

a surprise, but the other day I got a surprise with a can of Coca-Cola. I read the back of the can and it bore the legend "Bottled by the Philadelphia Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Moorestown, New Jersey." Think about it.

THE MT VOID

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I think we all know that New Jersey has become the "unmentionable" state. We all know about New Jersey, but we really do not like to talk about it. What is the name of the New Jersey football team? The New York Giants. Oh, sure. Everybody knows that the Delaware coastline does not extend up to New York, but it is indelicate to talk about it in polite society, just like there are parts of the body that it is indelicate to talk about in polite society. And perhaps for much the same reason. New Jersey is often used for other states' elimination of waste. Now I lived in Michigan before New Jersey and when I find a part of New Jersey as bad as River Rouge, Michigan, I am moving out. But of course in Michigan you do not talk about River Rouge in polite society (meaning Grosse Pointe).

But as I say, there are parts of the country like parts of the body that we all know about but.... There are even parts of the head like that. The New Jersey of the face is the nose. Casanovas tell naive young things that they have lovely eyes, kissable mouths, and shell-pink ears. Do they ever say, "You know, I love your nose"? You know darn well that if the poor object of his advances did not have a nose our Lathario would lose interest very rapidly, but the nose never gets equal billing.

And why is that? Clearly, by any objective standard, the nose is much more aesthetic than the ear. I mean, have you looked at ears recently...really looked? They are all wrinkled in ways that seem to make no sense. Lizards have just two little holes; we have these big acoustical dried apricots around the holes. But do they get the "let's ignore them" treatment? No. People often call attention to them by hanging bits of metal off the loose flaps. If the metal falls off, no problem: just pull out a punch and punch a hole through them. Well, perhaps this is the kind of attention the nose can do without, but I am talking only of backward, savage, and

ignorant cultures.

Heaven knows the nose is far more functional. There are armies of dentists, ophthalmologists, audiologists, and who knows what other ologists for the other parts. How many nasologists have you ever heard of? Perhaps with some of them it is because they do not want to admit at cocktail parties that they cure noses (unless it is part of the package ears, noses, and throats). But the nose requires little care. About the only thing you need is facial tissue.

Now there is another euphemism to avoid mentioning the nose. You see big truck drivers buying "facial tissue." "Are you going to give yourself a facial, sir?" "No, I'm going to blow my 2?@2! nose."

Well, enough of this. I am sick of seeing New Jersey getting the shaft. I think on my face it is my nose that stands out foremost.

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I think these unmentionables should band together in a coalition against this conspiracy. How about for a slogan, "Perfect together: New Jersey and noses." Well, maybe that needs some work.

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JULIA AND JULIA
A film review by Evelyn C. Leeper
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When we first see Julia (played by Kathleen Turner) she's happily married--just married. Her happiness lasts but a few hours, though, before her husband Paolo (played by Gabriel Byrne) is killed in a car

accident.

We then jump forward seven years and see Julia going through the daily routine of her life in a state not unlike that of a zombie. Then suddenly she finds herself in another world, one in which her husband didn't die, one in which she is still married and has a young son. But this world isn't all sweetness and light either--Julia in this world is cheating on her husband and being blackmailed by her lover to continue their relationship. Like a pendulum, she finds herself swinging back and forth between the two worlds, first trying to understand what is happening and then trying to create the world she wants. This is made even more confused by the fact that the person who in world two is her lover (played by Sting) also exists in world one as someone Julia meets in the course of the film.

Alternate histories are not common in film or television: Questfor
Love, "City on the Edge of Forever" (StarTrek), "Stay Tuned, We'll Be
Right Back" (Darkroom), AnEnglishman's
Castle, and a few others. Why
are they not common? Well, maybe it's because alternate worlds are a
mental concept rather than an action concept (like car chases). Julia
andJulia demands a mental effort on the part of the viewer to keep
track of who's where. The film itself is slow-moving and has a cold and
distant feel.

JuliaandJulia was shot on video, giving it a made-for-TV look.
The Italian setting (it was made by RAI) is well-used but tends to
distance the story and make both worlds unfamiliar, adding to the
distant feel. Recommended for the more intellectually oriented viewer.