



## Thelma

**Review by Vince LePlavy**

Who says an old dog can't learn new tricks? With newcomer writer/director Josh Margolin's feature debut *Thelma*, a tenacious June Squibb (in another potential Oscar-nominated role) proves that age is just a number in this snappy heartfelt dramedy.

93-year-old Thelma Post lives by herself in The San Fernando Valley just on the other side of the Hollywood Hills. She rarely sees anyone save for her good friend Ben (Richard Roundtree in his final film role) and her devoted grandson Daniel (Fred Hechinger). One day she receives a call from "Daniel" saying he's been arrested and needs \$10,000 in bail money. Thelma does what any loving grandmother would do and sends the money over in a hurry. Once she notifies her daughter (an ageless Parker Posey) and her quippy husband (Clark Gregg) about Daniel's dilemma, she realizes she's been scammed. While the rest of the family accepts defeat, Thelma is the one who refuses to accept the situation. With ensuing hilarity, the remainder of the film plays out with Thelma following clue after clue to trace the identity and location of the scammer. Hot on her tail are her family as well as Ben who eventually joins Thelma's venture. Leopard-print sunglasses, a high-powered scooter and a surprise cameo in the third act make *Thelma* one of the most touching films of the year. Hopefully the film's midsummer release won't hurt Squibb's chances of snagging a nomination come awards season. It'll be damn hard to leave her out of the conversation.

**Coming to BAFS October 18th**