

'Ferris Bueller' makes skipping school educational

By **MATT LONG**
Staff Writer

John Hughes has done it again. He's made another hit movie about teen-agers.

One thing that separates "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" from the rest of Hughes' adolescent flicks is that it deals less with the struggles of being a teen-ager and more with the happier side of teen life.

In this little change of pace we get a new look at Hughes in his post-Molly Ringwald days. No Ringwald or Brat Pack in this movie, and you can tell the difference. Not that that's good or bad, it's just a change from previous John Hughes movies.

In his previous three hits, "Sixteen Candles," "The Breakfast Club," and "Pretty In Pink," writer-director Hughes dealt mostly with emotional crises and love troubles, which can tend to get stale after a while. In "Ferris Bueller" though, the mood is

light, the cast is fresh and the subject is, well, let's just say it's familiar.

Ferris, played by Matthew Broderick, contracts all the symptoms of acute senioritis and decides it's time to take a day off. And what a day off it becomes. Hughes takes us on a madcap romp through the streets of Chicago that leaves us wondering if this is the same guy that gave us the depressing tale of five detention hall students in "The Breakfast Club."

The fun begins when Ferris cons his parents into letting him stay home from school because he's sick (sweaty palms are the key). From there Ferris, given the ability to talk to the audience by Hughes, explains that school is pretty useless and he's pretty upset because he wanted a car and got a computer (his sister got the car). Ah, but of course, if he's going to play hooky he needs a car to get around in.

So best friend Cameron (Alan Ruck) gets a phone call. After getting Cameron, who really is sick, to yield his father's classic Ferrari for the day, the two James Bonds cleverly spring Ferris' girlfriend Sloane (Mia Sara) from the horrors of first period and the adventure begins.

The agenda for the day includes lunch at one those posh restaurants where the head waiter talks funny, a Cubs game, a visit to the art museum and attending and then starring in a parade. The museum bit was a little strange and it's a wonder why Hughes, one usually in touch with the goings on of teen-agers, would have the three truants go to a museum. Most adolescents don't head to an art museum when they decide to skip class.

The best scene in the movie comes

when Ferris jumps on a parade float to sing The Isley Brothers via The Beatles version of "Twist and Shout." Soon all of Chicago is twisting and shouting in the streets. His dad looks down from his skyscraper office, unknowing of his son's doings, pauses, smiles and gives a little twist.

Meanwhile, Principal Ed Rooney (Jeffrey Jones), among rumors that Ferris is dying, sets out to catch his nemesis red-handed. His attempts to find the trio turn out to be a perfect imitation of the Keystone Cops. In one scene, Rooney tries to enter the Bueller home through the doggie door only to be attacked by the little doggie himself.

After a brief emotional crisis for Cameron (the only serious part in the movie), the day is over and Ferris must scramble against all odds to

beat his parents home. But guess what? He makes it.

That in itself is the essence of the movie; three normal high school kids playing hooky and getting away with it. Anyone whoever went to school had to be rooting for the three to have the time of their lives and not get caught. That's the key. If Ferris would've been caught, the whole spirit of the movie would've been lost.

The freshness of a movie in which the kids outsmart the adults, have good, clean fun and don't end up paying for it in the end is invigorating. For Hughes, it's only additional proof that he is one of America's premiere filmmakers.

And just when you think this movie is over, Hughes pulls another trick out of his hat. Don't leave until the final credits roll.

Monday Night

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modern and swing dance. Despite changing costumes behind speakers and bumping into stage signs, the girls sang and danced with vigor. They thrilled everyone with their version of "Soul Man," complete with John Belushi/Bruce Willis/Don Johnson shades. After the show, they were seen leaping and twirling through the corridors of the mall.

The evening was concluded with The Occupants, a progressive rock band from Mebane. The sound man apparently felt that the louder the better; the group members said they could hardly hear themselves. A couple of older ladies apparently didn't go with their sound; they promptly left after the first chord. But the rest of the audience rocked right along with the young band. The

group members like to compare themselves with the Replacements and other new music bands. They have played in Raleigh and would like to continue playing the area, including Chapel Hill.

Monday Night Live! will continue to have a show every Monday through the summer. The show is open to the public at \$3.50 and for Friends of ArtSchool at \$2.50. Anyone can perform and an audition is necessary. Comedy Night will be held on July 14.

Three grand prizes are awarded at the end of the summer, with third prize of \$50, second prize of \$75 and first prize of \$150 plus a trip for two to New York. Audience members are judges in preliminary competition and area entertainment experts judge the final competitions in August. Semifinals are August 11 and 18, and finals are August 25.

The atmosphere in the gallery is comfortable and dim, the bar serves imported beers, draft and natural sodas. The audience sits around small tables below the stage. The ArtSchool is located in Carr Mill Mall

in Carrboro.

Mary Ruth, who is in charge of Monday Night Live!, considers the show to be a community service. "This is one of the only forums in the area for new and rising talent to be displayed," she said. "The auditions are not rigid (all who auditioned for the show so far performed) and it is a learning experience even if the performers don't do well." She said that many performers participate simply because they love it, and some other programs like this one have sprung up in the Triangle area since Monday Night Live! started. The ArtSchool likes to think of the performances as a showcase for the local talent and as a springboard for participants to go into professional careers, she said.

The evening wound down and the performers were hugged and congratulated by parents and friends. The dancers had exchanged their tap shoes for Reeboks; the guitarists were discussing the Bob Dylan tour as the employees were sweeping the stage. The show was finished and everyone had the same warm feeling of enjoying an evening well-spent.

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