

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Last Minute Valentine's Ideas

Emma Johnson, staff writer

Looking for some last-minute ways to make your Valentine's Day perfect? If you have a special someone, you want to show them how much they mean to you. If you don't currently have that special someone, you still want to have a fun holiday. If you're looking for a way to spend Valentine's Day and you're on a budget, here are some ideas for fun, inexpensive date inspirations and gift ideas, as well as some suggestions for a day without a Valentine, that can warm a heart and save a buck.

If you want to go out, a trip to the art museum is a fun outing that isn't very expensive. The two of you could also go see a movie at the theatre on Blue Ridge that is only \$2.00 for a ticket. Want a night in? Yummy food is the best way to anyone's heart. Cooking a meal is a wonderful way to show someone how much you care about them. It does not have to be filet mignon, just something to show that you wanted to prepare a meal for him or her. Have a sweet tooth? Baking cupcakes or cookies is a sweet, simple way to show someone you were thinking about them. You can find all kinds of cupcake batter, but for a fun Valentine's theme, bake strawberry cupcakes. They are pink, perfect for the day of love. If pink isn't your color, fun-fetti is another great option. It's light and, just like its name, fun. For some people, baking can be a little intimidating. If you are no Betty Crocker, buying a dessert for your sweetie is also an option. If your heart is set on cupcakes, make a quick trip to GiGi's Cupcakes at 1028 Oberlin Road, near Cameron Village, or to the Cupcake Shoppe at 104 Glenwood Avenue.

Doughnuts are also an option. There is a Krispy Kreme at 549 N. Person Street, a short drive from Meredith, and a Dunkin' Doughnuts at 3817 Western Boulevard. If you are feeling crafty, make a gift. Putting together a coupon book for him or her with a lunch on you, a home-cooked meal, a movie, or a night to do whatever he or she chooses can be a big hit. It's a thoughtful and fun gesture for your Valentine, as is making a photo album of all the fun times you have had together. You can print pictures for only \$.19 per print at Rite Aid behind campus. Making a mixed CD for your Valentine is a very fun and personal gift. It could include love songs, trendy music, or even oldies. If you're looking for something a little snazzier, gift cards are a great option. Go to his or her favorite store or restaurant and get a gift card so that he or she can pick out something they love.

Valentine's Day is the day of love, but what if you are still looking for your love? No problem. Spending time with your girlfriends, guy friends, or maybe both, is just what the doctor ordered! Going out to dinner with friends and then going to see *Safe Haven*, released on Valentine's Day, is the perfect way to have an exciting evening. Need to relax? Stay in and order pizza with friends or just for yourself and watch a great movie—for a good cry, *The Notebook* and, for a good laugh, *Bridesmaids*, or for something completely unrelated to love, *The Hunger Games*. Whatever your situation, there are countless options for you to make your Valentine's Day enjoyable!

Shakespeare and Zombies

AJ Thompson, staff writer

Review – In recent years, the supernatural and romantic genres have been drifting closer and closer together, and vampires, demons, werewolves and monsters have been inevitably falling in love with humans. It would not be quite right to say it started with *Buffy*, the *Vampire Slayer* – Bram Stoker's *Dracula* was, after all, a twisted sort of romance – but it could be said that ever since the title character of that show fell in love with a vampire named Angel, supernatural romance's popularity has skyrocketed.

Now, the story's no longer about handsome night creatures or misunderstood demons; the creature cast as the male lead in *Warm Bodies* is a zombie. The romance is well written.

The thought of a 'zombie romance movie' may not engender a positive response at first. Could zombie horror and romance have anything less to do with each other? *Warm Bodies* is fantastic, and it creates something new by molding old staples together. The world is fleshed out where humans have moved on since the apocalypse. It is slow, allowing time for the viewer to honestly believe that a zombie and a human could fall in love. The zombie's main character's narrated the film and added a lot of depth to the story. What he thinks while trying to make a good impression on Julie and his descriptions of his experiences as a zombie

are amusing.

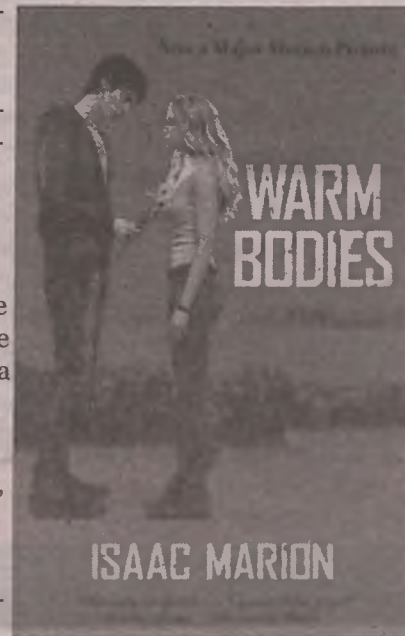
The movie, based off the book by Isaac Marion, is artsy and warm, fitting its hopeful, love-conquers-all mood. The camera takes time to zoom in on raindrops cascading onto concrete, and the sun pouring through tree limbs. Many scenes are framed as if they were recorded by hand held cameras, which helps add to the post-apocalyptic, tech-free feeling.

It is very much *Romeo and Juliet* homage: the main characters are called Julie and R; the pivotal scene is in a garden, with Julie looking down over R from a balcony; and it comes complete with a difficult, zombie-hating father. But the film seems touched with a sense of Shakespearian comedy rather than *Romeo and Juliet's* tragic end.

Given the dystopian beginning of the story, touching upon themes of desolation, loss of

culture and way of life is natural. But the movie does no more than touch; it does not try to seriously engage deep topics, choosing to bring up questions and leave them unanswered in favor of moving the plot along.

Don't try and fit this film into neat genres. It's a zombie flick, and it's a romance film, it's sardonically funny and at times tragic. Zombie buffs and young lovers looking for a Valentine's movie to share will both find what they're looking for in *Warm Bodies*.



2013 Oscar Nominees Announced

compiled by Brianna Karmi, staff writer

With the Golden Globes and Screen Actors Guild awards out of the way, it's time for the Academy Awards or better known as the Oscars. This year the Oscars will take place on Sunday, February 24 at 7:00 PM EST. Listed below are the nominations for each category.

Best Picture: *Amour*, *Argo*, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, *Django Un-*

chained, *Les Misérables*, *Life of Pi*, *Lincoln*, *Silver Linings Playbook*, *Zero Dark Thirty*

Best Actor in a Leading Role: Bradley Cooper in *Silver Linings Playbook*, Daniel Day-Lewis in *Lincoln*, Hugh Jackman in *Les Misérables*, Joaquin Phoenix in *The Master*, Denzel Washington in *Flight*

Best Actress in a Leading Role: Jessica Chastain in *Zero Dark Thirty*, Jennifer Lawrence, in *Silver Linings Playbook*, Emmanuelle Riva in *Amour*, Quvenzhané Wallis in *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, Naomi Watts in *The Impossible*

Best Actor in a Supporting Role: Alan Arkin in *Argo*, Robert De Niro in *Silver Linings Playbook*, Philip Sey-

mour Hoffman in *The Master*, Tommy Lee Jones in *Lincoln*, Christoph Waltz in *Django Unchained*

Best Actress in a Supporting Role: Amy Adams in *The Master*, Sally Field in *Lincoln*, Anne Hathaway in *Les Misérables*, Helen Hunt in *The Sessions*, Jacki Weaver in *Silver Linings Playbook*

ASK GIGI

Dear Gigi, I am graduating in May, and I am FREAKING out about finding a job. Obviously, everyone wants to graduate with a job offer, but I just don't feel that that will happen for me. I am doing everything possible to put my resume out there, but I'm confused about when I should start applying. What is the

perfect time to start applying? And is there a way to guarantee a job after graduation?

Unfortunately, no. There is no way to guarantee that anyone will graduate with a job. The job process is daunting, and I totally understand your hesitation and confusion.

I can't say that there is an exact formula for finding a job, but there are certain things you can do to help yourself. First, the time to start applying is mid-March. Usually, new job postings will be posted early Spring. Also, I recommend checking LinkedIn every day. There is no better resource to find job postings

. LinkedIn will also let you see the full job postings so you can figure out what employers currently need in an employee. Lastly, trust that if you don't find a job after graduation, you WILL. Don't set deadlines for yourself, and great opportunities will come! Good luck!

Love, Gigi