Smollett's soulful performance as the young girl, which enlivens *Eve's Bayou*, saving it from being another substandard southern soap opera.

--Hugh Graham

Link to the
Official
Movie Website