

**In theaters:****Friday**

"X2: X-Men United" (PG-13)

Starring Hugh Jackman, Halle Berry, Alan Cumming, Sir Ian McKellan, Patrick Stewart, Famke Janssen, James Marsden, Anna Paquin
 "The Dancer Upstairs" (R)

Starring John Malkovich, Laura Morante

In concert:**Thursday**

Lighthouse - Elon

None the Wiser

Tickets TBA; show 10 p.m.

Go! Room 4 - Carrboro

Tinkers Punishment

Tickets \$6-\$7; show TBA

Friday

Lincoln Theatre - Raleigh

Squeeze Toy, Sunny Ledford, Siamese

Tickets free (21+ only); show at 9:30 p.m.

The Brewery - Raleigh

Zen Tricksters

Tickets \$8-\$10; show at 10:15 p.m.

Ziggy's - Winston-Salem

The Waiters

Tickets \$15/adv.; show at 9 p.m.

Saturday

Cal's Cradle - Carrboro

The Butchies, Kimya Dawson

Tickets \$8/adv.; show at 9:30 p.m.

Monday and Tuesday

Ziggy's - Winston-Salem

Vertical Horizon, Jonasay

Tickets \$15/adv.; show at 9 p.m.

New Releases:**Tuesday**

Jack Johnson - "On and On"

John Hiatt - "Beneath This Gruff Exterior"

Arturo Sandoval - "Trumpet Evolution"
 Tomahawk - "Mit Gas"

Variety is the Spice of Life

Elon's Department of Performing Arts will present Spring Choral Showcase at 7:30 p.m. Friday in McCrary Theatre. The show will feature performances by Camerata, Chorale and Elan. The show is free and open to the public.

Elon's student film society, Cinelon, will host an evening of student films tonight. Eleven short films will be shown at 8 p.m. in the McEwen screening room. The program is free.

Movie review**Cusack's 'Identity' thrills and chills audiences**

Sean Hennen

Reporter

"Identity" is a tricky film. Much like 1995's "The Usual Suspects," viewers will either love or hate based on their willingness to accept an ending that forces them to reevaluate everything they just watched.

For those who have been watching trailers for the film, "Identity" looks like a rain-drenched slasher flick. To more knowledgeable film buffs, the plot sounds like a classic neo-noir setup. To fans of the stage, it is easy to recognize the basic storyline of Agatha Christie's "Ten Little Indians."

What works especially well in "Identity," besides the wickedly twisted plot developments, is the eeriness and pending doom that most of the film plays up like a classic horror movie shown late at night on American Movie Classics.

Ten strangers, each traveling through the remote landscape of the Nevada desert for different reasons, become stranded at a rundown motel during a massive rainstorm. Due to the terrible conditions of the roads and the lack of working telephones, everyone decides it would be the best idea to

hunker down at the motel for the night.

Ed (John Cusack) is a limo driver chauffeuring fading movie star Caroline (Rebecca DeMornay). Officer Rhodes (Ray Liotta) is transporting a dangerous prisoner (Jake Busey). Newlyweds Ginny and Lou (Clea Duvall and William Lee Scott) just got hitched in Las Vegas.

Paris (Amanda Peet) is a former prostitute with dreams of opening an orange grove in Florida. George (John C. McGinley) is trying to find help for his injured wife Alice (Leila Kenzie) while tending to his eerily quiet son Timothy (Bret Loehr). Larry (John Hawkes) is the motel manager about to have his establishment overrun by guests.

Before anyone can settle in for the night, bodies start dropping as each guest is murdered in a number of truly gruesome manners.

Accompanying each body are motel room keys that count down from 10 with each new body. The survivors must determine who is the killer.

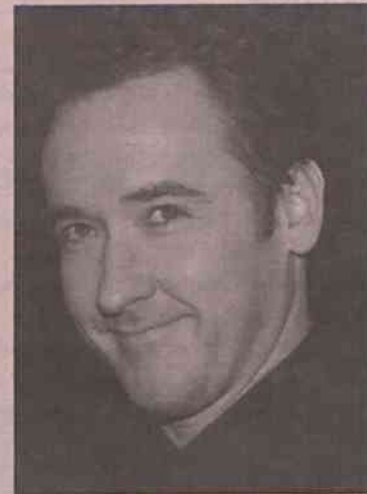
Someone in Hollywood still knows that when dealing with a scenario like the one in "Identity," it isn't the brief spurts of violence accompanying the murders that scare the audience.

Rather, it is the lull of action in between the killings, the waiting for what comes next, that keeps viewers squirming in their seats.

Packing a wallop of a plot twist that doesn't hit viewers until two-thirds of the way into the movie, director James Mangold and screenwriter Michael Cooney know they have any ace up their sleeve. This doesn't stop them, however, from turning the first two acts of the film into creepy, jump-out-of-your-seat entertainment.

It would be almost impossible to assemble a better cast for a movie like "Identity" than the group of eclectic actors present. Everyone involved is obviously having fun running around in the torrential rain, screaming their heads off, and acting as campy as possible. Especially noteworthy are Cusack and Peet, whose characters hold the story together.

The only complaint with "Identity" is that once the story has carried viewers to the end, there are still more twists. It almost feels like the filmmakers came up with a mind-blowing, admirably acceptable plot twist to stun the audience, but added one more over-the-top twist for good measure.



ABACA Press / KRT Campus
 John Cusack stars in "Identity."
 The film topped box offices,
 grossing \$17 million.

The added twist doesn't really work, suggesting that the writer and the director should have stopped before they went too far.

By the time the film reaches its credits, viewers will be nothing but a bundle of nerves in their seats.

Rating: You'll have a hard time finding a more entertaining thriller.

Contact Sean Hennen at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.

*What do I know about me? ...
 I know one day
 I'll want to start a family...
 but not yet.*

- Birth Control
- Pregnancy Testing
- Abortion By Pill
- Surgical Abortion
- IV Sedation (optional)
- STD/HIV Testing



Planned Parenthood
 of Central North Carolina, Inc.

Chapel Hill Durham
 919-942-7762 919-286-2872

WWW.PLANNEDPARENTHOOD.ORG/PPCNC

THE
 POSITIVE
 IMAGE
 SALON

\$5.00 Off

ANY SALON SERVICE

With Coupon*

Students Only

\$16.00 minimum service

*not valid with any other discount

**"Voted Best Salon In
 Alamance County"**

Offering:

* Body Wraps * Facials * Hair * Nails *
 Tanning * Color * Perms * Waxing *

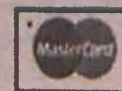
336.229.4247

Monday - 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Tuesday thru Thursday - 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Friday - 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.



1066 S. Church St.
 Burlington, NC

