

STUDENT LIFE

Lion Ambassadors do more than required

By Kara Schmiemann
staff writer

Due to a lack of applications, the Lion Ambassadors have decided to postpone the deadline until today. They have received about 12 applications, therefore, you still have some time today to get your chance to join in the fun. Do not let this opportunity pass you by.

Today is the latest day that the members of the Lion Ambassadors can extend the application due date. This was done to give everyone a greater opportunity to submit their applications.

"The reason that the Lion Ambassador application due date was extended was because we had several students tell us that they were still waiting for letters of recommendation from people and we felt that it would be beneficial to extend the application due date," said Donald Hackworth EEBD 07. "This will allow us to expand our application pool so that we can select the quality of students deserving of the organization allowing us to expand our services to the campus as well as to the student body."

The Lion Ambassadors are an organization who has goals and ambitions, as stated in the Ambassadors mission statement posted on their website. They want to "help alumni, students and friends of the University realize that their involvement with Penn State can and should be a lifetime experience."

Some of the activities Lion Ambassadors can look forward to participating in over the years are Penn State Behrend's Open House, Spirit

Day, Founder's Day and the Logan Wintergreen Series.

"We like to do other things outside of the required events such as dinner, going to Otter's games, skiing and movies," said Kassi Hindman COMBA 05.

The Ambassadors have noticed that students at Behrend are less clear about their reasons to be here. The Lion Ambassadors took it upon themselves to ensure that our school spirit and mentality toward being here is heightened.

"That's one of the main reasons Lion Ambassadors took over Midnight Bingo. The organization wanted it back because we knew that the student body was sad to see it retired during the 2003-2004 school years.

"We are currently looking into more ways to involve the organization with the students again," said Hackworth.

Individuals in the Ambassadors are extremely friendly and will go out of their way to lend you a hand if you asked for it. This is yet another reason to join the Ambassadors.

"I found that they were easy to talk to and fun to be around," said Hackworth.

"Each spring we have a CNC conference with all other Ambassadors from the other Penn State campuses," said Hindman, the social chair of the Ambassadors. "Last year it was actually held here at Behrend but this year we will once again be traveling to University Park.

"I feel the Ambassadors to a wonderful job making us feel good about our school," said Jenna O'Block COMBA 01.

'I Heart Huckabees' is existentially incredible



FOX SEARCH LIGHT PICTURES

Jude Law, far left, stars as Brad Stand in the not-so-popular new movie by Fox Search Light Pictures.

By Aaron J. Amendola
Staff writer

Sitting alone in my seat, I was wondering if possibly I walked into the wrong theatre. I casually strolled out the door and looked up. Theatre #2, showing "I Heart Huckabees," with myself as the sole viewer. I assured myself there was an actual showing and took my seat again. I unsealed the Pepsi I smuggled in along with leftover Halloween candy my parents had and silently decided that perhaps some people weren't ready for a film like "I Heart Huckabees." The lights came down and over the next two hours I experienced something akin to enlightenment.

"I Heart Huckabees" centers around two dueling personalities: Albert Markovski (Jason Schwartzman) and Brad Stand (Jude Law). Where Albert is the shy-natured, altruistic environmentalist, Brad is a people-pleasing, capitalist executive. When the two have a falling out of sorts, Jason raises the all too powerful question of "What's it all about?" and seeks answers with a team of existential detectives (Dustin Hoffman and Lily Tomlin). What Albert is led on is a journey through the mind, body and soul of his being. As it turns out for Albert and Brad, discovering who you really are isn't the answer, it's only a part of the question.

It all sounds pretty heady right? Well, it is, but it works. Director David O' Russell seems to weave the plot around his fingers as he constructs a narrative that never fails to keep you guessing where it is going next. O' Russell juggles so many themes in the movie, all philosophical and "out of the box" so to say, that I'm surprised he presented them all so equally. Every character throughout the film has a wholly different outlook on life, with the basic "why are we here?" motif. If it weren't for the comedic

nature of the film, it would all be too much to take in but the players here create great multi-faceted characters to watch.

Schwartzman's Albert Markovski essentially plays the audience, asking the questions we want to know the answers to but struggle to achieve.

Jude Law gives an Oscar worthy performance as Brad Stand who may stand as the most relatable character brought to film this year. We all know a Brad Stand, we may not know it, but in everyone's life there is a Brad Stand. All the quirks, idiosyncrasies, words and thoughts all are marvelously ripped from real life it seems and Law just works wonders with it.

Naomi Watts may just be the most gorgeous woman working in cinema today but her looks only accentuate her talent, as she delivers some of the funniest scenes in the film along with Mark Wahlberg who just molds into perfect shape as Albert's "other."

The film is, at best, not for everyone. It's clearly made not for a conclusion, but for more questions. The whole point of the movie is to challenge us to think outside of the box and help us draw our own conclusions. David O'Russell has made an incredibly deep movie with substantial meaning but it will not be received well by audiences simply because of its over-the-top narrative and the fact that most people don't want to go to a film to be preached upon. They want to be entertained.

Most will sit down to watch the movie and immediately be confused, waiting for a punch line or an explosion. You won't find that here folks. Just good ol' plain commentary in the form of great acting, smart writing, and a genius director. I'm hoping the film garners some sort of recognition from the Oscars or Golden Globes but I won't hold my breath. If you're feeling existential, why not drop by the theatre and catch a showing? I doubt it'll be there much longer.

Reality Check taking students to NYC

On campus helps those in Staten Island

By Jenna O'Block
staff writer

Are you looking for something to do over your winter break? Well if you are, Reality Check is sponsoring a trip to NYC Jan. 2-7 and it's for any Behrend student who is interested in going.

"It's a great time to fill up the breaks and give you something to do," said Kelly Shroud, the coordinator of Community Service and the Smith Chapel.

During the course of the trip you would be working with the Catholic Charities Project Hospitality.

"It is not a religious thing," said Shroud. It is a community service project that is working with the homeless. Not only do you do community service, but you also can listen to a few seminars that talk about the homeless and living with HIV/AIDS. The Reality Check will be doing these things during the day; however, the night is free to do whatever you want in the city.

"Everyone knows NYC is awesome but we feel the great city needs a little reality check," said Eric Marker. "We are going to give it to them."

Some of the things the group is going to be doing with the homeless will be working in the soup kitchen and making and distributing bags of food to people with special medical needs. You can also volunteer at the drop off center where homeless people come to change their clothes, eat, shower or just to get away from being outside. Some other places you can volunteer at are the Scatter

Site Housing, where people are living with HIV/AIDS or at a woman's shelter.

"Not only are you helping others it is an amazing learning experience," said Chandra Giger. "Not to mention an awesome week with a great group of kids!"

The group will be staying at a hotel that is called Jazz on the town. It is located right on 14th street on Staten Island.

"It's a great way for them to be introduced to travel as cheap as possible," said Shroud. The whole trip only costs \$50 per person.

"Fifty dollars for five days is a great deal," said Shroud.

Reality Check is a student run organization that has been at Behrend for nine years. The organization started after the first alternative spring break took a trip to Maryland. Every year the group sponsors a trip somewhere. In the past, they have gone to Alabama, Kansas, Florida, Baltimore, Cleveland, and New York City where they are going again in Jan.

Reality Check is a great club to be a part of if anyone out there is looking for community service opportunities or any kind of outreach.

"I went on the trip to Nashville this past spring," said Eric Marker. "This trip was like a mini-Road Rules or Real World. For me personally, this was a mind expanding and eye opening experience."

"I promise you this will be one of the best weeks of your life, should you choose to get on the bus to NYC," said Giger.

"The great thing is there is no joining" said Shroud. Anyone can go to NYC; it doesn't mean that you have to be part of the organization.



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