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St. Louis Post-Dispatch

May 21, 1998
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Index Terms:

MOVIE
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REVIEW - FILM
"STILL BREATHING"

QUIRKY DATE MOVIE STARS BRENDAN FRASER, JOANNA GOING

Author: *Joe Holleman*

Post-Dispatch Film Critic

Article Text:

There is nothing unique about a romantic comedy that revolves around someone finding their soul mate, the love of their life.

But that plot gets some quirky twists in "**Still Breathing**," starring **Brendan Fraser** and **Joanna Going**.

The twist is that Fletcher (**Fraser**), like all of his male ancestors, finds his soul mate in his dreams, literally. Once they have that vision, it is up to them to go find that woman, wherever she may be.

In this case, Fletcher lives in San Antonio and realizes that his true love, Ros (Going), lives in Los Angeles.

To complicate matters, Ros is a con artist, who first believes that Fletcher is her next mark, a rich Texan being set up for an oil swindle by her partners in crime.

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When Fletcher tries to convince her that he is motivated only by his love, she then thinks he may be trying to run a con of his own. He persuades her to go back to Texas with him, where she meets Fletcher's grandmother, Ida (Celeste Holm), who tries to convince Ros that it's good she was the vision in Fletcher's dream, just as Ida was for his grandfather.

Fighting the feeling of true love, Ros runs back to LA, only to eventually realize that Fletcher is the man of her dreams.

The story itself is good, although director/writer James Robinson sometimes tries to be a bit too quirky.

This movie succeeds mostly because of the sexy charm of its two principal actors.

Fraser walks close to the line of overdoing the eccentricities of his character, but he leavens it with enough earthy realism.

Going has a good, hard edge in her role, with enough talent to let rays of vulnerability slip out.

And if we want to start talking about "date" movies, this one ranks high on the list.

"Still Breathing"

*** (out of 4)

Rating: PG-13

Running time: 1:45

Opens Friday at the Crestwood, St. Charles

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