

# Entertainment

## "Say Anything" Works

by Darrell J. White  
Collegian Staff Writer

Say Anything Directed by Cameron Crowe. Starring John Cusack, Ione Skye, John Mahoney. Rated PG-13 for mild profanity, sexual situations.

rating ★★★★★

Well, sports fans, here we are again in a genre which has produced many movies over the past few years, most all of them mediocre, nothing more, nothing less. A few years ago, Cameron Crowe directed *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, a film of the teeny-bopper mentality which achieved a small cult following for the performance of Christopher Penn, as a typical California surf-punk who is not above ordering pizza for the long and boring period known as history class. (This was presented as a bad thing in high school, but those of us in college know better.) In this movie, Crowe attempted to tackle some serious issues such as dropout rate in our high schools, and teenage pregnancy. He merely touched on those issues, doing nothing more than hinting at them.

Crowe has not fled this genre; rather, he has done some cinematic-growing up. *Say Anything* is an exploration of a phenomenon that all of us have experienced at one time or another: the first date. Crowe handles it lovingly, as if he were looking back fondly in a photo album. John Cusack plays Lloyd Dobbler, your average high school student. He gets good grades, is athletic, and generally a

nice guy all around. His problem: he is hopelessly infatuated with a "brain trapped in the body of a game show hostess."

Diane Court is played by the lovely Ione Skye. She ranks number one academically in high school, and has won a fellowship to go to college in England, outranking all other students in the United States. She has had her share of problems, however. When she was very young, her parents were divorced, and she was forced to choose between both her parents. She has a long list of rich guys willing to go out with her, but as Billy Joel's song said, "she's getting tired of her high-class toys/ She's got her choice." And she doesn't know Lloyd; she is forced to look up his picture in the yearbook.

We fall for Lloyd all the more at the party he takes Diane to on their first date. He is responsible, so he is rendered the "keymaster". (He holds everyone's car keys and decides whether or not someone is able to drive.) The way he handles an overaffectionate and very drunk party-goer consummated the audience's opinion of him: this kid is a good guy. Diane should go out with him.

We are also given a detailed look at Diane's life, which is neatly interwoven with the storyline. Diane really lives her father and is working as hard as she is to please him. Mr. Court (John Mahoney) is somewhat reminiscent of George C. Scott as he runs his retirement home. Yet he has problems, too. He has been under investigation for the past five years from the I.R.S. It appears that he never wanted to hurt anyone; he just wanted the

best for himself and for his daughter.

Diane so wants to please her father that, after she and Lloyd fall into a storybook (yet realistic) romance that completely captivates the audience, she is willing to break it off with Lloyd because her father calls him "a distraction".

Here every male in the audience who has ever been in love can relate to Lloyd's situation. (Boy, can they.) At the same time Lloyd tells Diane he loves her, she dumps him. Just like that. You can tell that she doesn't really want to, but she does anyway. I don't know about anybody else, but I felt a real pain in my heart watching Lloyd, despondent, talking on a payphone in the middle of a pouring rain: "I gave her my heart and she gave me a pen....I feel like I want to cry."

It all seems typical, yet it isn't. Crowe handles this boy-meets-girl story intelligently, turning the main characters lives in to lives of real people, with real problems. This movie is a delight to watch. John Cusack plays his apprehensive male perfectly, with only the smallest traces of Machievellian egocentricity. Ione Skye plays the female nicely: a wee bit nervous, but mainly because she isn't used to hanging around with any distinct crowd. And Cameron Crowe has certainly matured, handling the ritual of boy-meets-girl with such a loving remembrance that it hints at John Boorman's *Hope and Glory*. It's surprising that an irresistible heartwarmer as such can come from such a mediocre genre.

## Lovers - A Winner

by Tracy Fenton  
Collegian Staff Writer

After the opening night of Behrend's production of "Lovers", there were some mixed reviews around campus. Some students were claiming it was better than the previous plays, while others were complaining of a dragging and boring show. After seeing the production second night running, I would say without a doubt "Lovers" was a successful piece of work. The audience of Behrend students, faculty, and general public gave a positive reaction with their laughter and applause. I was truly entertained, somewhat educated, and elevated by the play.

"Lovers", by Brian Friel, is a play taking place in Ireland, year 1966. It consisted of two parts entitled "Winners" and "Losers". With only a cast of eight, the actors did a fine job of keeping the energy alive and the audience alert and laughing. Despite the slight problem of three short power outages, the play got off to a good

start. Tom Barra, as Joseph Brennan and Jennie Kleskie as Margaret Enright created an interesting scene full of imagery and believability without the assistance of many props.

To me, the scene portrayed two young lovers on the brink of entering a forced marriage with trepidation and many illusions. The scene seemed to drag slightly in the middle, but picked up near the end. I was impressed with Jennie Kleskie's ability to shift her emotions so drastically in a matter of moments. Tom Barra was admirable in his role because of his realistic and humorous performance. The characters were representative of the lack of communication and understanding between young lovers anywhere.

Although it was titled "Winners", the scene ending was a bit tragic. It seems as if the author left the interpretation of exactly how the characters died up to the audience. After discussing it with other members of the audience, it's

apparent there can be many different ideas. Some people thought the lovers committed suicide together, yet others believed it was a tragic accident. Overall, it was an entertaining work that left me with satisfaction of money well spent and a mixture of emotions.

The second part of "Lovers" was entitled "Losers". This was quick scene full of energy and laughter. Bill Warner played a magnificent role as a middle-aged Irishman about to get into a marriage along with an annoying mother-in-law. The scene with Bill's character, Andrew Tracey, reciting poetry while 'courting' Hanna Wilson, portrayed by Laura Weaver, was hilarious. The scene with his mother-in-law, played by Pat Hagenbuck (from "Bette and Bo"), was laughter filled too. The audience was definitely impressed by the play by evidence of their enthusiastic applause and conclusively, "Lovers" was a play worthwhile viewing.

## Eriesistable Summer

by Nanette Quatchak  
Entertainment Editor

For those of you that are staying at Behrend for any of the summer sessions, I've got some good news for you. How can there be anything good about spending the summer taking classes when all of your friends have gone home? Well, as a voice of experience, this summer could prove to be one of your better ones if you are staying. Although the definite majority of people at Behrend do go home for the summer, those that stay become very close and have a great time!

Erie, even though it is criticized to no end, can be and is a fun place in the summer time. It happens to be the third largest city in Pennsylvania, it is two hours away from Canada, and it is located right on Lake Erie. These three facts, along with others, make for an eventful and enjoyable summer.

Let's start with the city of Erie itself. Downtown Erie offers the same types of entertainment that the two largest cities of Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh and Philadelphia) do: concerts, musicals, comedians, an arts festival, operas, and plays. Granted, there are not as many locations to house these events, but nonetheless, if you want cultural events to attend, Erie has them.

Now lets discuss the other country that is only two hours away. For some odd reason there are not too many people that take advantage of this opportunity. Canada is a beautiful country and we should take advantage of it's closeness. Toronto, one of Canada's finest cities is only four hours away and for those of you that are under 21, this city provides a great time along with a drinking age of 19.

Erie also provides summer residents with a Great Lake and beach. For those of you that have never been to Presque Isle, you're missing out; from picnicking and partying to swimming, boating, and fishing, Lake Erie offers many different summertime activities. And when the sun goes down don't think about leaving the beach. Why? Because Erie has the second most beautiful sunset in the world. In the world????? Yes, in the world; it is second only to Japan.

And for those of you that are "of age," Erie has some great summer hangouts right on the lake. There's nothing like sitting on a deck over-looking a boat spotted lake with some friends drinking a nice cold beer or two (or three.....).

Let me not forget to mention that Erie is also only two hours away from Buffalo, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh. This is convenient for those occasional to frequent roadtrips to see concerts and sporting events.

So, if I haven't given you a better perspective about staying in Erie for the summer whether you're taking classes or working, I don't know what else to say except, what do you do where you live?

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