

## Dating reality show a voyeur's paradise

Tom Mullen  
*The Pendulum*

Did all of you have a good Valentine's Day? Did you cry watching the hour block of "A Wedding Story" on TLC? Or did you curse it off and watch TV until 2 a.m. and decided that maybe you are happy you didn't have a Valentine?

Either way your day ended up, anyone would enjoy "Blind Date" (locally on WBFX 20 at 12 a.m. and 12 p.m.) a reality show which dips into the lives of blind dates and finds out what really goes on. It is better than "The Real World" because you don't have to deal with Amaya or Ruthie. Each show is set up with two blind date couples. Cameras follow the couples before, during and after the date to see if the magic was there for a match.

It's pure entertainment, you cringe and laugh at the stupid comments guys make and the tell-tale reactions that girls give. Most guys could probably almost see themselves making those same comments. The filming starts when each dating candidate is interviewed to see what he or she is thinking, what kind of relationships each has been in, and what each finds attractive in the opposite sex.

Then there is the first meeting between the couple. This event is interesting in many ways. You can tell right away if there is a physical attraction between the two, if the guy is checking the girl out and what he thinks, and if one of them already can't wait for the date to end. The girl is usually polite no matter what the guy appears to be like, and the guy usually seems excited to meet anyone.

As the date progresses, little tidbits of information, much like on VH1's "Pop-Up Video" tell you

what each person is thinking. Also, there is a countdown for viewers to follow when something really embarrassing is about to happen. In one episode, the countdown was related to how long the girl wasn't paying attention to her date. When he finally noticed, she played it off with some hair flip and changed the subject. Smooth one...

A show therapist gives tips for the viewer on how to read the signals members of the opposite sex are trying to give you. In one episode, we see a girl look utterly disgusted. Seconds later, the therapist pops up on the screen to tell the viewer that guys should never talk about past girlfriends and their ways of... getting off.

The dates are all planned out in advance, and the couple even gets set up with an SUV to cruise around in. Date activities include a multitude of things, i.e. pottery class, kickboxing or a carnival.

Next, the couple is off to dinner, and then on to a bar or club where the real fun begins, both get tipsy. After this point is usually where the good stuff happens, the conversational slip-ups, the obvious body language, or maybe even some kissing.

The best part of the show may be when the two meet for the first time, but the climax is at the end of the date, when you get to predict what will happen when they say goodbye. Most of the time there is a pause and a hug. The ultimate ending is when the guy tries to get a hug, and the girl just sticks her hand out for a handshake...rejected!

On one episode, the ending was hilarious. The girl obviously wanted to lay a kiss on her date, but he wouldn't let her. They were chatting about it and the guy admitted that the last time he went out on a date, something was poking him

during the good-night kiss, and it turned out the the girl... was a guy!

All this probably sounds good enough for you to be jumping at the chance to get on the show. How do you get on "Blind Date?" Well, all you have to do is fill out an application and travel to Los Angeles.

In order for people to be well-matched you are asked questions from, "When was the first time you had sex?" to "What are your religious beliefs?" The creators of the show say that the point of it is to have fun and maybe, if they're lucky, match people up with that special someone.

Of course, you don't have to be on the show to know that the most educational aspect of the show is to be able to see inside both people's heads and what they expect on a date.

The VH1-ish pop-up graphics help decipher what the dates are thinking, and also provide funny comments about either sex. "Blind Date" teaches valuable lessons on what to do and what not to do on a date.

The couples vary, so you will learn how to calm down that bubbly girl who laughs at everything (don't get her drunk), and loosen up that uptight, shy type (get him drunk). Girls can observe how guys don't pay attention to a word that they say, and then try to play it off. Who said television never taught you anything?

"Blind Date" is an educational and entertaining show that really goes behind the scenes. It gives the voyeur another reality show that may actually help you out in real life.

Now that we are past Valentine's Day, and most of us still haven't found someone, at least we have "Blind Date" to make fun of the people who are still trying.

# Where It's At

## On Tour

Feb. 20: ZZ Top w/ Lynyrd Skynyrd, Entertainment & Sports Arena, Raleigh	Winston-Salem
Feb. 21: 311 w/ Jimmie's Chicken Shack, The Ritz, Raleigh	Feb. 29: Audio Adrenaline, Special Events Ctr., Greensboro
Feb. 24: LIT, Ziggy's, Winston-Salem	Feb. 29: Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Ziggy's
Feb. 26: Cher w/ Lou Bega, C-Note, Raleigh Arena	Feb. 26: Blessid Union of Souls, Yesterday's, Raleigh
Feb. 28: Incubus w/ Jimmie's Chicken Shack, Lawrence Joel Coliseum,	Mar. 5: Ruff Ryders, Raleigh Arena, Raleigh
	Mar. 5: Queensryche, The Ritz, Raleigh

## On Stage

Feb. 20: The Tom Erdmann Quartet, feat. Pat Sullivan, Rudy Baker and Jerry Funicello. Yeager Recital Hall, 3 p.m.
Feb. 22: Ohio Ballet's "Kings of Swing," feat. the music of Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller and Duke Ellington. McCrary Theatre, 8 p.m.

## On Screen

### West End Cinema (538-9900)

- The Beach
- Scream 3
- Tigger
- Snow Day
- Magnolia
- Next Friday
- Eye of the Beholder
- Toy Story 2
- Green Mile
- Cider House Rules
- Talented Mr. Ripley
- Bicentennial Man
- The Hurricane
- Down to You
- Galaxy Quest

## On Sale

2/22 - 2/29

- Yo La Tengo
- "And Then Nothing Turned Itself Inside Out"
- The Chieftains
- "Water From the Well"
- Da Brat
- "Unrestricted"
- Michael Hutchence
- "Michael Hutchence"
- Dokken
- "Live From the Sun"
- Millencolin
- "Pennybridge Pioneers"
- Peter Searcy
- "Could You Please and Thank You"
- Ghazel
- "Moon Rise Over the Silk Road"
- Diggin' in the Crates
- "Diggin' in the Crates"

**WSOE 89.3FM**  
ELON COLLEGE, NC

### New Music for a New Millennium

1. Suicide Machines- "Too Many Words"
2. 3 Doors Down- "Kryptonite"
3. The Rockfords- "Sure Shot"
4. On- "Avalanche"
5. Them There- "Growing"
6. Le Tigre- "Let's Run"
7. Matthew Sweet- "Future Shock"
8. Bolt Uprights- "Stray"
9. Zoo Bombs- "Mo Funky"
10. Enemy You- "Automation"

### University ...

"A show about something!"

Different topic every week. Come and be a part of our live studio audience every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. in Model TV Studio.