

CAN YOU DIG IT? (YEAH, WE CAN)



DTH/JAMIE WILLIAMS

Violet Vector and the Lovely Lovelies, Chapel Hill's best dressed and most fun band, brought its psych pop to Local 506 on Thursday night, giving everyone in the crowd a sugar rush from its songs that harken back to the days of go-go. VVLL packed the house for a night of dancing, technicolor and good clean fun. Don't be fooled by the sweet appearance, though, singer/guitarist Amanda Brooks can really pack a punch on the guitar.

DIVE RECOMMENDS

Album From the Vaults:

Sebadoh — *III*. After his departure from Dinosaur Jr. Lou Barlow spilled all his frustration into what became a lo-fi masterpiece, a blueprint for '90s indie rock and an essential inclusion in the record collections of anyone who is or has been a shy adolescent.

Movie Rental Pick:

"Suspiria." Dario Argento's 1977 horror masterpiece centers on strange happenings at a ballet academy. But beyond plot, the film haunts viewers with nightmarish colors and disorienting framing.

Something Random:

Alphabetize something trivial: Organization is important, even when it's not.

Events:

Today
Yeasayer/MGMT
Local 506 | Yeasayer spent the later months of 2007 tearing up the blogosphere with its dramatic pulsations and the LP, *All Hour Cymbals*. MGMT opts for a more dancefloor-ready

sound. 9 p.m. \$8 in advance. \$10 at the door.
King of Prussia/The Houstons
The Cave | Athens, Ga.'s King of Prussia brings bouncy, but ethereal psych-pop. Charlotte's Houstons, in a similar vein, deliver texture-rich melancholy with a soft voice and subtle arrangements. 10 p.m. 21 and up.

Friday

Future Islands
Nightlight | The geographically in flux Future Islands bring neon party jams to Nightlight's late night. 9 p.m. \$6.
Drug Rug/Opening Flower Happy Bird
Local 506 | Drug Rug (fittingly) digs the reverb-pop of early psychedelia. OFHB complements the bill with a head-bobbing brand of electronic pop. 10 p.m. FREE!
The War
Cat's Cradle | The War changed its name (from Starting Tuesday) to reflect its newfound political leanings. The music remains mostly unchanged. 8 p.m. \$8 in advance. \$10 at the door.

Saturday

Nathan Oliver
Jack Sprat | UNC grad student Nathan White can write one heck of an indie-rock song. He'll keep the jams close to campus in the East Franklin coffee shop/bar/show space. 11 p.m.
Skeeter Brandon
The Cave | Skeeter Brandon brings N.C. blues boogie to Chapel Hill's oldest tavern. 10 p.m. \$10. 21 and up.
Eberhardt/The Nothing Noise
Nightlight | Durham's Eberhardt delivers fragile pop, while The Nothing Noise goes for Arcade Fire-y melodrama. 9:30 p.m.
The Old Ceremony
Cat's Cradle | The local pop-rock ensemble headlines to support the "Rock for Roe" benefit. 9:15 p.m. \$10 in advance. \$14 at the door.

Movies in the Union:

No movies this week. Bummer.

Contact the Diversions Editor at dive@unc.edu.

MOVIESHORTS

CLOVERFIELD



In the near future, our chic New York City apartment parties will be rudely interrupted by Godzilla's bad-tempered nephew.

Or something like that. In "Cloverfield," director Matt Reeves places an entire movie in front of the lens of a personal camcorder, taking the perspective of several terrified New Yorkers.

This style was considered the third rail of filmmaking after "The Blair Witch Project" claimed the title of "most universally hated film of 1999."

And similarities abound — a never-ending shaky camera, severe audience confusion and even the trademark line of "Blair Witch," "I'm so scared," spoken breathily into the camera — with less snot, of course.

Yet somehow, despite a somewhat nauseating ride, some very obviously scripted lines and a couple tacked-on terror scenes, the film succeeds where "Blair Witch" did not.

While "Blair Witch" failed because a confused audience left the theater thinking, "So what?," things actually happen in "Cloverfield."

The film's attempt at character development is admirable. Reeves doesn't breeze past setting a relatively believable New York backdrop, where everyone is attractive and drama abounds.

But "Cloverfield" doesn't drag this out, either.

The beginning of the terror is especially chilling, as falling buildings and clouds of dust chasing crowds of screaming New Yorkers evokes images of Sept. 11.

Things get wild after the initial confusion, but we're unfortunately subjected to a love story that feels — you guessed it — totally tacked on.

The ever-shrinking band of survivors inexplicably wanders farther into the city, dodging the giant monster, falling debris, military crossfire and a few random mini-monsters.

Yet "Cloverfield" maintains a good balance. You're never completely confused or completely informed.

The drab, camcorder quality is complemented by legitimate special effects. Serious moments give way to some relatively humorous one-liners.

It actually feels real. It's exciting, and it captures what

a monster attack on New York City might actually look (and feel) like from ground zero.

It's absolutely an experimental piece, and the ensemble leaves something to be desired, but those that don't puke from some serious screen jittering are in for a unique and thrilling ride.

-David Bergartt

27 DRESSES



Probably made solely to capitalize on Katherine Heigl's "Grey's Anatomy"/"Knocked Up" popularity, "27 Dresses" obviously was crafted something like this:

Studio Head 1: *What do single women love more than anything else in the world? Even more than shoes and "Sex and the City"?*

Studio Head 2: *Weddings?*
Studio Head 1: *Yes! Get that cute chick from "Knocked Up" on the phone! We've got a picture to make!*

Basically, it follows the same plot as every romantic comedy ever.

There's the cute lady who does something of minimal importance for a living. There's also the cute guy who goes after her but who she keeps rejecting because she loves someone else/she doesn't realize he's a celebrity or something/he's Hugh Grant.

But then, they have a moment, and the girl realizes they have something in common after all.

Until (oh, no!) he does something jerky, and she realizes how wrong he is for her. Insert tearful montage. Then one of them performs some grand gesture, they kiss and make up, and the camera pans out to the kind of lite rock song you usually hear when getting cavities filled.

Honestly, there's nothing new to say about this movie because it's the same movie that's periodically released in theaters, destined to be played on TBS at 1:00 a.m.

And we'll watch it, because there's nothing else on, and we remember how much we liked it that time we saw it in the theater with that guy/our sister.

It's not a bad way to waste two hours, but it's still a waste, with none of the brains, heart or humor of other movies that succeed in the same genre, such as "The Devil Wears Prada" — which shares a screenwriter.

It's a likeable enough movie, with a likeable enough leading lady

that hits all the right notes. Unfortunately, they're the notes of a mediocre, overplayed song.

-Rachael Oehring

THE BUCKET LIST



Two over-the-hill powerhouses — Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson — deliver decent performances in the mild and unambitious "The Bucket List."

While director Rob Reiner has certainly mastered the art of sentimental yet entertaining films, "The Bucket List" is a cliché attempt at a touching comedy.

Carter (Morgan Freeman) and Edward (Jack Nicholson) are two men from opposite sides of the social spectrum who find themselves hospital roommates after both being diagnosed with terminal cancer.

As the predictable plot would have it, the rich Edward and the family man Carter embark on a journey to accomplish great feats before death, only to learn from one another and discover the true riches in life.

There isn't even an attempt to embellish or complicate this saccharine storyline. Luckily, both Freeman and Nicholson are masters of their trade and prevent the film from becoming unbearably conventional.

But the onscreen chemistry is muffled in a film so reliant on mediocrity.

-Rachel Brody

STAR SYSTEM

- ★ POOR
- ★★ FAIR
- ★★★ GOOD
- ★★★★ EXCELLENT
- ★★★★★ CLASSIC

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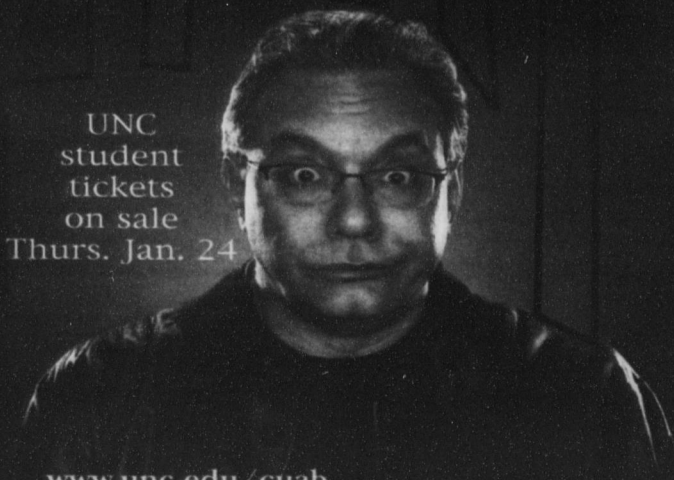
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for Comedy Festival information

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 - maizena salad.....5.15
 - veggie chimi.....4.12

where are we?

chapel hill: right across the street from the varsity theatre at 128 franklin street (at the end of the hall);
durham: on 9th street and perry street (across from brueggers), 286-1875.
nc: east village, 3rd ave at 13th near nyu

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