

Ribisi puts his interest in stock trading

Samiha Khanna
A & E Editor

"ABC—Always Be Closing." If you don't do it, somebody else will. It's a roof over a vicious youthful drive, a newcomer's playground.

You can almost smell the testosterone. The presence of money is palpable—what else would push these youngsters into power suits and an unmistakable enthusiasm for their job?

The Hot House

The impressionable lads are herded like sheep into a warehouse office on Long Island. Everything is out there on the table—there's no hiding, and if you can't pull it off, you're gone.

It's the Olympics of the business world, the smooth talker's marathon, the fabricator's masterpiece and the nightmare of the kind-hearted human being. (It could very well double as a Degree antiperspirant commercial.)

This is the boiler room.

The Greening of America

The world has come to the point where business and ethics could not be more polarized. J.T. Marlin, conspicuously modeled after the firm J.P. Morgan, is a stock trading firm that invests all of its time and commission into twenty-something Wall Street hopefuls. Ben Affleck plays the hard-driving, brazen, 27-year-old millionaire boss who whips the sad little stock-scravens into shape.

Although trailers boast the fine skills of Affleck, the film features a more prominent actor—Giovanni Ribisi as Seth, a make-shift entrepreneur who can't stand to go to college, so after his judicial father threatens to disown him if he doesn't close his illegal homestyle casino, Seth decides to go for broke—being a broker.



When he gets the job at J.T. Marlin and is guaranteed to make a million dollars in his first three years, it seems to be a promising way of winning back his father's love. Even the office secretary, played by Nia Long, digs his slick stock skills.

The Price to Pay

But not everything comes so easily. Certain office practices don't match up with procedure, and are not amended by the corrupt compliance officer.

There are more tracks to cover at J.T. Marlin than on a midnight train to the northwest corner of Wyoming. The evidence leads to illegal trading and an easy fortune made by every lucky employee.

If Seth could just let go of any moral responsibility to not screw his fellow American over, he would be able to sleep a lot easier. Unfortunately, he just can't sweep this one under the rug. When J.T. Marlin threatens to be exposed, it is up to Seth to find his way out.

All-Star Cast

Ribisi is well-complemented by the likes of master of machismo Vin Diesel (simultaneously starring in "Pitch Black"), the pompadour-sporting Nicky Katt, and the clean

cut Tom Everett Scott. The voyeur's view into the cutthroat man's world of money shoveling, security selling and other risky business becomes that much better with a convincing cast.

Screen Smarts

It has been a while since a movie has required much more than a half-open, blank stare to participate. An absorbing plot calls for more than a typical escapist weekend moviegoer, but the controversy doesn't call for business majors to understand it, either.

Writer and director Ben Younger does a good job simplifying the situation for the layman's understanding. There is also the subsequent rewarding feeling of intelligence after the movie is over, when you realize you followed what was happening.

"Boiler Room" is not quite a Golden Globe nominee on a few points, but it is definitely a captivating film about a rarely explored topic, showcasing the talents of the underrated Ribisi. A great soundtrack is a bonus.

Congratulations to Ben Younger, he may have one of this year's sleepers under his belt.

University ...

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Where It's At

On Tour

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|---|---|
| Feb. 24: Blue Dogs, The Brewery, Raleigh | Feb. 29: Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Ziggy's, Winston-Salem |
| Feb. 25: Southern Culture on the Skids, Tremont Music Hall, Charlotte | Mar. 2: Life in General, Ziggy's |
| Feb. 26: Cher w/ Lou Bega, C-Note, Raleigh Arena | Mar. 5: Queensryche, The Ritz, Raleigh |
| Feb. 26: Blessid Union of Souls, Yesterday's, Raleigh | Mar. 6: Smashmouth w/ Luscious Jackson, The Ritz, Raleigh |
| Feb. 28: 311 w/ Jimmie's Chicken Shack, Lawrence Joel Coliseum, Winston-Salem | Mar. 7: Saigon Kicks, Ziggy's |
| | Mar. 9: Paula Cole, Cat's Cradle, Carrboro |

On Stage

- Feb. 24: Jerry and Tammy Sullivan: father-daughter gospel team that has performed in the Grand Ole Opry. McCrory Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 29: Adam Werbach, "Act Now, Apologize Later." Former president of the Sierra Club speaks on conservation. McCrory Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

On Screen

West End

Cinema

(538-9900)

- The Beach
- Scream 3
- Boiler Room
- Tigger
- Snow Day
- Hanging Up
- Next Friday
- Eye of the Beholder
- Toy Story 2
- Green Mile
- Down to You
- American Beauty
- Pitch Black
- The Hurricane
- Whole Nine Yards

On Sale

2/29 - 3/7

- Bone Thugs-N-Harmony "BTNH Resurrection"
- Ice Cube
- "War & Peace Vol. 2: The Peace Disc"
- Smashing Pumpkins "MACHINA/the machines of God"
- Oasis
- "Standing on the Shoulder of Giants"
- Rollins Band
- "Get Some Go Again"
- Steely Dan
- "Two Against Nature"
- Bloodhound Gang
- "Hooray for B----s"
- A.J. Croce
- "Transit"
- Drag-On
- "Opposite of H2O"

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6. Colorwall- "Broken Ways"
7. The Anniversary- "All Things Ordinary"
8. Feel Love Fury- "Lifestorm"
9. 3 Doors Down- "Duck and Run"
10. MBB- "Upside Down"