

ARTS & FEATURES

The band ended the show with "bodyache," the lead single of *Another Eternity*.

Emma Drake, anthropology student at UNC Asheville, said the show was her first time seeing Purity Ring.

"One of my friends had previously seen them and he said the show was kind of mellow, not something super upbeat," Drake said. "It was a lot livelier than I thought it was going to be. Definitely a lot more energetic and a lot louder."

Drake said her favorite aspect of the show was Rod-dick's visual performance.

"Having those little balloon lights with him hitting them, I definitely had a better appreciation for how they make their music versus just listening to it," she said. "Seeing it live was definitely really cool and added a whole new perspective."

John Hansen, a UNCA music technology alumnus, was introduced to Purity Ring two years ago at the Mountain Oasis Electronic Music Summit in Asheville.

"Musically, the show was pretty spot on with the records," Hansen said. "It had to have been the best light show I've seen at the Peel."

Hansen, an audio engineer, appreciates the calming and atmospheric production value of the band's music and plans to attend future Purity Ring shows in Asheville.



Photo by Blake Willis.

TV SHOW REVIEW

They'll be there for me

Why *Friends* is my favorite TV series of all time

By Michael O'Hearn, Social Media Editor - mohearn@unca.edu

Back in the 1990s, before social media permeated our culture and Google had yet to be invented, television viewers saw some of our generation's best network shows to date.

From more mature series like *Friends* and *Boy Meets World* to all of the classic cartoons like *Rocket Power* and *Hey Arnold*, television was at the pinnacle of pop culture. For 10 years, people tuned into the adventures of six friends in New York City.

Chandler and Joey became their new best friends, the on-and-off-again relationship between Ross and Rachel has been documented for the ages, and every time Janice appeared on the screen, a collective, "Oh my God" resounded across the world.

On New Year's Day this year, Netflix unveiled the entire *Friends* series to audiences across the globe.

For nine months, I watched this series on Netflix and, like *Boy Meets World*, the series has inspired me to find my "squad" and stick with them for years to come. Because, whenever they need me, I'll be there for them.

Here, I examine each of the six friends and tell you what I believe is their best episode.

Starting with Ross and ending with Phoebe, I chose each episode based on its significance or comedic value by focusing on the nature of each character and his or her impact on the series as a whole.

1) Ross Geller - "The One Where Ross is Fine"/"The One With All the Resolutions" (Season 10, Episode 2; Season 5, Episode 11)

I'm cheating, I know, but David Schwimmer as Ross Geller could not have been a more perfect match between actor and character. As the series progressed, he got funnier as Ross due to his string of divorces, and the freedom given to him as an actor to branch out with his character. His "We were on a break!" line goes down in television history as a great running joke. In this episode, the way he plays off seeing Rachel and Joey kissing was hilarious. The party he threw for them and his then-girlfriend was both awkward and gut-busting thanks to him getting plastered from a whole pitcher of margaritas. I'll never forget the leather pants and the pivoting up the stairwell. Unagi.

2) Joey Tribbiani - "The One With the Late Thanksgiving" (Season 10, Episode 8)

Another season 10 pick goes to Matt LeBlanc, the actor who played Joey for the series. Usually, in a series that runs for 10 years, the



actors begin to phone in their performances for a number of reasons. Either the series has overstayed its welcome, the writing begins to fall flat during the later years or something else comes along to deteriorate the show. This is not the case with *Friends* because LeBlanc solidified the audience's love for Joey by turning up the charm and comedic relief of his character for the show's final season. In this episode, not only does Joey manage to tear up Ross's favorite shirt to make him look like he got mugged, but he also gets his head stuck in the door after four of the friends try to apologize for being late to Monica and Chandler's Thanksgiving dinner. Joey, thank you for your comedic naivete and meatball-sub-loving humor. You earned those three lasagnas Monica made you before moving out of the apartment.

3) Chandler Bing - "The One With the Proposal" (Season 5, Episode 25)

If I were to make this decision based on Chandler's sarcastic wit, we would be here all day because it knows no bounds. Instead, I'm going to pick the episode where Chandler shows his affectionate side and makes his proposal speech to Monica in a candlelit room. Putting my feelings that Chandler and Monica were ultimately not right for each other aside, the proposal speech made me well up with tears of happiness. It's hard for a series to make me cry, but *Friends* made me do so on more than one occasion. Notwithstanding, Chandler has become my spirit animal, and whenever there's a moment for a sarcastic comment at hand, I begin to channel his wit. Bing is king in these situations.

4) Monica Geller-Bing - "The One in Barbados" (Season 9, Episode 23)

If I have to be honest here, which I have to be, I will tell you that I found Monica increasingly annoying as the series continued. Please tell me I'm not the only one who became turned off