

# He said... Sweeter than 'Chocolat'



**BEN WALKER**  
Staff Writer

The story of "Chocolat" is quite simple; a woman and her daughter set up a chocolate shop in a small town in France, only to find heavy opposition from the narrow-minded mayor. For all my initial foreboding, "Chocolat" actually captivated me with its beautiful filming. Every frame would be a stunning photograph, and the pastel colors and natural beauty of France combine for some of the most amazing, yet simple, footage I have ever seen. Johnny Depp appears late in the film, and does a nice job of portraying a drifter. A dramatic change from the drug addict and alcoholic he played in "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas".

"Chocolat" is the type of movie you could tear apart and examine in a philosophy class. The



Vianne Rocher (Juliette Binoche) and Josephine Muscat (Lena Olin) win over the townspeople with their chocolate, which seems to have some special powers. (Below) Roux (Johnny Depp), a wandering gypsy player, wins over Vianne heart with his mystery.

main character Vianne, challenges older beliefs held by the conservative townspeople. She wears red high heels and later has sex with the drifter. Sorry if I spoiled the surprise for all of you who were about to rent it based on my description of its filming. Are the red heels a sign of her seductiveness? (Believe me, she's hot, too.) I think yes. As far as the mayor goes, I highly doubt he is anything like a "typical" male, as Chrissy seems to think. Rather, he reminds me of my last non-existent girlfriend, who was controlling beyond all reason. But, you can finish dissecting the movie all you want on your own time.

I would give "Chocolat" a go for it if: you're a girl, a guy with a girl, several girls, or a guy with several girls (good luck) or just don't care what the local Blockbuster clerk thinks about your masculinity.



**CHRISTINA MCFARLAND**  
Staff Writer

"Chocolat", featuring Johnny Depp, and Juliette Binoche, wasn't as mushy and "lovey-dovey" as I had expected. It was actually about acceptance and change. The main character, Vianne, arrives in a new town during Lent. This town is very religiously strict, so for Vianne to open up a chocolaterie was just unheard of. The mayor of the town is outraged by her rebellious nature. He does almost everything in his power to persuade the town's people to boycott her new shop. He even uses the Sunday sermons as a platform for his self-righteousness. But Vianne's kind words and generous heart draw people into her shop anyway, and her



# She said

chocolate keeps them coming back for more. (And I can see why, the chocolates looked absolutely delicious. So if you decide to watch this film make sure you have some chocolate in the house). After time, the mayor begins to see that Vianne isn't as horrible as he had originally thought. But like a typical male, he became so worried about bruising his pride, he refused to relent. I think he truly desired to be part of this "revolution," but he was so intent on being right, he missed out on all the wonderful things that were happening.

Whether you're male or female, "Chocolat" is worth watching. For all you guys out there, your girlfriend will love you for watching this "chick-flick." And for all you girls, if you don't care for the plot, there is always Johnny Depp.

## Horoscopes

by Daniel Merys

**Aries:** (March 21 - April 19) - A friend from your past will re-enter your life. This person will reveal something that may make you uncomfortable. If they do this with a film crew in tow, run. Movie to watch this week: "Ringmaster," starring Jerry Springer.

**Taurus:** (April 20 - May 20) - Your eagerness to charge ahead will come back to bite you. Play it safe this week. Be sure to keep your doors locked and conduct extensive interrogations of everyone who wears sunglasses. (Anyone who wears sunglasses in Oregon has got to be up to something.) Movie to watch this week: "Roadhouse," starring Patrick Swayze.

**Gemini:** (May 21 - June 21) - Your dual nature may turn others off, but use this time to cul-

tivate a secret identity. Make sure it's something exciting, not "Leroy the Garbage Man." Movie to watch this week: "Blankman," starring Damon Wayans.

**Cancer:** (June 22 - July 22) - Your astrological sign is the crab. You shouldn't be too upset by this though. Pisces is stuck with a fish. You should team up with a Piscean and form a duo, like Simon and Garfunkel or Mike and Ike. Not like Milli Vanilli or Hall and Oates. Movie to watch this week: "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford.

**Leo:** (July 23 - August 22) - Leader of the pack. That's you. It's your responsibility to make sure things go smoothly. If someone has a problem with your leadership skills fly their

underwear on a flagpole. "Viva la Hanes!" Movie to watch this week: "Very Bad Things," starring Christian Slater and Jon Favreau

**Virgo:** (August 23 - September 22) - This week everything will go your way. Lie on the witness stand. No one will know. Litter. There won't be any cops around. Just watch out for Wednesday. Movie to watch this week: Any Sean Connery-era Bond film.

**Libra:** (September 23 - October 22) - As someone who's always seeking a balance, you will be torn between two friends. You can't please one without alienating the other. You should do your best to play them off of each other and make some money for yourself. Movie to watch this week: "State and Main," starring Wil-

liam H. Macy.

**Scorpio:** (October 23 - November 21) - Being a fiery individual, you can be counted on to make almost any topic interesting, no matter how inane and draining. Except for that "High Five" show on Channel 12. Nothing could save that thing. Movie to watch this week: "True Romance," starring Christian Slater.

**Sagittarius:** (November 23 - December 21) - Your week will be mind-numbingly dull. Chances are that you will end up watching Judge Judy. If you are lucky enough to meet a Scorpio, stick to them like glue. But stick to an appropriate area, like a leg or shoulder. Movie to watch this week: Anything with Ed Harris in it.

**Capricorn:** (December 22 -

January 19) - Stay inside, and don't ask questions, trust me. Movie to watch this week: "Suicide Kings," starring the incomparable Christopher Walken.

**Aquarius:** (January 20 - February 18) - As you go about your business this week be aware of the troubles of those around you. Don't be afraid to help, unless someone needs help with something sticky. If so, tell them you're a germaphobe and con someone else into helping. Movie to watch this week: "Nobody's Fool," starring Paul Newman and Bruce Willis.

**Pisces:** (February 19 - March 20) - Find time to reflect on your actions toward people in general. If you can't remember any of these actions, take a shower and have a tic-tac. Movie to watch this week: "Memento," starring Guy Pierce.