

## MOVIE REVIEWS

### True Thing tugs at heart, Birch fumbles

*One True Thing*  
Starring Meryl Streep and Renée Zellweger  
Directed by Carl Franklin  
Rated R  
Playing at Hollywood 16

*One True Thing* tugs at your heartstrings from the very beginning and does not let go. Its heart-breaking story surpasses the likes of *Terms of Endearment* with likable characters and situations that happen in everyday families. Meryl Streep plays a housewife who is not appreciated by her family. Her ambitious, driven daughter, played by Zellweger, sees nothing redeeming in her mother and idolizes her father, played by William Hurt. After Streep learns that she has cancer, Zellweger moves home to play nurse to her mother, leaving behind her job and apartment in New York. The movie focuses on Zellweger's changing view of her mother and her realization that she does possess some of her mother's qualities. Zellweger goes through a transformation, from loathing what she thinks her mother represents to admiring her intelligence and strength. This movie will definitely appeal to mothers and daughters everywhere and takes a close look at the power of perception and viewpoint. (A-)

— Katie Mish

*The Opposite of Sex*  
Starring: Christina Ricci and Lisa Kudrow  
Directed by: Don Roos  
Rated R  
Playing at Hollywood 16

After the release of such sickeningly sweet romantic epics as *Titanic*, *Ever After* and all the other films targeted at 14-year-old girls, some people might wonder why they do not just start handing out

barf bags at the theater entrance. Hollywood has seemed to forgotten about those few out there who do not always like seeing a happy ending and still enjoy original characters and plots. But leave it to the independent film industry to satisfy the needs of the few. *The Opposite of Sex* is a hilarious, scathing look at love and relationships.

Christina Ricci plays an evil 16 year old bent on getting what she wants any way she can. When her stepfather dies, she runs away to live with her much older, gay stepbrother, a kind-hearted teacher, and his much younger lover. Things get very complicated and funny from there. The storywriting and characters are creative and unique. A surprisingly strong performance is given by Lisa Kudrow, who normally stars as an airhead.

Kudrow plays a bitter, lonely, unmarried schoolteacher who is forever pessimistic. Also making an appearance is Texas A&M's own Lyle Lovett.

The film takes a look at the part of real life the Christian Coalition wants us to forget and explores the relationships between love and sex through characters who seem to stretch their definition and correlation.

Anyone who wants to see a film and leave with more than some cheap, warm-fuzzy feeling should definitely check it out. (A)

— Kyle Whitacre

*Rush Hour*  
Starring Chris Tucker and Jackie Chan  
Directed by Brett Ratner  
Rated PG-13  
Playing at Hollywood 16

In *Rush Hour*, Chris Tucker and Jackie Chan join forces to become the best cop duo since the Russell/Stallone classic *Tango & Cash*.

Tucker plays loud-mouth LAPD detective James Carter, who is assigned by the FBI to "babysit" Hong Kong super-cop Inspector Lee (Chan) while the FBI try to rescue the 10-year-old daughter of a Chinese diplomat from a Hong Kong terrorist group.

This movie is not vintage Jackie Chan. The few fight scenes are well choreographed, but they are far from the classic brawls in *Cannonball Run* and *Rumble in the Bronx*.

*Rush Hour*, however, is vintage Chris Tucker. He steals the show with his Eddie Murphy-ish sharp tongue and continues to excel in playing the obnoxious bad boy.

*Rush Hour* is worth the hype as East meets West in this action-packed comedy. (A)

— Mickey Saloma

*Simon Birch*  
Starring Ian Michael Smith and Ashley Judd  
Directed by Mark Steven Johnson  
Rating PG  
Playing At Hollywood 16

*Simon Birch* is a cocktail mix of a dozen other movies.

The movie is about a year in the life of Joe Wentworth (Mazzello) and his best friend Simon Birch (Smith).

Simon is unique. When he was born, he was as small as a bird, and the doctors said he would not last the night. But then a night turned into weeks, and weeks turned into years until Simon grew into a boy with a strong belief that God had a special plan for him.

Joe also has a special plan in life — to find his father.

SEE BIRCH ON PAGE 10.

### Steamroller gains momentum with inspired live performance

RILEY LAGRONE  
The Battalion



Steamroller  
*Cabin Fever*  
Redwood Records

Steamroller, one of Austin's most talked about rock bands, has been consistently playing some of local music's best live shows for over four years. As an album that attempts to capture Steamroller's live energy, *Cabin Fever*, the second release from the band's own Redwood Records, is like trying to bottle a tornado. It doesn't seem possible until it is sitting right in front of you.

Although a live Steamroller performance is a must in order to fully appreciate the band, *Cabin Fever* comes as close as possible to the driving jams and laid-back grooves the band is known for.

From the opening rave of "Space Frog" to the Sunday afternoon melodies of "Silver Dollar Morning," *Cabin Fever* is a blessing to all those who think they just can't wait for the next Steamroller gig.

Although Steamroller has been busy touring (the band even won two opening slots on this year's HORDE Festival), the band's next album, *Razzle Dazzle*, is already in the works.

Until then, however, it's *Cabin Fever* that will keep Steamroller's fans satisfied until it is time for round three. (A)

— Riley LaGrone

If the members of Steamroller are ministers of groove, they were preaching to the converted at the Steamboat last Saturday night. The band, which has a semi-regular gig at the 6th Street club, filled the venue from the front to the back door in less than half an hour. They took the stage at midnight but as the clock rolled past one in the morning, it was evident Steamroller was just getting warmed up. Although relatively new as a headliner in the Bryan-College Station music scene, Steamroller's reputation has evidently preceded them. The band was able to stir up fairly large audiences for its Dixie Theatre shows last Spring, thanks in part to its strong performance at the first North by Northgate Festival. Darrell Yates, a senior biomedical science major, said the North



Austin rock band Steamroller will be displaying its new album at the Theater in downtown Bryan.



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