

Dawson's Creek offers youthful perspective on life's intricacies

CHRIS ANDREW
STAFF WRITER

Virginity, sexual promiscuity and puberty. These are only a few of the racy topics that the new series, "Dawson's Creek," addressed in the pilot episode, which aired Jan. 20. The days of "Saved By the Bell" are long gone, and a new era of television is surfacing.

The new drama is shot on location in Wilmington and is about four attractive tenth-graders who are trying to adapt to growing up. You may recognize their faces in the new J. Crew catalog, with some UNC students, too.

The show has been publicized as part of "New Tuesday" on WB-50 along with Sarah Michelle Gellar's hit show "Buffy the Vampire Slayer."

Dawson, played by James Van Der Beek, has a mother who is having an affair with a co-worker and a father who openly discusses his sex life with him.

At one point in the second episode Dawson asks to borrow the camcorder, and his dad says, "You may want to take the tape out first." Dawson replies, "You can get arrested for that in some states, ya know." The writer seems to imply a different kind of relationship between father and son — more of a friendship — and tries to shock the audience with this very open dialogue.

Joey, played by Katie Holmes, has grown up as Dawson's best friend and becomes jealous when Dawson develops a crush on the new girl in school, Jen, played by Michelle Williams.

Joey also has a hard home life. Her mother has died of cancer. Her father is in prison. She lives with her pregnant sister and boyfriend (a graduate of UNC). She has no parents and greatly contrasts Dawson. Her circumstances make the audience pity and love her at the same time.

Jen is an atheist from New York

while her grandmother, whom she is living with, is a Christian. None of the kids are just normal.

Meanwhile, Pacey, played by Joshua Jackson, has his own agenda. He becomes attracted to his teacher, who is old enough to be his mother. He first meets her in the video store where he works and later finds out on the first day of school that she is his English teacher.

The previews for the next episode hint at an affair, but who knows?

While the show revolves around the school, Dawson shows an avid interest in film-making. He works with the other three kids on a horror film. The story of Joey's jealousy comes into play during these scenes as she has to be near Jen in order to be near Dawson.

The creator and executive producer of the show, Kevin Williamson, is from New Bern. He has written films such as "Scream," "Scream 2" and "I Know What You Did Last Summer."

The show addresses controversial topics and bluntly approaches them.

It seems like the writer tried to make the show seem like how teenagers really are: not happy all the time and talking about real issues that affect them in every day life.

Arts & Entertainment Calendar

MUSIC

Local musical venues

Cat's Cradle. 300 E. Main St., Carrboro. 967-9053.
The Cave. 462 1/2 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill. 968-9308.
Lizard & Snake Cafe. 110 N. Columbia St., Chapel Hill. 929-2828.
Local 506. 506 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill. 942-5506.
Skylight Exchange. 405 1/2 W. Rosemary St. 933-5550.

Thursday, Feb. 5

Hypnotic Clambake w/ Nymbus at the Cat's Cradle.
Betsy and the Gene Pool at The Cave.
Chase Theory at the Lizard & Snake Cafe.
The Woggles at Local 506.

Friday, Feb. 6

Jupiter Coyote at the Cat's Cradle.
Zen Frisbee at The Cave.
MAIL ORDER BRIDE at the Lizard & Snake Cafe.
Billionaire, Vinyl Devotion at Local 506.

Saturday, Feb. 7

Polvo at the Cat's Cradle.

Scott Carpenter and the Real McCoy's at The Cave.
Cigar Store Indians at Local 506.

Sunday, Feb. 8

the Silver Apples at the Cat's Cradle
Isaac Green & the Scholars, Patriot at the Lizard & Snake Cafe.
Berisal Guns at The Cave.
Scott Carpenter and the Real McCoy's w/ Dead Blue Cat and the Ill Billy Boys at Local 506.

Monday, Feb. 9

Steve Estes at The Cave.
Ben Jakes at the Lizard and Snake Cafe.
The Heartdrops at Local 506.

Tuesday, Feb. 10

Ben Folds Five w/ Travis & Venus Flytrap Girls at the Cat's Cradle.
Glory Fountain at The Cave.

Wednesday, Feb. 11

Jump, Little Children at the Cat's Cradle.
Tift Merritt at The Cave.
Hayride w/ The Candy Snatchers at Local 506.

THEATER

"Master Class." PlayMakers Repertory Company, Paul Green Theatre. Opens Feb. 7. For ticket information, call 962-PLAY.

FILM

"The Story of Boys and Girls." Thursday at 6:30

p.m. and 9 p.m. Carolina Union Auditorium. Free with UNC ONE Card.

"Mrs. Brown." Friday at 6:30 p.m., 9 p.m. Carolina Union Auditorium. \$2 admission.

"The Shining." Saturday at 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Carolina Union Auditorium. Free with UNC ONE Card.

"The Philadelphia Story." Sunday at 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Carolina Union Auditorium. Free with UNC ONE Card.

ART

"Seeking the Spiritual: The Paintings of Marsden Hartley." The Ackland Art Museum. A selection of modernistic paintings on display through Mar. 29. For more information, call the museum office at 966-5736.

"Regarding Women." The Ackland Art Museum. A collection of images by and about women on display through Mar. 29. For more information, call the museum office at 966-5736.

MISC.

The Parsons Dance Company. Feb. 10. Memorial Hall, UNC campus. Tickets cost \$22, \$18, \$14 for the general public. \$12, \$10, \$8 for UNC students. For ticket information, call Carolina Union Box Office at 962-1449.

PLAN AHEAD

Less Than Jake at Cat's Cradle. Feb. 13. 8:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$9. For additional information call 967-9053.

"Third Eye Blind" & "Smash Mouth" at The Ritz. Feb. 15. 7:00 p.m. Tickets on sale at The Ritz box office or charge with Ticketmaster at 834-4000

"Grease." Memorial Auditorium. UNC campus. Starts Feb. 19. Tickets on sale at Union Ticket Office.

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Picture this.

You have just come from a two hour meeting in a state-of-the-art meeting room. The meeting was great, but you have so much work to do and you haven't even had dinner. So, you grab a bagel, a bowl of soup, and a cup of coffee and kick back for a few minutes to collect your thoughts in a cozy and relaxing lounge.

But time is short so you head off to the 24-hour Computer Lab where you meet a group from your English class. You work well into the night on your paper and when it is complete, you go to the Copy Center and make copies of the paper for everyone. You can now go home.

Busy night running all over the place? Nope. You didn't even leave the building. Vote for the renovation and expansion of your student union and THIS COULD BE YOU.

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