

Superficial Story Sinks 'Wall Street' Wanna-Be

By MATT MANSFIELD
Staff Writer

"Boiler Room" is a modern and inferior regurgitation of its predecessor, "Wall Street."

In fact, the best quotes in the movie occur when a character recites dialogue from "Wall Street" as he and other stockbrokers watch it on television.

MOVIE REVIEW "Boiler Room"



Seth Davis (Giovanni Ribisi), who runs a casino in his apartment for college kids, wrestles under his father's (Ron Rifkin) pressure to be successful. When his father, a judge, discovers his gambling scheme, he demands that Seth get a legitimate job, threatening to disown him.

Landing a job at the brokerage firm J.T. Marlin, a shady knockoff of J.P. Morgan, Seth learns to sell stock at any cost to unsuspecting victims in the hopes of earning a million within his first year.

Eventually, Seth finds his ethics compromised as he uncovers dark secrets about the company's methods. The main theme focuses on his dilemma to abandon a morally bankrupt stock-broking job or to swindle his way to financial ecstasy.

The movie centers around other themes as well. Seth's fanaticism at gaining the love and respect of his austere father torments him throughout the film.

It is accentuated with an overly sentimental anecdote about his father's harsh reaction when Seth crashes his bike as

a small boy. References to the "bike incident" pop up throughout the movie and become increasingly annoying.

Another theme centers on Seth's choosing between his stockbroking trainer's friendship and a fling with the trainer's ex-girlfriend.

The career-versus-love crisis stays in the background, leaving the audience to wonder why it was addressed at all.

While the film explores many relevant themes, it gives itself no time to examine the depths of these issues and comes off as superficial on all accounts.

Though the plot is common, Giovanni Ribisi plays Seth respectfully. His narrative voice, which considers the film's ethical dilemmas with an honest heart, provides an interesting contrast to his unctuous actions as a stockbroker.

The music features lots of bass-pounding hip-hop songs, including "Award Tour" by A Tribe Called Quest, which gives Seth's underground life a tough aura, like a hard-core crack dealer in Hell's Kitchen.

Also compelling is some of the film's cinematography. The stale-blue shots of Seth furiously working in the fluorescent-lit office give the movie a feeling of stressed-out, greedy stockbrokers working exhaustively for a little more money.

However, the plot drags from the middle to the end, and viewers must wait for the predictable denouement.

To save some cash, those who want to see this movie can just rent "Wall Street" for free in the Undergraduate Library.

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

DiCaprio Surfs to Success Again in 'The Beach'

By SHINDY CHEN
Staff Writer

It's "Lord of the Flies," only with bikini-clad women, lots of dope and special effects.

Richard the American (DiCaprio) and les français Etienne and Françoise take the audience through a

MOVIE REVIEW "The Beach"



circumference of joy, humor, pain, evil and sex on a remote paradise island off Thailand in a little under two hours of "The Beach."

And yes, shell out the bucks now, because the film's images will lose serious wow-ness six months later on a 19-inch TV screen and hi-fi VCR.

Most impressive is director Danny Boyd's attempt at adding his surreal, artistic touch to the film. Boyd duplicates the eccentric quality nascent in directorial hit "Trainspotting," by using video game effects and computer imaging in the portrayal of Richard's descent into psychosis.

The scene is so unique and daring it has to be mentioned. Recall Renton's withdrawal: the dead baby, dead Tommy, the wall lengthening and other crazy hallucinatory images? Some

scenes in this movie are equally as mind-blowing and grotesque.

Boyd's cinematography is excellent. Like Terence Malick's work, some camera shots are works of art, due solely to the lighting and Mother Nature.

Even though Leo reportedly got buff for "The Beach," the movie accentuates how scrawny Leo really is.

But DiCaprio's acting shines, as his reactions and character are completely believable and real. Leo as Richard is arrogant and humorous.

Witness DiCaprio hiss like a snake and stalk around like a monkey. Witness him play evil and nuts.

It's amusing, but then you realize how unrealistic it is for a colony of misplaced travelers-turned-hippies to settle and sustain themselves in harmony on a remote paradise island off Thailand.

It's also too obvious in the film when, quick as a snap, he loses his marbles. This is a real nit-picky thing, but the interlude is attributed to Boyd's rocky transition from Richard in happy paradise land to scary hilltop abandonment. It almost leaves the audience saying, "what?" but is definitely not as uncalled for as Le Ly's coming to America in Oliver Stone's "Heaven and Earth." Ugh. Horrible.

Leo's co-star Virginie Ledoyen is a gem. It's about time the French deliv-



Leonardo DiCaprio, as Richard, and his co-stars ponder the distance they must swim to reach the secret island paradise known as "the beach."

ered us a little class, unfortunately not with film, but with a native film star starring on about four magazine covers this month, simply because elle est magnifique.

Check out Ledoyen's roles in "A Single Girl" (not that good, but she's good in it), "La Cérémonie," (good and twisted) and last year's "A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries" (good and

warm-fuzzy-inducing).

As for "The Beach," it's good. The ending is a little dissatisfying and rash, which sort of makes you reconsider the past two hours, but it's exciting, gory, sexy, violent and kind of scary. All elements of a great date movie.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

MUSIC

Cat's Cradle, 300 E. Main St., Carrboro, 967-9053.
Go! Rehearsals Room 4, 100 Brewer Lane, Carrboro, 969-1400.
Local 506, 506 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill, 942-5506.

Thursday, Feb. 17

- moe. at Cat's Cradle.
- Landspeed Record w/ One Center and Bobby Snaffly at Local 506.

Friday, Feb. 18

- moe. at Cat's Cradle.
- Bennett & Craig at the Coffee Mill Roastery.

- Michael Hurley w/ Melissa Swingle at Local 506.

- Oses w/ Fin Fang Foom at Go! Rehearsals.

Saturday, Feb. 19

- Hot Water Music w/ Saves the Day Panthro UK moved from Cat's Cradle to Duke Coffeehouse.
- Eric Wallen at the Coffee Mill Roastery.
- Kenny Roby CD Release Party w/ Countdown Quartet at Local 506.
- Daniel Carter w/ Saturnalia String Trio at Go! Rehearsals.

Sunday, Feb. 20

- Donna the Buffalo at Cat's Cradle.
- Shark Quest w/ The Big Lazy at Local 506.

Monday, Feb. 21

- All Time Present at Go! Rehearsals.

Tuesday, Feb. 22

- Reverend Horton Heat w/ Hank Williams III at Cat's Cradle.
- Benefit for Mumia Campaign to End the Death Penalty at Local 506.

Wednesday, Feb. 23

- Blue Dogs at Cat's Cradle.
- Sharking Teeth w/ Haven at Local 506.

ART

- "From the Molecular to the Galactic: The Art of Max Ernst and Alfonso Ossorio." Through March 26. Ackland Art Museum, UNC campus, 966-5736.
- "Transatlantic Dialogue: Contemporary Art In and Out of Africa." Exhibit on display through March 26. Ackland Art Museum, UNC campus, 966-5736.
- "Dorothy Gillespie: Recent Works." Through Saturday. Somerhill Gallery, Chapel Hill.
- "Will Dexter: Recent Glass, and Steven Wolf: Recent Paintings." Feb. 20 through March 24. Somerhill Gallery, Chapel Hill.

THEATER

- "One Noble Journey." Feb. 24 to Feb. 27. Manbites Dog Theater, Durham, 682-3343.
- "The Glass Menagerie." PlayMakers

Repertory Company. Through Feb. 27. Paul Green Theatre, UNC campus, 962-PLAY.
■ "Tongue of a Bird." Streetsigns Center for Literature and Performance. Feb. 14 through Feb. 27. Swain Hall Studio 6, UNC campus, 960-4299.

FILM

- "Strictly Ballroom." 9 p.m. today. Carolina Union Auditorium.
- "Cinema Paradiso." 7:30 p.m. Friday; 10 p.m. Saturday. Carolina Union Auditorium.
- "Buena Vista Social Club." 10 p.m. Friday; 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Carolina Union Auditorium.

PLAN AHEAD

- 311 w/special guest Jimmie's Chicken Shack. Monday. The Ritz Theatre, Raleigh, 834-4000.
- Cher w/ Lou Bega. Feb. 26. Entertainment & Sports Arena, Raleigh, 834-4000.
- Queensryche. March 5. Entertainment & Sports Arena, Raleigh, 834-4000.

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By CARMEN WOODRUFF
Staff Writer

He's come a long way from the coffee houses and ski resorts.

Producing and writing all of the cuts on his new album, *Gravity ... and other things that keep you down to Earth*, Byron Hill has a knack for hits. He wrote for Ray Charles, Kenny Rogers and Alabama, to name a few.

Originally from Winston-Salem, Hill began his quest for stardom at Appalachian State University. After

spending 21 years writing and producing songs for Grammy-winning performers like Alabama, he now takes the

forefront as the talented soloist that he is.

Hill's distinct tenor provides rich vocals on the album, dominated by slow songs and acoustic guitar. It has a simple appeal, and Hill's percussion-free tunes

are qualified to be soothing bedtime favorites.

The album also features Hill performing several of his songs previously recorded by various country stars,

CD REVIEW

Byron Hill

Gravity ... and other things that keep you down to Earth



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