

PHOTO COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

Sarah Polley stars in the new horror film "Dawn of the Dead." After a zombie epidemic takes over the world, the few remaining survivors hide out in a suburban mall.

#### "Dawn"

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and innovative shots. Screenplay writer James Gunn adds genuine humor to the film, which is rare for a horror flick. Gunn develops the characters in the film well, causing the audience to sympathize with their seemingly hopeless situation.

Like "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" in the fall, "Dawn of the Dead" is pumping new blood into the horror scene and helping to steer the genre away from teen slasher films. Considering the success of current remakes, we

can likely expect more revamped horror classics to find their way onto the big screen in the near future.

As for "Dawn of the Dead," do not rule out the possibilities of nightmares after viewing.

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#### Fashion

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minous skirt and a shrunken, clinging jacket or blazer are essential pieces.

Above the ankle pants can be worn loose and laid-back or with a slimmer flit. They look trendy with ballet flats a la Audrey Hepburn as well as with pretty kitten heels or sexy stilettos, which can be worn with a slimmer pant.

Full skirts should come in at the waist, creating a womanly figure. This feminine look is drawn straight from the 1950s. Use a slender belt to help accentuate the waist and wear either pointy flats or strappy sling backs.

As for the jacket, what you wear underneath matters. A pretty camisole-like top or basic shirt that comes to the waistline is ap-

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propriate. Since these jackets will show wrists and décolletage, jewelry can be bold.

Speaking of accessories, if you can't invest in any trendy clothes this season, then accessories can update your look instantly and on a budget. Pearls, cocktail rings resembling that of a certain Latina pop diva, more linear chandelier earrings, peep-toe shoes, chain-handle bags, purses with gold hardware, metallic shoes and bags, platform sandals and crocodile or alligator skin accessories are all big.

While classic pearls are elegant and classy, create an original look by wearing layers of pearls in different colors around your neck, wrist, ankle or waist.

Crocodile skin bags are also hot and still tame enough to pair with a basic outfit during the day.

This spring and summer fash.

This spring and summer, fashion is meant to be vivacious, so allow yourself some freedom with your style.

If you have a love of fashion, the Fashion Board of USC is inviting new members and has two meetings left in the semester. The group meets in Russell House room 304 every other Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

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# 'The O.C.' makes waves as TV's guilty pleasure

I can't pinpoint the day I fell in versation, you sit there — love with "The O.C." I never want- amazed — memorizing bits of the

ed to. The show, as a whole, just sounds dumb. Rich teens with rich parents and rich problems and a deeply rich set of writers who manage to boggle our minds with a lexicon none of us have bothered to tap into in our years

DAVID STAGG Third-year media arts student

of learning the English language.
Admittedly, it's not verbose in
the "Frasier" sense of the word,
but the show is so witty, so pointed, so exact and to the point, that
after nearly every gem of a con-



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

Benjamin McKenzie stars as Ryan in the hit show, "The O.C."

versation, you sit there — after the amazed — memorizing bits of the dialogue hoping that maybe — You just maybe — you'll remember an exchange and use it in your too man

everyday conversation.

Ironically enough, the title doesn't even make sense. One more reason to hate the show. "The Orange County." Somewhere in there, there's a predicate nominative and a subject noun and a pejorative verb and a bad case of acne that sends English majors, linguists and columnists who love the TV show spinning in their graves (read: couches). It's the English language in a blender.

It only makes sense then that the plots of the show sometimes feel like they've been through a

> blender. Random student meets former overdosee in a therapy session and falls for him; oblivious to the fact that she has a boyfriend and everything she does (namely spend copious amounts of time with the friend from therapy) would grounds for the boyfriend to be upset.

High school kid falls for his ex-girlfriend's (incredibly attractive) mother and begins havcopious amounts of sex with her as the mother's exboyfriend (the current boyfriend's roommate's grandfather) begins making booty calls that

she would fulfill

literally seconds

after the high schooler ends the "relationship."

You can't even use pronouns

You can't even use pronouns to describe anything. There are too many shes, hes and theys. If it sounds confusing, it just might be. It very well may be far-fetched. But to me, it's every Wednesday night, and I understand it.

I mean, I get it. I may not live in Orange County (although I'm from a city that is a rapidly growing suburb with a beach within an hour), but I connect with

them.
Their languages speak beyond cultural boundaries. Their characters speak to me, and if you'd let them, they'd speak to you, too.

So what if I haven't overdosed? Or started a fight at my guardian's father's high-end "Man of the Year" acceptance party? Or had sex with my ex-girlfriend's mother?

I know they're just reaching out to be loved, and I am there, every Wednesday night at nine, playing their psychologist; only with our relationship. I'm the one on the couch, but doing the listening.

God, I want to hate the show. I never wanted to like a TV show anyway, especially one that, after taking a good, long look at myself, I guess I don't really relate to after all.

But maybe that's the beauty of it: It takes you away from all your problems. It's like legal drug-taking. I wouldn't tread around the word "addiction" when it comes to watching the show.

When all is said and done, "The O.C." will still be there for me. Whether my friends get mad at me, or I missed a class, or I forgot to turn in my homework, I'll always know I've got Ryan and Seth and Summer and Marissa to turn to. I never wanted to love them, but their pull is undeniable. And now, to deny "The O.C." would be to deny a small part of me.

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## Joan Rivers fights back with new show

BY OCTAVIO ROCA

There are a lot of funny women

— then there's Joan Rivers.
Irreverent and iconoclastic, definitely not politically correct, cosmetically enhanced and improbably glamorous, the trailblazing comedienne was there before Ellen and before Rosie, before Margaret Cho and Kathy Griffin, almost before Phyllis Diller and Carol Burnett.

She's still here. Her one-woman show, "Can We Talk?" is her latest frontal assault on movie stars, politicians and whoever else stands in the way of her crystalclear social wisdom.

Throughout her four-decadesand-counting career, Rivers made
the parents of baby boomers laugh
on the old Ed Sullivan Show,
emerged as a dangerously hip
comic on her 1965 debut on "The
Tonight Show Starring Johnny
Carson." She later gathered
around her a whole new cult with
her own late-night hosting duties,
and is now a hit on college campuses with kids who get her fresh,

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valid through 4/2004 -- one der customer PRESENT COUPON & STEIDENT ID toxic humor perhaps better than anyone else.

"I've always been cutting edge,"
Rivers says in her trademark
raspy, rushed delivery. "It's always
been that way. You have to remember I'm always on Howard
Stern," she adds, referring to the recently censored radio host, "and I
play colleges all the time. They get

Rivers started as a shlump but became an elegant, bona fide babe in her forties: She has an in-yourface honesty about plastic surgery.

"I'd rather get out of an old car with a new face than get out of new car with an old face."

It doesn't faze Rivers that the celebrity Web site www.awfulplasticsurgery.com has named her the "third scariest-looking celebrity" (after New York socialite Jocelyn Wildenstein and "Can't Stop the Music" star Bruce Jenner). "I haven't had that much done."

Rivers is at least 70 — "You want to know my real birthday? You find it" — and a grandmother. "But I'm not grandma sitting at home with a book. When people come up and ask me, 'Aren't you thrilled to be a "bubba"?' I ask them: 'What is your problem?"

She was born Joan Alexandra Molinsky, in Brooklyn on June 8, 1933. Her first taste of the stage came when she was at Barnard College, where she starred in almost all their student productions and graduated Phi Beta Kappa.

On her own after her 1958 divorce, Rivers committed herself to show business and never looked back. She married Edgar Rosenberg in 1964. Their daughter

Melissa made Rivers "the happiest woman" when she gave birth to Edgar Cooper Endicott, Rivers' first grandson, in 2000.

Rivers' several lives - "I think of it as one long, long career. I'm hanging by a thread" - include these highlights: an early stint on "Second City" and writing jobs with "Candid Camera," stand-up gigs in Greenwich Village and all over the Borscht Belt, a small part in 1969's "The Swimmer" opposite Burt Lancaster, a regular column for the Chicago Tribune, national prominence after her first "Tonight Show" appearance, then her own "Late Show Starring Joan Rivers" that helped launch the Fox Network in 1986.

As a charter officer of the Fashion Police and scourge of the red carpet at the Oscars, Rivers says, "I was the first to ask, 'What are you wearing?' And now everybody does it. I think every designer in America should dress me for free."

When Rivers' husband, Edgar died in 1987, she threw herself into both show business and social activism, becoming national spokeswoman for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and speaking out for civil rights.

"Seriously now, this gay marriage debate," she says, "How dare they? It is insane that with two men you can't get on his health plan and he can't get on yours, that you can't make life decisions. How dare anyone decide against that?"

"Besides," she adds, now in her stage persona, "why should straights be the only ones to endure the hell of divorce?"





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