Subject: The Contender
Posted by lon on Tue, 26 Jul 2005 02:29:52 GMT
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In this trough of lack of video releases, I went back to viewa show I had seen before and always wanted to get back to.Joan Allen leads an all star cast including Beau Bridges andGary Oldman as the heavy. The Contender is a political drama made and set just afterthe Clinton presidency. I'm not going to talk about the plot so as not to spoilanything.What makes the picture special is Joan Allen's first leadingrole (so far as I know.) Go to IMDb to see a list of herextensive credits.She's done everything from Pat Nixon to Senator Lane Hansonin "The Contender." This should have been her Oscar winningperformance. See the film and I think you'll agree.Gary Oldman as her adversary also delivers a devastatingperformance. I noted at the end that he was the produceras well. He and Tim Roth (see them together in "Rosencrantz and Gildenstern Are Dead") have gone into directing and producing andboth to excellent effect.But this is Joan Allen's film. Mature, careful, smart, andfastidious I suppose apply to her. And they have her in a gown or twoto wear as well.In this age of political underhandedness, I think you willappreciate the message of The Contender. It is maybe one of thelast films of it's kind (along with The Insider) that we willsee for a long time. It's much easier to make CGI monsters andchase the ring of power than to tackle the problems of thehere and now. For these reasons I recommend The Contender.