

Look And Ye Shall Find ... But We Can Help

By Joel Stanford-Asiyo
Staff Writer

Here we go again ladies and gentlemen. I do hope that I can find something to your liking. Let me caution you to call to confirm all dates and times. All clubs listed are general admission (no under 21). Some bits and pieces will have my special seal of recommendation, so keeps your eyes open. If we happened to have missed anything, do let us know, and we'll get the word out! But enough babbling: ON WITH THE LIST!

In the 'ville

Fourth Friday

Dream Girls: Images of Women in Advertising

10/22-1/7

Raleigh

Berkley Cafe

217 West Martin St.

Raleigh 27601-1323

tel: (919) 821-0777

12/10 - 12/21 Acoustic Open Jam

01/06 - 12/28 Acoustic Open Jam with

Mike Pitts

01/07-12/29 Scotty Miller Sit Down

Show

08/25 - 12/29 Second Stage Acoustic

Jam

Chapel Hill/Carrboro

Cat's Cradle

300 E. Main Street

Carrboro 27510-2359

tel: (919) 967-9053

11/23 Tyfu Single Release Party

11/26 Joe Louis Walker

11/27 The Promise Ring with Burning

Airlines

11/29 The Bouncing Souls with H2O,

Casualties, and Vision

12/03 Luna

12/04 Gran Torino



Fugazi is a band worth checking out!

Local 506

506 W. Franklin Street

at: Roberson/Graham

Chapel Hill 27516-2317

tel: (919) 942-5506

12/18 Alabama Thunderpussy

The Ritz

2820 Industrial Drive

Raleigh 27609

tel: (919) 836-8535

11/27 Ratdog

11/30 Megadeth**

12/08 Fugazi with the EX****

The Power Of A Moving Picture

American Beauty

Dreamworks SKG. Rated R. 1 hour 53 mm.

By Dr. Mary Wheeling
Assistant Professor of English

A videotaped conversation opens the story. Teenager Jane Burnham (Thora Birch) lounges in her underwear, wishing out loud that someone would put her dad "out of his misery." An off-camera male voice asks, "You want me to kill him for you?," to which she replies, "Yeah, would you?"

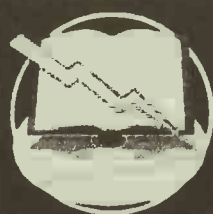
Thus begins the film *American Beauty*, the hilariously dark and moving tale of image versus substance, which urges us to "look closer." Jane's forty-two-year old father Lester, soulfully played by Kevin Spacey, has decided that his yuppie life has become unbearable, so he quits his job to take up outrageously adolescent pursuits: smoking pot, drinking beer, and lusting after Jane's classmate Angela (Mena Suvari). A riveting Annette Bening is Jane's mother Carolyn, a by-the-book career woman who believes that "to be successful, one must project an image of success at all times."

The intrusion of new next-door-neighbor Ricky Fitts (Wes Brantley) into the already sputtering Burnham family dynamic guides the story to a graceful climax. Ricky views the world, and in particular his apparently normal neighbors the Burnhams, through a tiny Sony video camera. Despite the violent paranoia of his repressed father

and the mental absence of his quiet mother (Chris Cooper and Allison Janney), eighteen-year-old Ricky has managed to assemble both a life-sustaining philosophy and a sizable bank account. Out of a past colored by military school and mental institutions, he has located beauty in what most Americans neurotically shy away from—death.

In one of the most engaging film moments of recent years, Ricky shows Jane "the most beautiful thing" he has ever filmed. This surprising footage and his soothing explanation of the captured moment draw the audience into his peaceful vision, Buddhist in its benevolent emptiness. Screenwriter Alan Ball convincingly illustrates with *American Beauty* that moving pictures provide the dominant medium of communicating truth in our late-twentieth-century society, and his script alludes to such important cultural markers as *Citizen Kane*, *Lolita*, and *Blue Velvet*.

Ricky Fitts gives Ball's view a young voice, veteran cinematographer Conrad Hall (*Cool Hand Luke*) supplies the gorgeous images, and first-time feature film director Sam Mendes coaxes from everyone involved brilliant performances that should someday receive the same reverential nods this film gives earlier icons of American tragic beauty.



**Edward
McKay**

Used Books & More . . .

824 SANTEE DR. FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28303
(OFF YADKIN RD.) (910) 868-1001



Last one there is a rotten egg!

www.jbcmmedia.com

Buy Sell Trade

fiction
nonfiction
youth
textbooks
audio books
music cds
video games
cd roms
movies

. . . pass the word