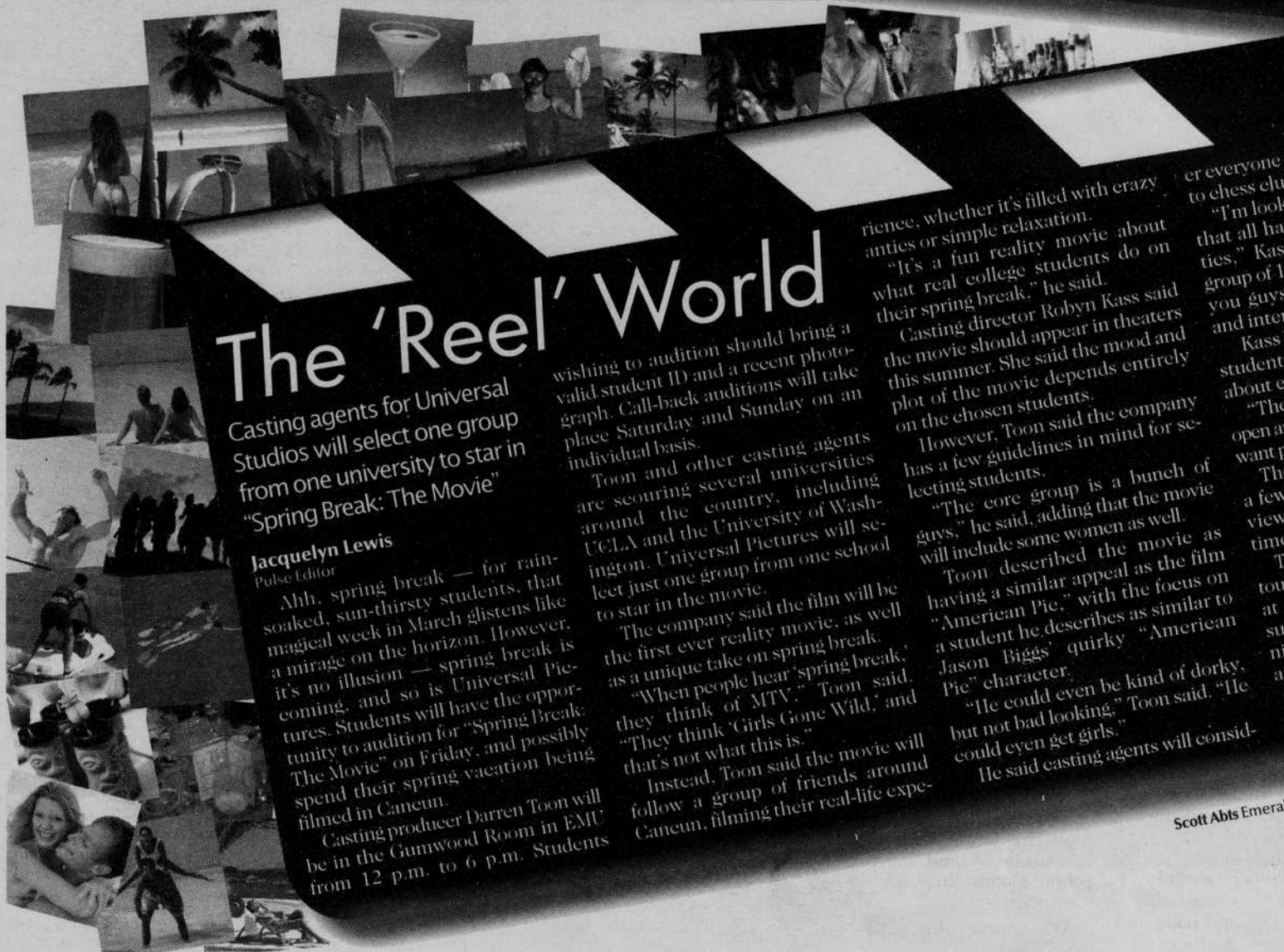


Pulse Editor:
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Thursday, January 16, 2003



The 'Reel' World

Casting agents for Universal Studios will select one group from one university to star in "Spring Break: The Movie"

Jacquelyn Lewis
Pulse Editor

Ahh, spring break — for rain-soaked, sun-thirsty students, that magical week in March glistens like a mirage on the horizon. However, it's no illusion — spring break is coming, and so is Universal Pictures. Students will have the opportunity to audition for "Spring Break: The Movie" on Friday, and possibly spend their spring vacation being filmed in Cancun.

Casting producer Darren Toon will be in the Gumwood Room in EMU from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Students

wishing to audition should bring a valid student ID and a recent photograph. Call-back auditions will take place Saturday and Sunday on an individual basis.

Toon and other casting agents are scouring several universities around the country, including UCLA and the University of Washington. Universal Pictures will select just one group from one school to star in the movie.

"The company said the film will be the first ever reality movie, as well as a unique take on spring break. "When people hear 'spring break,' they think of MTV," Toon said. "They think 'Girls Gone Wild,' and that's not what this is."

Instead, Toon said the movie will follow a group of friends around Cancun, filming their real-life expe-

rience, whether it's filled with crazy antics or simple relaxation. "It's a fun reality movie about what real college students do on their spring break," he said.

Casting director Robyn Kass said the movie should appear in theaters this summer. She said the mood and plot of the movie depends entirely on the chosen students.

However, Toon said the company has a few guidelines in mind for selecting students.

"The core group is a bunch of guys," he said, adding that the movie will include some women as well.

Toon described the movie as having a similar appeal as the film "American Pie," with the focus on Jason Biggs' quirky "American Pie" character.

"He could even be kind of dorky, but not bad looking," Toon said. "He could even get girls."

He said casting agents will consid-

er everyone from fraternity brothers to chess club members.

"I'm looking for a group of friends that all have different characteristics," Kass added. "If you have a group of 15 of you and your buddies, you guys should all be coming in and interviewing together."

Kass and Toon said auditioning students should be prepared to talk about every aspect of their lives.

"They should be prepared to be open and honest," Toon said. "We don't want people to act or give us a show."

The open auditions will take only a few minutes, and follow-up interviews will be more in-depth and time-consuming.

Toon and his associate will also be touring Eugene this week, appearing at local bars,

such as Ren- nie's Landing and Joggers

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Scott Abts Emerald



'Adaptation' takes strange and then makes it stranger

Movie review

Aaron Shakra
Pulse Reporter

"Adaptation" is a film that's a living, breathing, thing. In one sense, writing a review of it makes about as much sense as trying to write a review of your best friend, or someone you love. Clearly, words are not the best method to accurately describe such a thing. Any attempt is predisposed to failure, and the words unwittingly shift in the opposite direction of clarity.

Of course, there are people who must have at least an inkling of what they're getting into before they go see something like a movie. For the benefit of such a demographic, I'll go ahead and try — emphasis on try — to describe a film that largely defies explanation when it comes down to the question of "What's it about?"

Sure, there's a skeleton, or frame of a plot, which is, this is a

movie about a man writing a movie (actually, adapting it from a book about orchids). But from this foundation, the characters and events of the film are a mixture of fiction and reality, the implied point being the lack of difference between the two. Much like the lives of the characters involved, the only narrative present is one utterly unpredictable and direction-less.

It might help to know that this work comes from director Spike Jonze and writer Charlie Kaufman, who crafted "Being John Malkovich." "Malkovich" is a wicked, weird adventure involving portals into the consciousness of a movie star, office building half-floors and John Cusack as a puppeteer. If this sounds strange, and if you haven't seen the 1999 film, consider it required viewing for "Adaptation." Basically, "Adaptation" is on the whole, an even stranger film. Or rather, it builds on "Malkovich" by taking the already strange and making it stranger.

The film's protagonist is screenwriter Kaufman himself, played by Nicolas Cage. Cage/Kaufman attempts to adapt Susan Orlean's



Courtesy

(also a real person, played wonderfully by Meryl Streep) book "The Orchid Thief" and ends up in personal crisis, which turns

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