

Schwimmer makes *Kissing A Fool* funSHANNON SMITH
Staff Reporter

Kissing a Fool, starring Jason Lee, David Schwimmer, and Mili Avital addresses, important issues such as friendship, love, trust, and fidelity in a comical and entertaining way.

The movie begins in a wedding scene, as "you may kiss the bride" is pronounced and the bride's veil is lifted. The camera focuses on the smiling bride, but the groom's face is never shown. Next, the wedding hostess is begged by nosy guests to relate the story of how the bride and

groom met. So begins the movie, which is a flashback narrated by the hostess about the crazy turn of events that brought the happy couple together.

Jason Lee plays Jay, a broken-hearted author who is working on a book about his ex-girlfriend. Jay is shy, cautious, and depressed. Not to mention he is in therapy, working on facing his abandonment issues. Jay is introduced to his new editor, Sam, played by Avital. Sam is beautiful, intelligent, and cultured. She seems to be a perfect match for Jay, but instead of asking her out, Jay decides to fix her up with his

best friend, Max.

Enter Max, played by David Schwimmer. His humor made the movie! Max is egotistical and shallow. He is a sportscaster, and everywhere he goes women flock to him. Don't get the wrong idea. He means well. He simply doesn't take anything in life seriously, especially not love and relationships. He is the perfect foil to Jay. Watching the movie, I had to wonder how these two men ever became friends. They are so different that they seem not even to like each other at times. They cannot relate to each other at all.

After the first date, Max and Sam are in love (or is it lust?). Within days, they are engaged. Max moves in with Sam. Jay is still very much in the picture, whether it is helping Max move in or working with Sam on his book. Thus, the love triangle begins.

After the initial excitement of moving in together dies down, Max begins to consider things deeply (or, as deep as Max's brain will allow him to go). He slowly starts to realize that Sam is the last girl he will be able to sleep with. Being the stud that he is, this thought terrifies him. He reasons that Sam must be having the same thoughts. To make himself feel better about his decision to marry her, Max decides to give Sam a test.

This is where the action really picks up. Max wants someone to come on to Sam, so that he can see and judge her reaction. If Sam is tempted, and sleeps with the guy, Max will know this is not the girl for him, and he will not marry her. What better person to perform this test than his best friend Jay?

Initially, Jay is horrified by this idea. He outright refuses to have anything to do with it. But then, Sam is very pretty, and they have so much in common, and they have been spending so much time together at work... So, what is the result of this love triangle? Does the friendship suffer a blow? Is the engagement able to last? Does Jay go through with the scheme? I can't tell.

MEREDITH BY TORY HOKE



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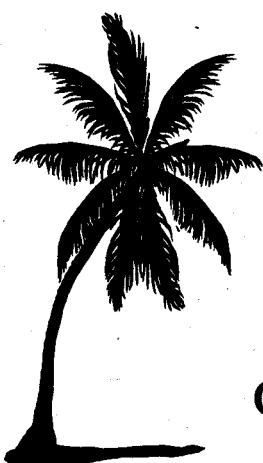
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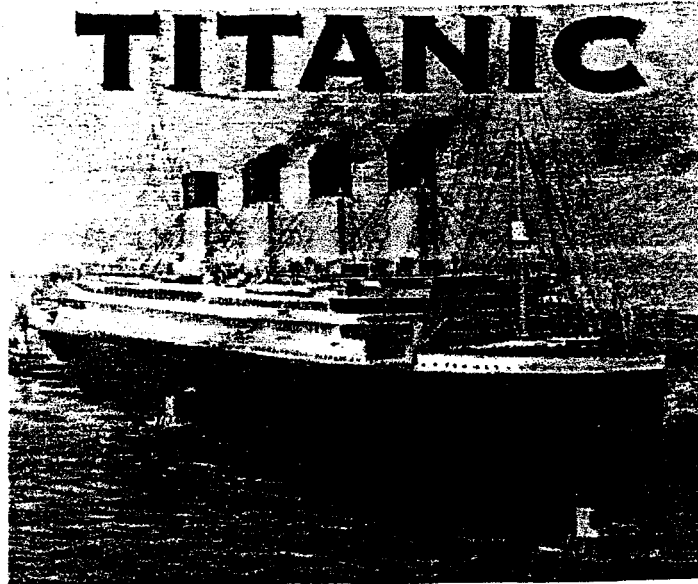
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