Evening Standard.

ALSO SHOWING...

Against the Tides

THE subject of this documentary, single mother Beth French, wants to set a new record by swimming seven open sea channels in a year. At first she's full of the kind of hyperbole you associate with sporty loons. But members of Beth's team peel off and her son Dylan, a school refuser and possibly autistic, kicks off about his mum's mission. Director Stefan Stuckert touches on issues without pushing too hard. It becomes clear that the sharks and the cold aren't what frighten French. As she says, the discomfort is preferable to the despair she feels when her child can't cope. Unusual, incredibly poignant stuff.