

# Cinema Bums

with Tague McAvity and Andrew Rosenfeld  
(they're both thin with a decent head of hair)

### The Scarlet Letter

As the opening credits rolled by, something strange caught my eye, the words "Freely adapted from the novel". Freely adapted really doesn't give you an idea of how butchered the original story is, at least that's what my friend said. And to add insult to injury the director Roland Joffe decided to throw in some gratuitous violence and bloodshed at the climax.

Gary Oldman was brilliant, while Demi Moore was brainless. Demi may be a talented actor when it comes to movies like Indecent Proposal, but she just didn't have what it took to carry off the role of Mistress Pryn in the Scarlet Letter.

Filmed in Nova Scotia, the backdrops for the movie are really spectacular, and in a way, almost make up for the mistakes made by casting. Perhaps if they had used an unknown actress to play Mistress Pryn I could have enjoyed it more. I suppose that the movie has a very good message, in that it tries to emphasise the importance of integrity, and standing up for what we believe in. And it was by no means the worst movie I have ever seen I just think that this is one of those great books that should have stayed a great book.

### The Usual Suspects

Apparently Hollywood has a new strategy: make movies so confusing that they require multiple viewings! However, I don't think it's working, based on the fact that *The Usual Suspects* only lasted one week here. This movie was very confusing, and while some might see all of the twists and turns in it as "complexity" I just see it as a way to conceal a lack-luster movie.

The basic story-line revolves around the adventures of a band of criminal "specialists" (i.e. they commit crimes with flair) and the police interrogation of one of the members, with the objective of shedding light on the secret of who sorts. The movie jolts and jars its way from scene to scene, jumping back and forward in time, from truth to tale, from adventure to interrogation. It's not altogether exciting, at least not compared to what has become the standard for "exciting" these days. The acting is all quite good, but the movie strikes me as being done in a very conventional manner. Perhaps I was just biased towards the whole movie of it. It seems a made-for-TV movie at the start doesn't have that cinema effect.

Kevin Spacey is the star of the show as the crippled "verbal", and yes, he is excellent as usual (remember him from *Seven*? How could you forget... for those of you who have, he was the psychotic serial killer). Unfortunately, he doesn't bail this movie out. I was just left somewhat confused and very unconvincing. *The Usual Suspects* might be worth a try when it comes out on video (you can rewind it and watch it over again!) but for now, from me.

### Strange Days

T: *Strange Days*, one of the newest movies at the box office, is a real thrill-me chill-me suspense flick. Superb acting and a fairly good plot provide ample entertainment for this two and a half hour movie. It reminded me of a cross between *Virtuosity* and *Sex, Lies, and Videotape*.

A: I thought it was entertaining, but it wasn't all that great. I thought the sex and violence was a bit much. It seems that movies have more of that as of late, and *Strange Days* is no exception. It's even worse in this movie because it puts you into a first-person perspective. Speaking of that, we should say what the movie was about!

T: The movie centres around "wire-tripping", a virtual reality trip which allows the user to experience real events in another person's life, along with all the emotions and sensations that come with that experience. The main character, Nero, played by Ralph Fiennes, is a pusher selling wire-trips in a violent, hostile L.A. of the not so distant future.

A: Nero finds himself with a clip of a very significant murder, one which could irrevocably tear apart the already strained relationship between the whites and blacks in the city. Hmm... it seemed a direct allusion to the Rodney King affair.

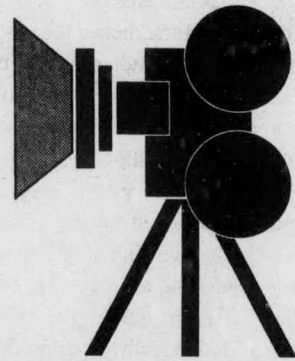
T: I agree with Andrew here, I think there were several indirect references to the whole Rodney King affair that appeared throughout the movie. And the idea of an impending riot was also emphasised repeatedly.

A: Another notable feature of the film was the way it emulated the wire-trips Nero peddled. It pulled you into the experience, which at times was a bit too much. However, at other times, it seemed to be little more than a video game.

T: Maybe there was a surplus of gratuitous sex and violence but I don't believe that it took that much away from the movie. We live in a violent and turbulent society where murder and rape are every day happenings, the only thing that should be considered is that we not let these things become trivial.

A: No comment on that one. To close, I found *Strange Days* was quite exciting and entertaining throughout, but was overkill at times. However, I think the effect of the movie would be much diminished on a small screen, so you might as well go see it at the theatres while you can.

T: I totally agree, *Strange Days* is a high energy suspense thriller with a great climax. Although this was not the best movie I have ever seen, it was one that I would watch again.



**2nd LEVEL**  
**DJ TOP 40/DANCE**  
**THUMPERS**  
**LIVE ROCK n' BLUES**  
**FEATURING**  
**CINEMA OCT 20-21**  
**Highroad - Next weekend**  
*Nightly Specials*  
**377 King Street 450-4339**

**Would you like to work abroad this year?**  
**SWAP**  
 Come and see the SWAP representative on your campus!  
**Wednesday, October 25**  
**12:00 noon - 1:30 pm**  
**Room 103, Student Union Bldg.**

**CRAVINGS**  
**384 King Street Downtown**  
*Pitas Pitas Pitas*  
 • Chicken & Mushroom with Tziziki Sauce  
 • Steak & Mushroom Teriyaki  
 • Vegetarian (we have many vegetarian dishes)  
 • Cajun chicken & mushroom  
 • Donairs  
 Plus Lasagna, Salads, Quiches  
 Bring your books along we'll supply the Espresso  
**Open For Breakfast**  
 \$2.99 Special

**NORGE**  
 CLEANERS AND LAUNDROMAT  
 "The EXTRA Care Cleaners"  
 Since 1962  
**Full Laundromat Featuring:**  
 • Maytag Washers  
 • 35lb and 50lb Oversize Washers (for extra-big loads - SAVE Time & Money)  
 • Large Size Dryers  
 • Large Work Tables For Folding & Sorting  
 • Attendant On Duty  
 • Reading & Study Area With Color T.V.  
 • Drop Off Laundry Service  
 • Professional Dry Cleaning On Site (Specializing In Fine Fabrics & Bridal Wear)  
 • Ample Parking  
 • Air Conditioned  
**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
**458-5535**  
 Come in and Visit Our Facility Today.  
 "You're Assured The Finest"  
 Also at 191 Main Street (North) 472-6551  
 Minutes from UNB & STU at Beaverbrook Court

Selected Pieces  
**Bruno Bobak**  
 O.C., RCA, LLD, DLit  
 Opening October 20, 1995  
 Artist will be present  
 Exhibition continues until November 4, 1995  
**Gallery 78**  
 796 Queen Street  
 Fredericton, NB  
 (506) 454-5192