Bringing the beach to your tv screen

A retrospective on spring break movies

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The central pillar of movie making in America has al-
ways been the genre piece, where archetypal figures in
white hats fight archetypal figures in black hats, and
where true love always conquers all. Throughout the
history of cinema we have watched these exercises in
craftsmanship more than works of art. Every now and
then, however, we are surprised, and a director contorts
bends, stretches, or sometimes, just downright sub-
verts the conventions so venerable that they go untouched by
true aficionados of the medium know the real reason to watch the
series (which includes the m u c h - i a d u d
"Beach Blanket Bingo") are more or less
known "Ghost in the Invisible Biki-
er"

An account of a college senior who loses both of
his parents and must care for his eight-year-old
brother. Story of the love and the humor that holds a
family together.

The Treasur of the Siimmre Madre
Directed by John Huston (1948)

"An American classic that manages to have fun
while exploring the darkest of human vices."

— Tim O’Coin ’02

Irish To The Core
The Wolf Tones

"It’s St. Patrick’s Day every day!"

— Liz Maloy ’03

The Modern Humorist
www.modernhumorist.com

"The funniest George W. Bush humor since the
inaugural address."

— Ben Hughes ’01

Seven Days...
Thursday, March 15th
Everclear and Matchbox Twenty at The Centrum, Worcester

Friday, March 16th
Vertical Horizon at Laska Gym, Worcester
The Fleshtones at Lucky Dog, Worcester
The Recipe at Tammany Hall, Worcester
Hatebreed and Sepultura at The Palladium, Worcester

Saturday, March 17th
Dropkick Murphys, Swingin’ Utters, Reach The Sky, Lars Frederiksen & The Bastards, and The Living End at Avalon, Boston
Becky Chance Band at Plantation Club, Worcester
Michigan Blacksnake and Freelance Bishops at Lili’s, Somerville
Mike Phume Band at Kendall Café, Cambridge

Sunday, March 18th
Alice Peacock at Kiva House Concerts, Arlington

Monday, March 19th
Goatwhore, Immolation, The Year of Our Lord, and Incantation at Ball’s Bar, Boston
Clutch at Middle East Club, Cambridge
Jeff Beck at Orpheum Theatre, Boston
Vance Gilbert at Riley Commons, Worcester

Wednesday, March 21st
John Rush at Clark U., Worcester
Josh Ritter and Dave Carter & Tracy Grammer at Passim’s, Cambridge

Thursday, March 22nd
Buck Dewey Big Band, Hyptonic, and The Shelley Winters Project at Lili’s, Somerville
Averi plays to HC
Al improvisational jams, both of which form Averi’s identity. This blend distinguishes them from Dave, despite
their general similarities.

The little improvisation heard on Saturday night was definitely unique, and possibly more unique than the sound
of the rest of their set. Their music was pleasing despite its slightly typical sound though. Definitely wasn’t typical
enough to be displeasing or boring, although it might have seemed so when they performed because of predictable
crowd reactions. A major contributor to my enjoyment of Averi’s performance was definitely the skill that went
into everything, making their music seem so polished and enjoyable. Even the stuff that could have been categorized as
easy listening had enough intensity to be enjoyable. I defi-
nitely believed Perrone when he told me that they had been playing for two years, which is pretty much the
same time that they formed the band. He himself joined at that point, making Averi what it is today.
Before Perrone joined, Lydon, Currier, and Sanders had their own band. Perrone seemed to bring in a good deal
of the "Tazman" films) and a young Burgess Meredith. Meredith and Lew Ayers are best friends vying for O’-
Sullivan’s hand while on a weekend vacation from college.
An offshoot of the screwball comedies that were
so popular in the 30s, "Spring Madness" will always
have a place in the true film-lovers cannon as the birth of
the Spring Break movei.

The first spring break movie was "Spring Madness" (1938) starring Maureen O’Sullivan (one of the best
of the "Tazman"

The genre reached its commercial peak in the mid-60s
with the "Beach Party" series, starring pop star Frankie
Avalon and mouseketeer Annette Funicello. Actually,
true of the Beach Party series, starring Frankie Avalon
and Annette Funicello, were a spring break ideal in the
1960s.

The Beach Boys, Stevie Wonder, and Nancy Sinatra all
rock the surf shack in "Beach Party," and James Brown,
controlled the crowd at Altamont. There is also some
damn fine rock and roll. Dick Dale and the Del-Tones
rock the surf shack in "Beach Party," and James Brown,
The Beach Boys, Stevie Wonder, and Nancy Sinatra all
make appearances in the eight-film cycle.

Interest in the Spring Break genre waned in the 70s as
the New Hollywood chose to explore more serious
films. But the 80s found a resurgence of interest in
youth-oriented entertainment, and the genre made a tri-
umphant return. Rob Reiner’s "The Sure Thing" is the
best. Starring John Cusack, Anthony Edwards ("E.R.")
Tim Robbins, and Daphne Zuniga (Mallory on "Family Ties"). "The Sure Thing" follows a boyish, devil-may-care,
party boy (Cusack) on a cross-country road trip with a
studious, organized, librarian-type (Zuniga). Naturally
speaks fly between the two, which is what we wanted in
the first place. Oh yeah, and Nicolette Sheridan (as the
title sure thing) is really, really, hot.

Other notables in the 80s include "Revenge of the Nerds
II. Nerds in Paradise," from which Edwards is no-
tably absent, and "Losin’ It," starring an extremely
young (pre-"Friends") Tom Hanks.

"Losin’ It" follows a group of teenagers in the mid-60s
as they voyage to Tijuana to lose their virginity.
Hijinks ensue when they pick up an older woman looking to
secure herself a speedy divorce, and arrive in a city that
is not what they expect.

Which brings us up to the present and the sad state the
gener is currently in. With the exception of last year’s
"Road Trip," the Spring Break genre is all but dead. It
lives on only in the "Girls Gone Wild" video series, and
that is a sad death for such a noble genre. However,
to the marvels of home entertainment technol-
gy, the great Spring Break films or yore live on. So,
if you need a quick break from the beach, the booze, or
the babes of Spring Break (or if your like me and aren’t
going anywhere), curl up on your couch and pop one of
these movies into the VCR for some fun in the sun.

Averi plays to HC