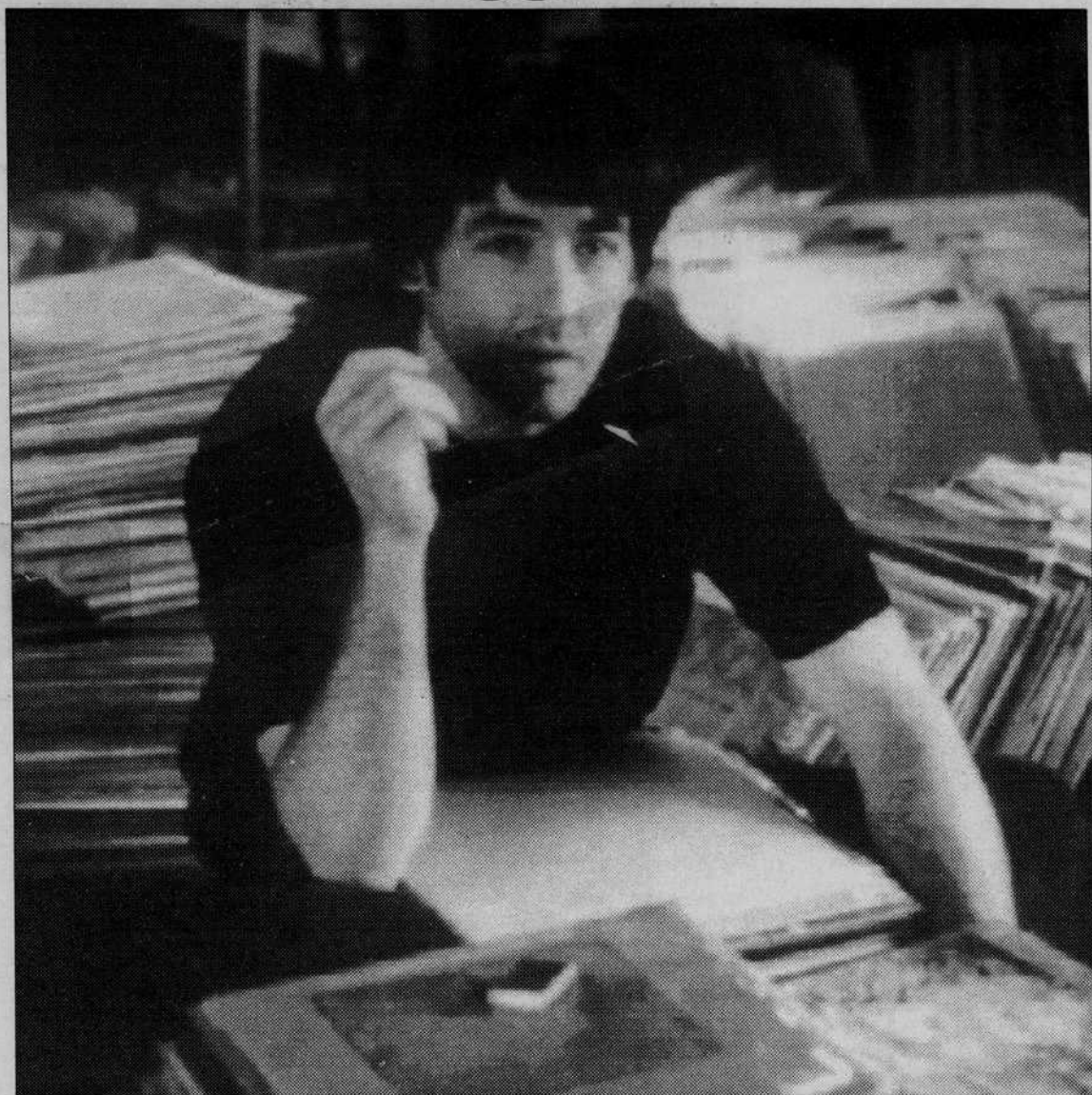


# Cusack struggles with love in 'High Fidelity'



Courtesy of Touchstone Pictures

John Cusack pulls the viewer into his latest movie, 'High Fidelity,' where he stars as confused music store owner Rob Gordon.

■ The film explores one man's questions and regrets with his love life



## High Fidelity

Starring John Cusack, Jack Black, and Todd Louiso

★★★★☆

By Joe Walsh

Oregon Daily Emerald

It's not rip-roaringly funny. It won't make anyone cry, and it probably won't win any Oscars.

Even so, "High Fidelity" is the best movie in the theaters right now.

Based on Nick Hornby's 1995 bestseller, "High Fidelity" is a glimpse into the strange, secretive world that is a man's head.

John Cusack plays Rob Gordon, a confused 35-year-old music store owner who, after getting dumped by his long-time girlfriend (Iben Hjejle) for the guy upstairs (Tim Robbins), struggles to come to terms with life's most baffling issue: love. His self-examination takes place through narration using the rarely effective, talking-to-the-camera style, but it works surprisingly well.

After the breakup, Rob seeks refuge in the company of store employees Barry (Jack Black) and Dick (Todd Louiso). The three music junkies spend their days harassing unknowledgeable customers and discussing pop culture, passionately debating their

top-five lists for everything imaginable (top five first-track songs on first albums, top five songs about death, etc.).

Meanwhile, Rob takes the audience through his top five most memorable breakups as he tries to figure out where he's gone wrong in his life. Starting with his first kiss, Rob painfully, yet hilariously, recalls the mistakes he made with all the women in his life, exposing his faulty thought processes.

Besides the amusing account of Rob's life, which reveals almost too much about the male brain, a good reason to see this movie is the comedic performance of Jack Black, lead singer of "mock rock" heroes Tenacious D. His John Belushi-esque comic energy perfectly complements his character's slightly crazed, condescending, rock-star-wannabe personality.

The more obvious reason to see "High Fidelity" is the underrated but always brilliant John Cusack, who co-authored the script. Cusack pulls you in with his sob story and then slowly reveals that he is usually to blame for his shortcomings. But by then, it's too late because you're already pulling for this middle-aged adulthood-dodger.

Armed with great acting, a smart script that nicely translates the book and a knockout soundtrack, this slice-of-life comedy is one of those movies that will leave you eagerly awaiting its home video release. It won't quite make the top five movies of all time list

## CHEAP DATE

### Pizza for pizza, date weighs in

■ Date Night at Bellizzi's is the most expensive of our cheap dates, but dollar for dollar, it is a great value

By Joe Walsh  
Oregon Daily Emerald

There's definitely a line between being romantic and being cheap.

While some of the most romantic thoughts are the ones that cost nothing, it is usually much more safe to find a good mix of thoughtfulness and money to impress a date. "Date Night at Bellizzi's" offers a perfect balance that will impress your date but won't leave you eating out of cans for the rest of the term.

Every Wednesday night is Date Night at Bellizzi's Pizza and Pasta, located at 339 E. 11th Ave. For just \$19.95, couples receive a bottle of wine — a pitcher of soda is substituted for couples younger than 21 — an appetizer, salad, bread, choice of entrée and dessert. While not the cheapest date in town (Date Night at Bellizzi's will likely be the most expensive of our weekly cheap date feature) dollar for dollar, it is one of the best deals.

The best thing about Date Night is the amount of food and entertainment you get for less than \$20. The service is great, the atmosphere is fun, the waiters, sing and there's always enough food for leftovers. Even if it were \$30, it would still be a good deal. But on the other hand, you always get what you pay for.

The appetizer is nothing more than several pieces of garlic bread covered with melted mozzarella and oregano. It isn't the most ex-

travagant appetizer you'll ever have, but it is very tasty. The salad is sub-par too. ("Salad-in-a-bag" was how my date so eloquently described it.) Again, it isn't the kind of quality you'll find in many restaurants, but it tastes fine.

But then again, Bellizzi's isn't an Italian restaurant as much as it is a pizza joint, which is why it is difficult to compare it to the likes of Beppe & Gianni's.

Bellizzi's specializes in "mafia-style" pizza, which is one of the best pizzas in town. It even looks like a typical pizza joint — which detracts from the romantic atmosphere that one would hope to experience at Date Night. From the glowing red, eight-foot-long neon "Bellizzi's" sign to the dozens of Coca-Cola products — the clock, drinking glasses and dry erase boards to name a few — Bellizzi's definitely has the feel of a high school hangout. This, along with the noise and the close proximity of the tables, does detract from the romance factor.

But at the same time, the singing waiters, the Frank Sinatra background music and the fact that you were thoughtful enough to take your date to Date Night makes the place break even.

Don't get me wrong; there are some great things about Date Night at Bellizzi's. I didn't give it a four-star restaurant rating with a three-heart romance factor just to be a nice guy.

Although Bellizzi's excels in its pizza-making, its entrées are also quite good. Couples are offered three choices on Date Night, with several more choices available at an extra cost. Each person gets his

#### Bellizzi's Pizza and Pasta

Food: ★★★★★

What: "Date Night at Bellizzi's"

When: Every Wednesday night

Where: 339 E. 11th Ave.

Cost: \$19.95 for two

Romance factor: ♥♥♥ out of 5

Best bet: Baked ziti

or her choice of ravioli Florentine, baked ziti or spaghetti with a meatball. Covered with spicy marinara and perched atop a serving of spaghetti noodles, the ravioli Florentine is an excellent choice that is sure to fill the hungriest belly. The spaghetti, adorned with a fist-sized meatball, is also a fine choice. But the best bet is the baked ziti: a bed of penne noodles in a tomato cheese sauce smothered with baked mozzarella.

Couples also have a choice of two wines on Date Night, with upgrades available. We passed on the Chardonnay in favor of the house red, without regrets. For a bargain-wine, it was reasonably flavorful with a pleasant but subtle aftertaste.

For dessert, we were each served a slice of chocolate-iced Boston cream pie (where's the tiramisu?). It was actually quite good — just not the authentic, eye-pleasing Italian dessert you expect from an Italian restaurant.

But just to be fair, it's only the details (the salad, appetizers, etc.) that need improvement. Date Night at Bellizzi's is no Beppe & Gianni's or Ambrosia, but then again, it never said it was.

all events are FREE



jamie rust

the buzz • emu ground floor

thur • apr. 13th  
9:30-11:30pm

laura lorelei  
folk • rock

fri • apr. 14th  
9pm-midnight

eclectic open mic  
music • performance art • theatre

Sign-up to perform at The Break (located next to The Buzz)  
For more info call Melanie at 346-3725

sat • apr. 15th  
9:30-11:30pm

jamie rust  
acoustic

mon • apr. 17th  
9pm-11:30pm

poetry open mic

Sign-up to perform at The Break (located next to The Buzz)  
For more info call Melanie at 346-3725

wed • apr. 19th  
9:30-11:30pm

orange cow  
alternative rock

thur • apr. 20th  
9-11pm

craig eihorn  
acoustic rock