

MOVIES

'Boys and Girls' battles question friendship, romance

BY CARRIE COOPER
SPECIAL WRITER

Relationships can be very complicated, especially at a young age. The cycle starts out at childhood where boys and girls avoid one another for fear of "cooling it" progressing to the friendship stage, which could later lead to infatuation.

But when the relationship becomes physical, the challenges of boy versus girl and friendship versus romance arise. The film *Boys and Girls: Warning: Sex Changes Everything* explores this very concept.

The comedy *Boys and Girls* is a Dimension film and a Punch 21 Production starring Freddie Prinze Jr. (*She's All That*), Claire Forlani (*Meet Joe Black*), Jason

Biggs (*American Pie*) and Amanda Detmer (*Drop Dead Gorgeous*).

Directed by Robert Iscove and produced by Jay Cohen, the film takes a look at the complications of relationships between boys and girls from childhood to college.

Ryan (Freddie Prinze Jr.) and Jennifer (Claire Forlani) meet as kids on an airplane setting the tone for their life-long relationship. Like many young boys and girls they dislike one another. Over the next few years they meet again at different stages in their lives, but are total opposites.

Once they meet again at the University of California at

Berkeley, they start to develop a friendship. Jennifer has been burned by love one too many times so she decides to play the field, while Ryan is also looking for the right girl—the kind of girl he can "do laundry with." So when Ryan's roommate, Hunter (Jason Biggs), encourages him to date around he realizes that the only girl he cares for is the one who has been there all along.

Jennifer, on the other hand, values her friendship with Ryan. So when she is faced with feelings that go beyond being just

friends she is afraid of ruining their friendship.

It just might take Hunter and Jennifer's roommate Amy (Amanda Detmer) to help Jennifer and Ryan get together. But will Jennifer realize that the love of her life just might be her best friend?

Much like Ryan and Jennifer, Freddie Prinze Jr. and Claire Forlani struggle to make it work,

but lack chemistry. While Prinze is no stranger to movies dealing with adolescence, he alone can't hold this film, not even with his good looks.

Jason Biggs and Amanda Detmer provide the comic relief, or what little comic relief they could in the short amount of time they were on the screen.

Heather Donahue (*The Blair Witch Project*) and pop-singing sensation Monica Arnold were

able to test out their acting skills in this film but if you blink in this film you might have missed them. What should have been a strong supporting cast ended up very weak.

While *Boys and Girls* lacks chemistry and a strong supporting cast it does a great job of looking at the complications of relationships. The funniest scene was saved for when the credits roll.



Grown up: Childhood friends Jennifer (Claire Forlani) and Ryan (Freddie Prinze Jr.) deal with the heartache and happiness of falling in love in "Boys and Girls."

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