

REEL CRITIQUE

Lost in Translation
Focus Films
Starring: Bill Murray, Scarlett Johansson, Giovanni Ribisi

Charlotte (Scarlett Johansson) sits on the window sill of her posh hotel room in Tokyo, Japan, looking onto the city feeling small and alone. A few floors up in the same hotel, Bob (Bill Murray) gazes out his window adorned in a kimono with the same sad eyes. Charlotte is in town with her celebrity photographer husband, who is constantly jetting off to the next exotic locale for a shoot, while Bob, an American movie star, is in the country to do a commercial for a Japanese whiskey that will earn him \$2 million.

These two unsuspecting, lost people meet one late night in the hotel bar, marking the beginning of a beautiful friendship. Spending time with Charlotte keeps Bob's mind off of his passive-aggressive wife, who cares more about the color used in their study at home than how her husband is doing.

Charlotte needs someone to listen to her and comfort her about the fact that she "doesn't know who she married." As the couple sings horrible karaoke one night in a little Japanese bar and hits up a first-class strip club, joy is brought into their lives again. They find in each other just what they need at this point in their respective lives. It isn't necessarily sexual, although there is jealousy and obvious attraction, but it is a connection between two lonely people.

Though the film is as dramatic as it is true-to-life, it is also somewhat a comedy. From Murray's unique rendition of Roxy Music's "More Than This" to the horribly off key, big haired Southern lounge singer of the band called Saulsalito in the middle of the hotel bar, there are many moments in which you will find yourself laughing out loud. Coppola (Virgin Suicides), who wrote and directed the film, finds the perfect balance between comedy and drama. There is Oscar buzz all around this film, particularly around Murray for a standout performance in which he makes the vulnerability and loneliness of Bob so authentic that it shines through the screen. Johansson, 18, playing a 25-year-old woman, keeps up with veteran actor Murray every moment.

This film is crafted in a way that is pure, simple and so intoxicating you will not think about anything else while watching it. You will want to see it again, if only to hear again the last thing Bob whispers to Charlotte before they part. But, maybe the secret of what they found in each other and how they managed to say goodbye should remain private, just between them.



-- Lauren Smith

Even a hot date and Junior Mints can't save it
Wait to see it on video
Catch the matinee
Buy tickets online
Eust cut your feet and camp out two nights in a tent

HOME THEATER

The Hulk
Universal
Starring Eric Bana & Jennifer Connelly

When "The Hulk" came to theaters last summer, it suffered one of the worst marketing campaigns in film history. Billed as a kid-friendly superhero romp, audiences instead received the near equivalent of a Greek tragedy starring a not so jolly green giant. Director Ang Lee's previous work includes the solemn and soulful dramas "The Ice Storm" and "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." Audiences swarmed theaters opening weekend, and not finding the fun adventure film promised, turned around and ran. Newly released with a somewhat impressive DVD, "The Hulk" is a movie that deserves a second look.

Based on the Marvel Comic character of the same name, "The Hulk" is the released Id of Dr. Bruce Banner. Unleashed in a laboratory accident involving gamma radiation, Banner finds himself turning into the Hulk whenever he gets angry. While many Hulk purists were outraged at the liberties Lee took when transporting the Hulk to the big screen, they all manage to create a tightly woven story with an almost believable aura. Eric Bana plays Bruce Banner with an awesome intensity while Jennifer Connelly is delightfully angelic as Banner's ex-girlfriend. The real standout is Nick Nolte in his insanely ecstatic performance as David Banner, Bruce's father.

When "The Hulk" was released in theaters, critics bashed the movie's computer generated creature. The effects are not as bad as critics would lead you to believe.

One of the movie's better features is the visually appealing editing style that emulates the movie's comic book origins. Broken into split screens and fade-in dissolves, the visual style is a sight to behold; unfortunately, it is also part of the movie's main problem. The humorless drama and the tongue-in-cheek editing violently clash. When viewed with the proper mindset, "The Hulk" is a film that shoots for the stars and manages to hit near enough to be entertaining. The tiny nuances that permeate the story help to create a movie that is open to repeat viewing.

The DVD promises greatness, but unfortunately leaves viewers with an empty stomach. Several deleted scenes offer nothing incredibly essential to the viewing experience. Ang Lee delivers a somewhat informational audio commentary bursting at the seams with his passion for the film. An entertaining collection of animated artwork from world-renowned illustrators deserves a viewing. Several brief features on subjects ranging from the history of the Hulk, some of the fight scenes and a portrait of the director are mildly informative and entertaining. One truly bizarre feature is "The Anatomy of the Hulk," an interactive exploration of the Hulk's body. The DVD also features a playable demo of the Hulk videogame for the X-Box.

With Universal's history for releasing multiple versions of its DVDs, casual fans may want to wait to pick up the lackluster DVD.



-- Robert Saucedo

If you see it on the video shelf, walk away as fast as you can
Only watch it to please your date
Good for Saturday afternoon TV
Pick up a copy when you have a chance
You should have bought this yesterday

FEEL THE BEAT

Fountains of Wayne
"Welcome Interstate Managers"
Virgin Records

Newcomers Fountains of Wayne have been making large splash in music lately. With its first single, "Stacy's Mom," being thrown rather heavy rotation around the United States and other parts of the world, FoW has been propelled to the front line. "Stacie's Mom" is a great indication of FoW style, both musically and lyrically. Most of the album, "Welcome Interstate Managers" follows suit.

With most songs probably falling into the category power band gum pop, FoW has perfected the music of this generation. Each song is usually between three and four minutes long and follows the standard verse-chorus-verse-chorus-break-chorus format. Catchy lyrics, well constructed instrumentation and the occasional drum machine hand clap keep the toes tapping. The band has basically taken the aspects of pop rock from the past five years or so, cleaned it up, and made it sound good.

The CD starts off with the song "Mexican Wine" followed by "Bright Future in Sales" which tells the tale of an aspiring office worker who can't stay away from the "whiskey sour." "Stacy's Mom" tells of a young lawnmower boy's love fantasy with a friend's sister. Other songs worth a listen are "Peace and Love," "Super Cola" and "Hey Julie."

This album is worth your time. It's fun and lighthearted themes are a welcome change.



-- Daniel Chapman

Make it stop, my ears are bleeding
Don't waste your hard drive space
Download it
Burn your friend's copy
Spend the dough, buy your own
Buy it, burn it, tell a friend

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Actress Innes honored with award

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actress Laura Innes received this year's Artistry Award from the gay rights organization Power Up for her portrayal of a gay character on the hit medical drama "ER."

Innes plays Dr. Kerry Weaver on the NBC show. "I hope her inclusion in prime time helps break down barriers of prejudice and injustice on-screen and off," Innes said.

The Power Up organization promotes the visibility and integration of gay women in entertainment.

Also honored were the Bravo Network and Judith Light for their portrayal of the mother of Ryan White, the boy who was ostracized from his school after being diagnosed with HIV.



China Week

November 2-8, 2003

中国周

<http://international.tamu.edu>

Monday, November 3

- 10:00 a.m. Chinese Food Carving Demonstration - Memorial Student Center (MSC) Flag Room
- 10:45 a.m. China Week Opening Ceremony - Stark Gallery Steps, President Gates to keynote
- 11:00 a.m. Lion Dancers - Rudder Fountain
- 11-4:00 p.m. Knot Tying, Paper Folding, Cutting & Calligraphy Demonstrations - MSC Flag Room
- 11-4:00 p.m. Research Poster Display - MSC Flag Room
- 11:30 a.m. Kung-Fu Demonstration - Rudder Fountain (Rain Venue - MSC Flag Room)
- 12:00 p.m. Tai Chi Demonstration - Grassy Area Between Bizzell & Rudder Plaza
- 1:30 p.m. Kung-Fu Demonstration - Rudder Fountain (Rain Venue - MSC Flag Room)

Tuesday, November 4

- 10:00 a.m. Chinese Cooking Class - University Apartments Community Kitchen
- 10:30-11:30 a.m. A Journey Back to Ancient China by Linda Fang, Bush Museum Storytellers Guild - Presidential Conference Center (PCC)
- 12:30-1:30 p.m. A Journey Back to Ancient China by Linda Fang - PCC
- 7:00 p.m. An Evening of Chinese Music and Dance with Pipa musician Ms. Changlu Wu, dancer Kelsey Ni, Chinese vocalists and children's dance group - PCC

Wednesday, November 5

- 2-4:00 p.m. Demonstration by artist Li Man - Stark Galleries
- 7:00 p.m. The Next Space Race? Chinese Space Program - MSC Forsyth Center Galleries

Thursday, November 6

- 7:00 p.m. The Story of Qiu Ju, lecture & film by Bing Yao, filmmaker - Rudder 301
- 7:00 p.m. Gallery Talk & Reception with Li Man - Stark Galleries

Friday, November 7

- 10-1:00 p.m. Research Poster Session - PCC 1011C
- 5:30 p.m. Ping Pong Diplomacy Lecture by Judy Bochenski Hoarfrost & Table Tennis Demonstration - Rec Sports Center, Room 281
- 7:00 p.m. Wonders of China - University Apartments, Room 1

Check Out Related Events!

- 8/30-1/4 Treasures of China Exhibit - Bush Presidential Libraries
- 10/23-12/15 Chinese Art Exhibit featuring the work of Li Man & Xiao Ping - Stark Gallery
- 10/20-11/8 Cultural Displays - TAMU Campus Libraries, International Center, MSC, PCC, Bryan/College Station Libraries
- 11/2-11/8 China Week - Children's Museum of the Brazos Valley



THEIR MISSION: SAVE LIVES Especially Yours



Do you secretly fear that in an emergency, doctors won't save your life just to get your organs? Do you think there's a black market in organs for transplant? Misunderstandings about organ donation are costing people their lives. Get a brochure in the student center or health center and get the facts. Don't let your fears about donation keep you from signing a donor card and talking to your family.

Come talk to us on November 4th at the Commons Lobby or in Zachry.

GET THE FACTS
SIGN A CARD
TELL YOUR FAMILY
SAVE LIVES

www.donorworld.com
1.800.355.7427

www.organ.org
1.800.788.8058

Organ Donor Card

I, _____, have spoken to my family about organ and tissue donation. I wish to donate the following:

Any needed organs and tissue
 Only the following organs and tissue: _____

Date: _____

The following individuals have witnessed my commitment to being a donor:

