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The invincible “Billie Jean” shakes up Cal Anderson Park



The more I think about it, the more I see the debt that “Thelma and Louise” owes to 1985’s underappreciated [“The Legend of Billie Jean,”](#) screening for free (!) tonight at sunset at Cal Anderson Park as part of Three Dollar Bill Cinema’s [“Blonde But Not Forgotten”](#) series. Somebody gets shot who has it coming; a mousy woman awakens to kick major ass; and the action climaxes in a whiteout. Texas trailer park siblings Helen Slater and Christian Slater (pre-tiresome Jack Nicholson parody) are forced to take it on the lam after an unfortunate accident. Along the way they acquire a ragtag band of misfits, including sexy dork Keith Gordon (Keith, why did your star never rise?) and Yeardley Smith, who provides viewers with the amusing experience of hearing Lisa Simpson’s voice ask “When can I get a diaphragm?” Peter Coyote prefigures “Thelma”’s Harvey Keitel as the soft-hearted cop on a mission to save the fugitives from the mess they’ve made. One could posit oh-so-seriously that “Billie Jean” is more relevant than ever today, when we designate, elevate and devour “celebrities” at a breakneck pace. But mostly, it’s just good-time kids-vs.-grownups fun. - *Sheri Quirt*



Tags: [free Seattle movies](#), [Three Dollar Bill Cinema](#)

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