

High Fidelity is high quality entertainment

BY MARK EVANS

This movie scores big, big points right out of the gate for having one of the most hilarious uses of a telephone I've seen in recent film. That might have something to do with the fact that the scene it's involved in is near-classic, or it might just be because *High Fidelity* is a rock-solid comedy that mixes everything in just the right way to make a really great movie.

Rob Gordon (John Cusack) is a record junkie. Music rules his life. He listens to it, talks about it, and runs his very own record store in a small Chicago neighbourhood. The

other thing that rules his life is disastrous relationships. He has a habit of putting everything in terms of 'Top Five' lists and he has a list of break-ups that his most recent ex, Laura (Iben Hjejle), doesn't even rate on.

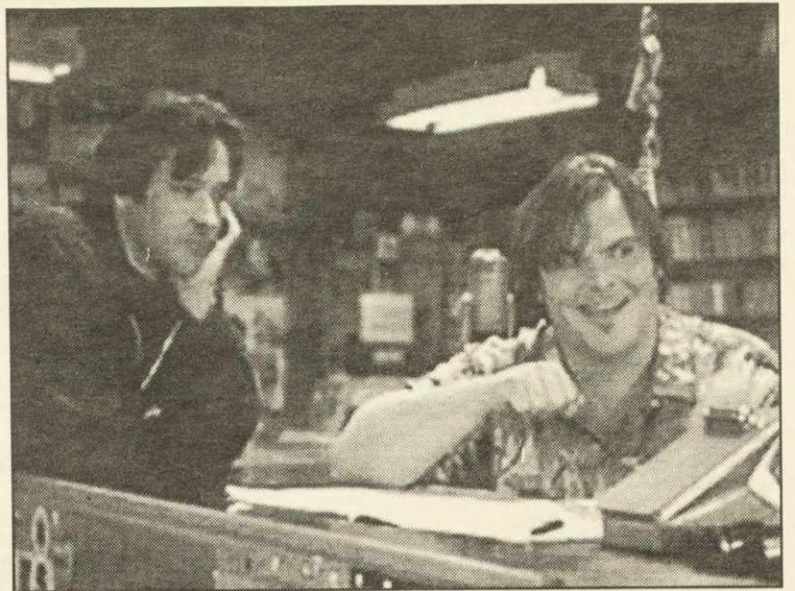
This is the story of a man coping with a terrible dating history and how he deals with break-up after break-up. Rob is a man heavily into denial. He seems incapable of realizing any faults within himself and puts the blame largely on the women he's been seeing. A lot of Rob's conversations take place with the audience, however, and we do

get some insight on what he's been through.

One of Rob's great strengths is that he's a very likeable character, even when he's clearly being a total dimwit. Much of this is based on Cusack's acting, but it's critical to the film. Rob becomes somebody that people are rooting for. After all his hard luck he at least deserves something for his troubles. The message gets pretty deep at times, and this depth is not only refreshing but it doesn't get in the way of the comedy so the two parts both work.

If ever a movie had great casting, it was *High Fidelity*. There is not a single miscast part in this film, from Lisa Bonet as a semi-famous singer to Iben Hjejle as Laura, one of Rob's many love interests. There are a couple of uproarious cameos, notably a wacky appearance by Tim Robbins as a yuppie self-help guru and one by a famous singer that is used to great effect.

The real strength of this film lies in the hands of three people: John Cusack as Rob, Jack Black as Barry, and Todd Louiso as Dick. Barry and Dick are Rob's employ-



Rob (John Cusack) leans on a counter in *High Fidelity*.

ees at the record store and they form the real background of Rob's world. Barry gets most of the films great lines and he reminds me of a funny Chris Farley. He has the strangest hand gestures and acts like a real maniac at times, but that's part of the many things that make him so funny.

The three have an attitude very similar to that of Dante and Randal in *Clerks* - they're absolute geniuses, especially when it comes to music, and that gives them a right to look down on more ignorant customers. This is all great material to work with, and the script is mined

for some great gags. Cusack is just as great here as he was in *Grosse Pointe Blank*, although Rob Gordon is very far removed from the neurotic hit-man Martin Blank.

Bottom line: If you want a good laugh, go see this movie. For some reason it reminded me of *Wonder Boys*, although this is much funnier while *Wonder Boys* has more of a dramatic angle. Not to say that *High Fidelity* doesn't mix things just right, it's just that the amounts are skewed in different ways. Great comedy, great characters, great movie. Three and a half stars out of four.

Final Thought: I'd like to thank anybody who read any of my 22 reviews over the last few months, hope they were entertaining at the very least. I had a blast writing these, and if you're curious as to how the semester broke down...

- 4-star movies: *American Beauty, The Hurricane, Princess Mononoke*
- 3.5-star movies: *Boys Don't Cry, Dogma, Erin Brokovich, High Fidelity, Three Kings, Toy Story 2, Wonder Boys*
- 3-star movies: *Cradle Will Rock, Felicia's Journey, Pitch Black, Romeo Must Die, Stigmata*
- 2.5-star movies: *Fight Club, The World Is Not Enough, Whole Nine Yards*
- 2-star movies: *Scream 3*
- 1.5-star movies: *House on Haunted Hill*
- 1-star movies: none.
- .5-star movies: *Bats*
- 0-star movies: *Double Jeopardy*

UNTRAIN YOUR HEART!

THIS SUMMER, DO EUROPE BY BUS!

BUSABOUT

BUS PASS FOR EUROPE

HOP OFF... HOP ON

CHEAPER! - SAFER! - MORE FUN!

www.busabout.com

TRAVEL CUTS VOYAGES CAMPUS For details and a FREE brochure, visit your local Travel CUTS office. Reg# 2058256.

CANADA 3000

Canada's most modern aircraft fleet!

AIRPORT STANDBY FARES
ONE WAY FARES - HALIFAX to:

VANCOUVER \$330* Plus tax \$50.63	CALGARY \$320* Plus tax \$49.13	TORONTO \$160* Plus tax \$25.13	ST. JOHN'S \$110* Plus tax \$17.63
FT. LAUDERDALE \$180* Plus tax \$40.02	ORLANDO \$180* Plus tax \$40.02	ST. PETERSBURG \$180* Plus tax \$40.02	

* NAV fee add \$7.50 per passenger

FLIGHT SCHEDULE - HALIFAX DEPARTURES APRIL 2000

TO	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
VANCOUVER	-	18:55	-	-	-	-	-
CALGARY	-	18:55	-	-	-	-	-
TORONTO	-	23:25	13:50	23:35	-	-	-
ST. JOHN'S	-	18:30	-	18:40	-	-	-

HALIFAX DEPARTURES TO USA

TO	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
FT. LAUDERDALE	17:40	-	-	-	-	-	-
ORLANDO	-	06:00	-	18:05	-	-	-
ST. PETERSBURG	-	-	06:00	-	-	-	-

AIRPORT STANDBY FARES: Are subject to available seats prior to departure. Passengers may register 2 1/2 hours prior to the scheduled departure of flight. Fares are subject to change without notice. Travel on any specific flight is not guaranteed. Payment (Cash or Credit Card only) must be made on departure. One way travel only. Schedule subject to change without notice.

CANADA 3000
Reliable Affordable Air Travel

Fly for FREE to London!

Extended by popular demand!

TRAVEL CUTS

www.travelcuts.com

FLY for FREE to LONDON!

with Contiki Holiday's European Escape, 25-day tour of 11 countries, 'School's Out' departure. Find out the deal, drop by Travel CUTS today!

Student Union Building
4th Floor
Phone: 494-2054

One tour available - departing May 12, returning June 5. Departures from St. John's, Halifax, Ottawa, Montreal or Toronto. For departures from other cities, add-ons will apply. Must have a valid ISIC. Full details available at Travel CUTS.

Owned and operated by the Canadian Federation of Students