### The Daily Tar Heel

## **DIVERSIONS Movies**

Now a cult classic, "Dazed and Confused" helped set the standard for early '90s comedy.

The film, along with "Friday" and "Mallrats" (also featuring Ben Affleck is the requisite dumb hunk), began the drift away from physical comedy and outrageous situations, two themes which dominated the '80s comedy scene, Instead the featured as the addinger

Instead, they focused on the ordinar (or even mundane) daily existence familiar to the majority of regular peo

And who can forget the music? Although it seems that even half-hour TV sitcoms have their own box sets

today, not every movie was required to

budy, not every movie was required to have a platinum soundtrack in 1993. But the movie's music was so good that "Dazed and Confused" was the first film since "Dirty Dancing" to have a sound-track spawn a sequel of its own – *Even More Dazed and Confused*.

ple

# **Romantic Flick Flirts With Success**

### By MATT MANSFIELD Staff Writer

Everyone grows weary of trite heterosexual romantic comedies, and as the public now slowly accepts homosexual-ity, it also must become accustomed to trite homosexual romantic comedies. Jim Fall's new movie "Trick" cutely examines the tribulations of a couple desperately trying to find a place to hook up while

exploring MOVIE REVIEW pockets New "Trick" York City's gay cul-111

The film delves into a delightful day in the life of aspiring musical theater writer Gabriel (Christian Campbell) who decides to shake up his social life by sauntering into a gay strip bar.

There he plays glance games with a dancer named Mark (John Paul Pitoc), and the two coincidentally meet later in a subway train and flirting ensues.

loose his sexual abandon, Campbell meets quirky characters, like his friend Katherine (Tori Spelling), who distract

him from his momentary goal. Though not intentionally typecast, Spelling's role as an obnoxiously garrulous aspiring actress reminds viewers of her traumatically superficial life on "Beverly Hills, 90210." She fits the role well, sometimes too well, grating on even the audience's nerves.

But Campbell does a good job of keeping Gabriel disquietingly deferent to Spelling and other characters, making his shy personality more dynamic. Gabriel's roommate, Rich (Brad Breyer), takes control of their apartment to fulfill his own lustful desires, and his

antics seem cruelly humorous.

The movie creates awkwardly amus-ing tension between the two aroused roommates, competing for the apart-ment, but any potentially romantic sit-uations between the two fizzle.

Although the film possesses an interesting array of characters and roving scenes that delve into numerous aspects of gay life, it only qualifies as cute at

Love Hurts in One Stinker of a Comedy

of a marriage proposal plays on all the stereotypes of single women struck by the wedding bug. Her vile manipulating

lack of concern for anything holy make her "demon-woman" character flat. Chelsea is devoid of any redeeming

qualities that would provide depth and "grayness" to the black and white con-

flict between good and evil. Additionally, the film is plagued by futile attempts at humor and chronic

overacting by all the leading characters, including supporting actors Bill Bellamy

and Tyra Banks. Banks struggles the

most, projecting a sappy sweetness that

Chelsea's whining complaint during one altercation with Seth – "You are so

unfunny" - offers an ironic twist in this

struggling attempt to create comedy.

becomes very valley girl-esque.



Tori Spelling plays aspiring actress Katherine in "Trick."

best. The cheesy flick lacks an overall deeper meaning, like the campy musical theater lifestyle Campbell lives.

> The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.

Tension and some genuine humor do build up toward the end of the film, and

the witty banter between Bellamy and

Stewart in the final scenes ultimately

saves "Love Stinks" from the trash heap

A sadistic and surprising twist at the

BRIEFS **By JUSTIN MARLOWE** 

yourself to the video store's good graces.

**VIDEO BRIEFS** Chapelle, among others "200 Cigarettes" this wonderful movie was 1111 sadly overlooked bv audiences on the big screen

follows several groups of potential partygoers as they wind their way toward a 1982 New Year's party in New York City. The plots seem unrelated at first, but as the movie progresses, so do the connections een storylines.

that one or more of the sub-stories can't measure up, resulting in annoved audi-

end will leave viewers chuckling, and it almost overshadows the poor quality of the rest of the movie. Also, there are some steamy moments that jazz up the predictable chain of events, as Wilson's character has an affinity for prancing around in

sexy lingerie Independent Artists chose their slogan for this movie well: "Sometimes the best sex in the world just isn't worth it."

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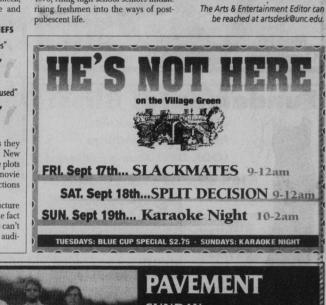


New on Video: "200 Cigarettes" In case you missed it in theaters, go rent "200 Cigarettes" as soon as you come up with enough money to return

Featuring Ben Affleck, Casey Affleck, Christina Ricci, Courtney Love and "Dazed and Confused"

last year. The <sup>\*</sup> story \* \* \* \*

Movies which attempt this structure often die horrible deaths due to the fact



ences who care to follow only the more

interesting plots. Luckily, "200 Cigarettes" is blessed

with enough quality stories to maintain consistency and keep the audience inter-

And the weaving of the characters together provides a creative and sur-prising ending to the film. Adding to the movie's appeal is some excellent early

"80s scenery and an incredible sound-track, featuring some classic '80s pop from Blondie, the Go-Gos and Elvis Costello. A true video gem. Pick of the Week: "Dazed and Confused"

Can't get enough of period flicks with great soundtracks featuring Ben Affleck as the requisite dumb hunk?

it seems inconceivable that anyone has

not seen this movie, here's a quick recap of the story: On the last day of school in

1976, rising high school seniors initiate

Try "Dazed and Confused." Though

sted.

Confused"



It's not a vile stench or fetid odor, but

**By DANIELE EUBANKS** 

the new "unromantic romantic come produced by Independent Artists dy" called "Love Stinks" does, well, stink. The premier film from the new

entertainment company just doesn't deliver the dazzling blend of humor, romance and



Stewart ("3rd Rock From the Sun") struggles in his role as Seth, a sitcom writer who bases his shows on his personal life – a life that is ravaged by super-sensuous Chelsea (Bridgette Wilson, "Mortal Kombat"). This calculating temptress lures him into her clutches on the first date and proceeds to make his life a living nightmare.

