

'Say Anything' tries new idea- it says something about teens

"Say Anything" Starring John Cusack and Ione Skye Directed by Cameron Crowe Rated PG-13 ***1/2

By Shane Hall

REVIEWER

A teen-interest film that is both intelligent and entertaining is rare, but "Say Anything" manages to be both. This story of a summer romance between two high school graduates is a treat from start to finish and is never descending toward its viewers. John Cusack stars as Lloyd Dobler, a mediocre student uncertain of what he wants to do with his life. He has a passion for kickboxing, which he calls "the sport of the future." Ione Skye ("River's Edge") stars as Lloyd's love interest, Diane Court, the class valedictorian who has just won a prestigious scholarship to study in England.

Her wealthy father runs a retirement home. Diane is one of those girls who, in Lloyd's words, "doesn't know she's as pretty as she is." I know what you're thinking. The boy from "the wrong side of the tracks" meets the brainy rich girl plot sounds like a reworking of "Pretty In Pink." But "Say Anything" is much more thanks to the depth that Cusack and Skye bring to their roles. Lloyd and Diane's first date is at a graduation party. As two nervous kids on out together for the first time, Cusack and Skye make their characters believable. As the movie continues, we see their relationship mature.

Woven into the story of their growing relationship is a subplot involving Diane's father, whose business is being investigated by the IRS for fraud and tax evasion. The investigation and Diane's romance with Lloyd begins to create a conflict between Diane and her father. As the

friction grows, it is Lloyd to whom Diane runs for support. John Cusack, who has a natural flair for both humor and drama, is terrific as Lloyd Dobler. Skye is equally appealing as Diane Court. "Say Anything" marks the directing debut of screenwriter Cameron Crowe ("Fast Times at Ridgemont High"), and an impressive debut it is. Crowe's script is filled with insightful looks at teenage life, making the movie believable and enjoyable.

An example of his insight is shown when Lloyd, after a falling out with Diane, is getting advice and sympathy from some friends of his. He then asks them why they are sitting around crying into their beers if they know so much about girls. After some stammering, they respond, "By choice!" "Say Anything," now playing at the Post Oak Three in Post Oak Mall, is a rarity in teen-story movies: a movie that says something.

Headbanger's Ball more than wild

Anthrax whips crowd into frenzy with crushing speed-metal madness

By Chuck Squatriglia

CORRESPONDENT

To say MTV's "Headbanger's Ball Concert" was a wild show would be an understatement. It was the only concert I've ever been to where people went home in ambulances. About 8,000 metal fans packed the dirt-floored State Fair Coliseum in Dallas April 14 to see the concert featuring Exodus, Helloween and Anthrax. The show was the eighth of 30 scheduled performances.

Exodus started the madness with "Last Act of Defiance" and proceeded to rip through a 40-minute set featuring material from their three albums. The band performed an excellent show, and the crowd responded by moshing (slam dancing) wildly and diving from the stage. At times, the view of the band was obscured by the 12 security guards lining the stage, attempting to maintain order on the main floor. Their attempts were less than successful, however, and by the end of the evening, three people were taken to the hospital for injuries sustained in the crush of people.

Highlights of the performance included "Brain Dead," "Lesson of Violence" and "Strike of the Beast." The zenith of the madness came during the Exodus classic, "Toxic Waltz." "This ain't the dance your parents used to do," vocalist Steve Souza told the crowd.

The audience proceeded to prove him right, moshing and stage diving wildly. One zealous fan jumped

thrax launched into their set with "Be All, End All" from their latest album, *State of Euphoria*. The audience went wild from the start. As many legs could be seen in the air as fists as the crowd moshed wildly and stage-dived in a mad frenzy.

From there, things got wilder as Anthrax tore through "Madhouse," "Metal Thrashing Mad" (both of which aptly described the scene inside the Coliseum) and "Now It's Dark."

The best response came when Anthrax performed material from their third album, *Among the Living*. The audience zealously screamed out the lyrics to the Anthrax classics "I Am the Law," "N.F.L. (Efilnikufesin)" and "Indians." During the "war dance" portion of "Indians," vocalist Joe Belladonna donned a feathered Indian headdress and pranced around the stage, whipping the audience into a frenzy of waving fists and flying bodies.

The band slowed things down long enough to praise MTV for playing heavy metal videos, but encouraged the audience to call MTV and complain about their refusal to play several videos, including Anthrax's "Antisocial." In the lobby, the band provided flyers with an 800 phone number so fans could call MTV.

If audience reaction was any indication, MTV will be flooded with calls. The audience sang along to "Antisocial" loudly enough to drown out Belladonna's voice.

The band tried to make the best of a bad situation while roadies scurried to correct the problem. "It's like being at home with your mother yelling at you to turn your stereo down," Ian said. After five minutes, the p.a. was fixed and the band finished the set with their rendition of the Sex Pistols' song, "God Save the Queen."

If there was one drawback to the show, it was the fact Anthrax didn't play long enough. They played a 90-minute set, but it wasn't enough time for them to play all of their best material. In fact, the band played only three songs from their latest album. Perhaps the reason for the brief show was the fact that Anthrax plans to tour alone this summer, and they are using this tour to warm up and test audiences' reactions.

If this was merely a hint of future concerts, this summer's Anthrax tour will be one speed metal fans won't want to miss.

Lead guitarist Dan Spitz played a solo that, while interesting, really wasn't anything new. There are only so many ways a guitarist can show how fast he can play, and Anthrax would have been better off omitting the solo.

After a blazing rendition of "Enemy," the band left the stage, only to be brought back by the chanting of "An-thrax! An-thrax!"

Charlie Benante started the encore with a pounding drum solo. Benante is among the best drummers around, and deserves more recognition for his skills. The solo managed to get the crowd going again after the break.

"I'm the Man," a parody of rap songs, proved to be the moment everyone was waiting for. Anthrax performed their "Extremely Def Ill Uncensored Version," the majority of which is so profane that it cannot be printed here. The song is hilarious, and the crowd screamed out the lyrics while guitarist Scott Ian, bassist Frank Bello and Belladonna strutted around the stage trading verses in their best imitation of Run D.M.C.

The only flaw in Anthrax's performance came during "Caught in a Mosh." Halfway through the song, the public address system failed. Only after the song ended did they realize the audience couldn't hear them.

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Previews

Park to host free jazz fest

The sweet sounds of jazz will fill the air at Central Park in College Station Saturday as the sixth annual College Station Jazz Festival gets underway.

The festival will feature 10 hours of music, starting at noon with the Bryan High School Jazz Band. A performance by the A&M Consolidated High School Jazz Ensemble will follow.

Local jazz/blues band Don Pope and Friends is scheduled to appear, as well as the Mady Kaye Quintet of Austin. Kaye, whose repertoire includes jazz standards

and Broadway songs, performed at last year's festival.

The renowned One O'clock Lab Band from the University of North Texas is scheduled to perform, as well as the vocal group the Wise Guys. The Texas A&M Jazz Band will close out the festival.

Food and drinks will be for sale at the festival area, or listeners may bring their own. Admission to the festival is free. Central Park is at 1000 Krenek Tap Rd. in College Station.

Players to perform 'Invalid'

The Aggie Players will present Moliere's comic masterpiece, "The Imaginary Invalid" Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

Billy Thomas, a sophomore theater arts major and Emma Charlotte Reading, a senior En-

glish major, star in the play, which is directed by theater arts professor Roberto Pomo.

Tickets are on sale at Rudder Box Office for \$4 for Texas A&M students and senior citizens and \$5 for the general public. For reservations, call 845-1234.

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