

The Wild Duck cooks up some love

■ The downtown restaurant is ideal for casual dates as well as Duck weekend revelers



FOOD REVIEW

The Wild Duck Brewery

By Bevin Caffery
Oregon Daily Emerald

Everyone needs a couple of restaurant ideas to keep in their back pocket for a rainy day. Or a boring, money-less or stressful day. The type of place where one can relax, show up in jeans and have some finger food, but still expect a quality dining experience.

The Wild Duck Brewery, a traditional college hang-out that boasts a bar, restaurant, brewery and music hall, is nestled in the heart of Eugene at 169 W. 6th Ave. and

seemed like it would fit in my back pocket nicely.

Intrigued by constantly hearing about musical events at the spot, and being the entertainment editor, I wondered if the food was as good as their performing guests.

Expecting regular bar food, I was pleasantly surprised by the quality of the meal. My dining companion and I ordered three dishes to share: the daily special of baby-back ribs with steamed vegetables and a twice-baked potato, an order of chicken strips and an appetizer order of house fries.

As a Texan native and thus a barbecue expert, I can say that the half-rack of ribs were an interesting take on the traditional barbecue that I normally see, dripping with sauce. These ribs were prepared with a dry-rub of various spices in place of barbecue sauce, and this was a tasty variation.

My sidekick is a self-proclaimed

chicken strips connoisseur, and he determined that these chickies were average, as far as chicken strips go. The breading fell off very easily and the flavor was average.

Finally, the french fries were a big hit at our table. These potatoes were served with both ranch and ketchup and prepared in the thick, moist, steak-fry style, which is hard to find in Eugene.

For drinks we tried both the regular lemonade and the strawberry lemonade, which were about as average as the chicken strips. I would recommend the strawberry over the regular for the extra-added excitement to your taste-buds.

Overall, The Wild Duck Brewery not only offers great musical acts, brews several different beers and is a friendly spot to party on the weekends, but also an easy option for a casual dinner date to keep stress levels low.

And then after your date goes

Seating: ★★★★★

Quick seating at a great private table, but keep in mind that it was a Sunday night

Atmosphere: ★★★★★

Definitely a bar atmosphere, but friendly and comfortable without too much smoke or

Service: ★★★★★

Quick, friendly service overall

Food: ★★★★★

Great for a casual bar environment

Price: ★★★★★

Roughly \$10 per meal, without drinks, appetizers or dessert

Overall: ★★★★★

Perfect for a casual date or dinner with friends

amazingly well, you can come back Saturday night and party like the wild Duck you are.

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the two neighbors the opportunity to become friends.

Chan becomes lonely and then suspects her husband of cheating after overhearing his voice with another woman. Chow suspects his wife of unfaithfulness, too, when she claims to work late constantly, but then is not actually at work.

Chan and Chow are deeply saddened by their discoveries and look to each other for friendship and comfort. It doesn't take long for them to conclude that their spouses were in fact seeing the other's partner. Through this terrible realization, the two friends give each other

compassion, support and eventually, love.

The cinematography of "In the Mood" gives the viewer teasing glimpses of the characters, showing them through bars, oval holes or in mirror reflections. The faces of the adulterous couple are never directly shown, emphasizing the focus on Chan and Chow. In the first half of the film, Wong symbolically shows only one person at a time in conversations between the two main characters, expressing the restrained and reluctant attraction between them.

The mood and emotion of the situation are accentuated by slow motion scenes of Chan and Chow separately going about daily life, with simple music playing in the background. These shots draw out the

suspense of the relationship and add a deliciously dance-like aspect to the film. Wong focuses less on dialogue and action, and more on the feeling and mood of the setting, which may first seem slow to viewers, but changes to dramatic as it soaks in.

Chan is played beautifully by Maggie Cheung, whose most recent film work was last year's "Love at First Sight," also known as "Sausalito."

Tony Leung Chiu Wai stars as the soft-spoken, passionate character of Chow. He has a history in the drama/romance genre, last appearing in "Healing Hearts," directed by Gary Tong.

Wong has a history of directing drama films—his most recent films before "In the Mood for Love" are

"Happy Together" (1997) and "Fallen Angels" (1995).

Overall, "In the Mood for Love" has an interesting focus on two star-crossed lovers who are determined to keep to their morals but must suppress their love as a result.

It offers a mellow, romantic soundtrack, two well-developed characters and exceptional camera shots. It is a strange twist on the typical love-web, with the other two members' characters never unveiled. This movie would be a great date-movie for its forbidden-romance appeal, but only if you and your date can appreciate a foreign film that focuses more on lingering emotion than a quick plot. "In the Mood for Love" will be playing at the Bijou Cinemas starting Friday.

WOW HALL

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