

## The Truth About Cats and Dogs... tells no lies

Brian Ray  
Staff Writer

The title of the new film *The Truth About Cats and Dogs* is deceiving. Rather than being an expose' on pet care, the film is a light romantic comedy about love, mistaken identity and looking beneath people's exteriors to find their true selves.

Janeane Garofalo (*Reality Bites*) stars as Abby, a veterinarian who hosts a radio call-in show, giving advice about pet care. Abby is single, smart and incredibly insecure about her looks. While she is not unattractive, she feels she is a "dog" compared to her beautiful neighbor, Noelle (played by Uma Thurman from *Pulp Fiction*). Abby is envious of Noelle's good looks, but Noelle is envious of Abby's intelligence.

When a man named Brian (played by Ben Chaplin, a British actor reminiscent Hugh Grant) calls for some advice about his dog, he falls in love with Abby's voice. They talk endlessly over the phone, getting to know each other. Abby falls for Brian, even hinting that he could be the one she wants to spend the

rest of her life with. When he insists on meeting her, Abby finds herself with sort-of a dilemma. She doesn't think she's pretty enough to Brian over. She comes up with half-baked plan to trade places with Noelle, so that Brian will have a face to go along her voice. The situation turns chaotic as Noelle starts to fall for Brian, and Brian for her.

Directed by Michael Lehmann, who made the dark comedy *Heathers*, the film is full of charm, wit, and heart. With likable characters, some funny dialogue exchanges, and a little bit of physical humor, it wins you over, even though the premise is a bit implausible. Part of that has to do with Garofalo who, in her first starring role, shines as Abby. She gives what could have been a cookie-cutter character life and rises above the rather bland material. Thurman is good, giving Noelle a sort of ditsy, dim-bulb sweetness that matches her angelic looks. The film is an enjoyable romantic comedy for those who believe that love is deeper than how you look; it is about who you are.

Grade: B+

## The Craft surprisingly good

Andrew Beck  
Staff Writer

Sony Entertainment Pictures has offered a rather surprising alternative to the brain dead movies this week by releasing a movie of underestimated quality and acting ability.

The occult-primed thriller, *The Craft*, fits the bill as the first interesting sleeper film of May. Andrew Fleming directs and co-writes this background Hollywood jewel to some audience-pleasing results.

While the dialogue is average, Fleming is able to create a thrilling film with computer morphing and high-grade visual effects.

The storyline of the movie begins with teenager Sarah (played by Robin Tunney from *Empire Records*) moving to a new home and school in L.A. Sarah is not the recipient of much common courtesy at her new educational digs, St. Benedict's Academy. Shunned by the general school populace and the victim of vicious rumors spread by advantageous jock Chris (played by newcomer Skeet Ulrich). Sarah falls into a group of social clique witches led by Nancy (Fairuza

Balk from *The Return to Oz* and the cult favorite *Gas Food Lodging*). The group sees Sarah as the fourth potential member to enter their "witches' circle".

Sarah is, at first, enthusiastic about the group of witches. They practice ceremonies and



chantments in worship of a nature god named Meno.

Sarah's addition to the teen witches inexplicably gives them the power to cast spells in the name of Meno.

Like materialistic debutantes they use their powers to fulfill greedy fantasies. Witch Bonnie (Neve Campbell from the television show *Party of Five*) uses her powers to magically remove terrible burn scars she received as a child. Rochelle (Rachel True from *CB4*) puts a curse on a racist so-

cialite that makes life miserable for her on the school diving team. Yet, Sarah realizes that the witches' powers are turning evil when one of her spells results in the death of Chris. Nancy is increasingly lusting for the dark power of witchcraft and sees Sarah as a pathetic source of morality to be dealt with. The growing rift between Sarah and the three other witches gives the film an interesting climax and resolution.

"The Craft" has several down points, the plot can be very shallow and at times the film seems continuously stuck in a rut.

The audience may also be annoyed by the way Fleming tries to sell his actresses off as Generation X, espresso drinking occultists. But the acting abilities displayed by these young broomstick-wielding thespians is good. Tunney, Campbell and True give off believable performances while Balk is magnificent as the subversive Nancy.

May can be a sour time for film audiences as the entertainment industry releases the duds before summer. But for it's overall attractiveness "The Craft" is worth the price of admission.

Grade: B

### Editorial

## Take control of your education and vote

Today and tomorrow are CCC's annual ASG elections. Each year the number of people casting votes has been small. In fact, student voter turnout was less than 300 votes last year.

Whether it is a school, state, or presidential election, citizens of this country not only have the right to vote, it is also their responsibility. There are currently two candidates each for ASG President and Vice-President. Candidates for President are Mike Caudle and Clare Cheva-

lier and Vice President candidates are Jacob Boenisch and Jeri Scarborough. We strongly encourage all students to vote in this week's elections.

The results of this week's elections will strongly affect what happens on campus next year. Issues involving recycling, student fees and childcare scholarships will be influenced by whoever is elected. Your chance to impact these upcoming decisions is now. Let your voice be heard by voting.

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Jon Roberts  
A&E Editor

Once again Hollywood makes a movie that is supposed to be the spring's biggest blockbuster when really it isn't worth the film it was photographed on.

This movie is *Barb Wire*, the latest silicon laden wanna-be action film. This movie is so pathetically acted and written that it would have made a good Leslie Nielsen comedy. The fact this film has been played up as being the first big movie of the spring just goes to show how stupid Hollywood thinks we are as the audience.

The main actress in this movie (if you can call her an actress), is the one and only Pamela Anderson Lee.

The plot is weak; it is about

a hired gun/bounty hunter named *Barb Wire* (Lee) who gets mixed up in the second American Civil War. At first Barb decides not to be on either side of the war. But after someone very close to her is killed by the bad guys she decides to take up arms for the rebels. The ensuing scene involves Lee showing off her kick boxing and shooting ability. She ends up helping the rebels get out of America, to a safe haven, Canada. So now you have heard the whole plot.

Please, I beg you, don't go see this movie. The more people that go see this movie, the more people Hollywood has fooled into going to a bad B movie.

If you would like a good story involving the character *Barb Wire* go buy the comic book.

So far American's have given

Hollywood a clear picture that we, as the audience, won't go see these movies. *Barb Wire* opened last weekend at number 12 making only \$1.78 million. Don't waste your time, go see *The Craft* the number one movie in America last weekend, for a more entertaining movie.

This movie is basically about showing off Pamela Anderson Lee's well paid for body in as many leather suits as possible. If you do want to see this movie, either go see it during the economy times or wait till it comes out on video.

This movie is rated R for violence, language and lots of nudity. Come on, what did you expect? It's a Pamela Anderson Lee movie.

Grade: D+

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