

# Aggielife

## STRANGE DAYS

Strong performances get lost in film's chaotic, dominating backdrop

By Michael Landauer  
THE BATTALION

### MOVIE REVIEW

**Strange Days**  
Starring Ralph Fiennes,  
Angela Bassett and  
Juliette Lewis  
Directed by Kathryn  
Bigelow  
Rated R  
★★ (out of five)

to a screeching halt as the main characters drive through police checkpoints. At one point, two girls are seen mugging a man dressed as Santa Claus on the street as the police spend their time merely posturing.

The chaos presents a timely and extreme portrait of the futility of the police and the abuses of power.

Although tension has never been portrayed in such massive detail, it becomes too much.

With so much going on as the city of Los Angeles prepares for the new century, it is hard for the audience to stay focused on the turbulent plot.

With such strong performances from Fiennes and Bassett, the plot could have been electrifying.

A clip falls into Nero's hands that could play a large part in the chaos and racial tension that is mounting in the 20th century's final days.

A prominent African-American

rap star and political leader has been executed, and the murder weaves itself into Nero's life through a cleverly-spun web of relationships.

Nero must choose between helping himself out of his addiction and doing something that can make a difference in the community.

But ultimately it just isn't enough. The insanity and social unrest swallows the promising plot whole.

If it were possible to set the movie against a more controlled environment, the clever technology and strong performances would be more easily appreciated.

As it is, this movie is just strange.



Angela Bassett stars as Lornette "Mace" Masson, who is constantly bailing out the troubled Lenny Nero (Ralph Fiennes) in *Strange Days*.



*Strange Days* is set in the last couple days of the century amid an often violent celebration.

## Original songs and old favorites bring fans 'friendly' feelings

By Amy Collier  
THE BATTALION

### ALBUM REVIEW

**Various Artists**  
**Friends Soundtrack**  
Reprise Records  
★★★ 1/2 (out of five)



It seems like people just can't get enough of *Friends*, so Reprise Records took advantage of the craze and produced a soundtrack for the popular television series.

The album is a compilation of a variety of names in the music industry, which means it never has a dull moment — just like the show. Of course, the soundtrack wouldn't be complete without the theme song from *Friends*, "I'll Be There For You," by The Rembrandts — so it starts with it and ends with it. However, this is the worst part of the soundtrack.

The song was somewhat entertaining when it first came out, but after listening to it a few times, The Rembrandts' whiny voices get annoying. The song can only be tolerated when it's accompanied by the *Friends* cast dancing around making idiots of themselves at the beginning of the show.

But sandwiched between the two versions of the theme song are a wide variety of singles that save the album. k.d. Lang's "Sexuality" is by far the best song on the soundtrack. It's a slow, beautiful single that fits perfectly with the show's recurring sexual themes.

Lang's voice is sensuous and seductive as she sings, "How bad could it be if you should lose yourself in me? / How bad could it be if you amuse yourself with me? / Release yourself upon me / Unleash your sexuality on me."

Hootie & the Blowfish contribute a soulful and inventive song with "I

Go Blind." Of course, the song does have a repetitive chorus like the much overplayed "I Only Wanna Be With You," but it's more creative than the popular single.

Lou Reed, former lead singer of the Velvet Underground, has a song on the soundtrack which reaches out to slackers in despair in "You'll Know You Were Loved."

Although his voice lacks inflection, Reed offers creative lyrics that save the song like, "Underachievers of the world unite / You have nothing to lose except your fight / Together we can perhaps pass the night / And you'll know you were loved."

The biggest name on the soundtrack is R.E.M. The band sings a drab song called "It's a Free World Baby." The song is boring and depressing as Michael Stipe sings, "I can't feel anything / I gave too much away." Stipe sounds like this isn't the favorite song he has ever sung.

Besides the album being full of original, creative songs by big names in the music industry, there are some "oldies" that make it even better.

The Pretenders proves it still has a knack for making good songs for soundtracks like "Walking on Sunshine" from *Secret of My Success* and "Everyday is Like Sunday" from *Boys on the*

*Side*. The band brings a pleasant surprise to the compilation with a remake of "Angel in the Morning," originally by Juice Newton.

Lead singer Chrissie Hynde, who will guest star on the series this season, has a voice that resembles Newton's, but it is much more beautiful, making the song more emotional than the original version.

Even "In My Room," a Beach Boys' classic, is included on the album.

Grant Lee Buffalo, the artist who debuted with *Mighty Joe Moon* last year, creates a new and different version of the well-known classic. He adds a funk sound to the song with his talent for distorting his guitar.

Between most of the songs, variety is added to the compilation with excerpts from the show. The added bonus reminds die-hard *Friends* fans of the funniest moments of the show and why it is one of the most popular programs today.



## A+ TUTORING

725 - B UNIVERSITY 260-2660

Tickets go on sale Sunday, Oct. 8 from 4-6 p.m.

### SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

	SUN. OCT. 8	MON. OCT. 9	TUES. OCT. 10
PHYS 201	9-12 PM, PRACTEST Dr. Clark, Dr. Ford, Dr. Welch	3-5 PM, PRACTEST Dr. Clark, Dr. Welch	3-5 PM, PRACTEST Dr. Ford

	MON. OCT. 9	TUES. OCT. 10	WED. OCT. 11	THRS. OCT. 12
CHEM 101 5-7 PM	CH 5,6	CH 7	CH 8	PRAC TEST Dr. Brown Dr. Conway Dr. Wolf
CHEM 101 7-9 PM	CH 5,6	CH 7	CH 8	PRAC TEST Dr. Brown Dr. Conway Dr. Wolf
CHEM 102 9-11 PM	CH 17	CH 17,18	CH 18	PRAC TEST Dr. Pecka Dr. Kennicutt
PHYS 218 11 PM - 1 AM	CH 6	CH 7,8	CH 9	PRAC TEST

### BUSINESS

	MON. OCT. 9	TUES. OCT. 10	WED. OCT. 11	THRS. OCT. 12
ACCT 230 5-7 PM	CH 1,2	CH 3	CH 4	REVIEW
ACCT 230 7-9 PM	CH 1,2	CH 3	CH 4	REVIEW
FINC 341 9-11 PM	PART I	PART II	PART III	REVIEW
FINC 341 11 PM-1 AM	PART I	PART II	PART III	REVIEW

Monday & Tuesday tickets go on sale at 2 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday at 4 p.m.

Please look for our schedule in the Battalion on Monday & Thursday.



BEACH BAR & GRILL

### AGGIE NIGHT Every Thursday

## .99¢ Pitchers

with Student I.D.

500 S. Texas, Bryan 823-4338

### CONTACT LENSES

ONLY QUALITY NAME BRANDS

(Bausch & Lomb, Ciba, Barnes-Hind-Hydrocurve)  
Disposable Contact Lenses Available

**\$118.00** TOTAL COST...INCLUDES

EYE EXAM, FREE ALCON OPTI-FREE CARE KIT, AND TWO PAIR OF STANDARD FLEXIBLE WEAR SOFT CONTACT LENSES.

**\$149.00** TOTAL COST...INCLUDES

EYE EXAM, FREE ALCON OPTI-FREE CARE KIT, AND FOUR PAIR OF STANDARD FLEXIBLE WEAR SOFT CONTACT LENSES.

SAME DAY DELIVERY ON MOST LENSES.

Call 846-0377 for Appointment

CHARLES C. SCHROEPEL, O.D., P.C.  
DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY

505 University Dr. East,  
Suite 101

College Station, TX 77840

4 Blocks East of Texas Ave. &  
University Dr. Intersection



### Tack Auction

A tack sale is coming to your area on

October 9th

There will be saddles from

Billy Cook, Herford, Rico, Texas Saddlery and more!!

For all your tack and western supply needs - be there.

Viewing begin at 6:00 p.m. sale starts at 7:00 p.m.

located at the Bryan VFW Hall on 2818

Bring in your used saddles for trade-ins.

For more information call: 409-825-4111 or 409-258-3093  
C. Curie -Txs. 11470 V.A. Gilbreath -Txs. 7309

STUDY IN

## Greece, Austria, OR THE UK



THROUGH BEAVER COLLEGE.

Come to TAMU Overseas Day on  
October 5th and meet the Beaver  
College Representative from 10am -  
2pm in the Main Hallway of the  
MSC, or from 3 - 4pm in Room 404  
Rudder.

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM OFFICE, Texas A & M University, 161 Bizzell Hall West  
(409) 845-0544