

DIVERECOMMENDS

Album From the Vaults

Boris — *Amplifier Worship*: 2001's *Amplifier Worship*, the sophomore album for Japan's doom-titans, is an immense record — thick, heavy and awesome in the purest sense of the word.

Movie Rental Pick:

Throne of Blood (Kumonosu jō): Akira Kurosawa translates Shakespeare's "Macbeth" into an ominous, atmospheric samurai tragedy.

Something Random:

Origami: Beauty, truly, is as fragile as folded paper.

Events:

Today
Colossus/Fighting Poseidon
Reservoir | Priest-worshipping power metal (Colossus) plus jagged, wiry post-punk (Fighting Poseidon). 10 p.m. FREE. 21 and up.

Friday
Beach House/Papercuts/Wil Donegan
Local 506 | Beach House brings gauzy indie sound to town, presumably playing plenty of tracks of its great new record, *Devotion*. 9 p.m. \$10.
Leap Day Dance Party
Jack Sprat | Is there really any more appropriate way to celebrate an extra night of the year than with a dance party? We really don't think so. 11 p.m. \$3.

Saturday
A Benefit for Esten
Cat's Cradle | Dirty Little Heaters, Midtown Dickens and Opening Flower Happy Bird. 2 p.m. FREE (donations encouraged).

Kerbloki/Hundred Air/Auxes
Local 506 | Chapel Hill's Kerbloki brings Beasties-influenced party rap while Hundred Air will take things in a completely different direction with classic, Beatles-styled pop. 10 p.m. \$5. Barton Carroll

The Cave | Barton Carroll is the type of singer-songwriter perfect for The Cave. Don't plan on leaving this show without at least one tear in your beer. 7:30 p.m. \$5. 21 and up.

Simple/Reid Johnson (of Schooner)
The Cave | Simple draws on former members of North Elementary and Pleasant to craft intricate indie rock. Schooner's Reid Johnson is simply one of Chapel Hill's best songwriters. Expect those songs to really stand out in this solo acoustic set. 10:30 p.m. \$5. 21 and up.

FrequenC Records Night
Nightlight | What does FrequenC Records Night entail besides loads of booty shakin'? What else do you want? Start time and cover not listed.

Movies in the Union:

Lars and the Real Girl, Ryan Gosling breathes plenty of life into a film about a man's love for a sex doll. Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 p.m.

Michael Clayton, George Clooney proves why he is still considered one of Hollywood's highest regarded actors in this film of one man's struggles inside a powerful law firm. Friday, 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, 7 p.m.

Contact the Diversions Editor at dive@unc.edu.

MOVIESHORTS

IN BRUGES

★★★★★
Watching "In Bruges" is like a trip to the modern art museum. One person's masterpiece is another's travesty.

Is "Bruges" a quirky action flick? A dark comedy? A morally-muddled alternative drama?

Writer/director Mark McDonagh won an Oscar for the 2006 short "Six Shooter," and there's no telling what he had in mind when he concocted his feature-length debut.

And it's hard to care — after all, a wonderful mess is still wonderful.

The cast is the film's strongest play. Colin Farrell's childish and grumpy, but ultimately lovable criminal wrestles with his past. Ralph Fiennes also delivers a conspicuously talented performance that is at once hilarious, heartfelt and terrifying.

And Brendan Gleeson, outshining even the impeccable Farrell, shows beautiful subtlety as a caring friend, a hardened killer and a history nerd in one character.

The film's emotional high points are purposefully injected with an ironic silliness, while the most harmless moments somehow achieve surprising depth.

The film is almost flawless in its execution — yet it's hard to say exactly what McDonagh was going for.

Still, a film that leaves such a huge question mark in its wake should be considered a triumph.

-David Bergart

BE KIND REWIND

★★★★★
Michel Gondry's "Be Kind Rewind" is a silly story used to illustrate the importance of neighborly love and social history.

Mike (Mos Def) works and lives in a video store owned by the aging Mr. Fletcher (Danny Glover), who leaves the shop to his protege when he leaves town for a few days.

But when Mike's friend Jerry (Jack Black) accidentally magnetizes his brain and erases every tape in the store, the two begin producing their own remakes to keep the store open. Soon, the duo's "Sweded" remakes become neighborhood hits.

Most of the film's humor relies on ridiculous or awkward situations and seems to lie just below the level of laugh-out-loud funny. And the actors' performances at times appear amateur, although this may be an intentional repetition of Mike and Jerry's "Sweded" style.

Also running through the film is the story of jazz musician Fats Waller, who is said to have lived in the building housing the video store.

The Fats Waller story, which eventually brings the neighborhood together, in spite of race, background and — most important — generation, brings a surprisingly wholesome element to the film.

Mike and Jerry's homemade film anthology also represents an impressive collective knowledge of popular film history. If nothing else, viewers are sure to appreciate the impromptu producers' efforts.

-Catherine Williams

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SEMI-PRO

★★★★★
As a recognizable star with memorable on-screen personas, Will Ferrell is often a film's driving force.

But in "Semi-Pro," the comic's performance is reduced to a side note.

An awkward grab bag of supporting actors, who take the lead more often than not, confuse the

film's comedic foundation with a maze of individual stories.

Ferrell plays the owner, coach and power forward of a struggling 1970s basketball team. His is a part of the real-life American Basketball Association, known for wild showmanship and flashy playing.

Like 2004's "Anchorman," "Semi-Pro" surrounds Ferrell with an entourage of funnymen. But in "Semi-Pro," their presence seems to serve as dramatic relief within a film already half-drained of humor.

But the actors aren't to blame. The film was written to make sure each storyline, no matter how uninteresting or poorly developed, received equal attention.

Sacrificing a bit of comedy for an important message or an unusual plot twist is acceptable, but the supporting characters bring neither.

If not for a handful of scenes and the premise's gold mine for ridiculous scenarios, "Semi-Pro" would hardly be a comedy at all.

-Alexandria Shealy

CAFFEINATED



DTH/JORDAN LAWRENCE

Assist Steve Jones of Durham band The Dry Heathens went all out during a cover of The Replacements' "Bastards of Young" on Saturday at Jack Sprat. The band was alive with punk rock fury till just after last call.

STARSYSTEM

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

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