





**Posted: Mon., Apr. 7, 1997**

## **Still Breathing**

(Romantic comedy --- Color) A Zap Pictures production in association with Seattle Pacific Investments. Produced by James F. Robinson, Marshall Persinger. Executive producer, Joyce Schweickert. Co-executive producer, Janet Graham. Directed, written by James F. Robinson

Fletcher McBracken ..... Brendan Fraser  
Rosalyn Willoughby ..... Joanna Going  
Ida ..... Celeste Holm  
Elaine ..... Ann Magnuson  
The Tree Man ..... Lou Rawls  
Philip ..... Angus MacFadyen  
Cameron ..... Toby Huss  
Tomas ..... Paolo Seganti  
New Mark ..... Michael McKean

**By [JOE LEYDON](#)**

**First-time feature filmmaker James F. Robinson strikes just the right note of romantic whimsy in "Still Breathing," a light and bright romantic comedy about an ingenuous young Texan's attempts to woo a beautiful con woman who is, quite literally, the woman of his dreams. Appealing performances by Brendan Fraser and Joanna Going add to the fun in a pic that, with clever marketing, could score respectable B.O. before finding an even bigger audience on cable and cassette.**

Fraser is well cast as Fletcher, a dreamy-eyed eccentric who lives in San Antonio and works, sporadically, as a puppeteer and street performer. As pic begins, Fletcher is haunted by visions of a beautiful woman he's never

met. For most folks, this might be frightening. But Fletcher accepts it as his fate as a McBracken: For generations, each male member of the family has dreamed of his eventual wife long before making her acquaintance.

In one especially disturbing vision, however, Fletcher sees his "dream girl" brutally dealing with a would-be mugger. (The capper to this brief sequence is a genuine hoot.) Turns out that, in the real world, Rosalyn (Going), the object of Fletcher's unconscious affections, is a cynical L.A. con artist who makes a reasonably prosperous living by bilking would-be suitors in an art scam.

Early in "Still Breathing," Rosalyn convinces a wealthy Argentine (Paolo Seganti) to pay a ridiculously inflated price for a painting she admires. (The art gallery owner is part of the sting.) Afterward, she rids herself of the smitten fellow by planting evidence to suggest she has AIDS.

The latter development might have come across as unacceptably crude if Going weren't able to convey a hint of long-dormant vulnerability in Rosalyn. In conversations with her mentor, Elaine (Ann Magnuson), Rosalyn admits that she is reaching the point of total burnout as an amoral manipulator. Even so, she's willing to try yet another sting, and Elaine promises to set her up with a "rich Texan."

Meanwhile, back in San Antonio, Fletcher has another dream, one that tells him he will find the love of his life in Formosa. So he drops everything and books a flight to China. During an L.A. stopover, however, he learns about a trendy bar named Formosa, and decides to check out the place. Naturally, that's where he sees Rosalyn, who's waiting for her latest mark. One thing leads to another, thanks to misinterpreted signals and mistaken assumptions, and complications ensue.

Much to her surprise and discomfort, Rosalyn finds herself growing genuinely fond of Fletcher. She even agrees to return with him to San Antonio, where he introduces her to his beloved Aunt Ida (Celeste Holm) and his equally eccentric friends.

The road to true love hits a speed bump when Fletcher spills the beans about his visions, and Rosalyn learns he really isn't the millionaire she assumed. But this delays the happily-ever-after ending for only a few scenes.

Fraser is winning in a tricky role that calls for him to be at once engagingly innocent and nobody's fool. In one very funny scene, Fletcher listens with steadily mounting annoyance to an L.A. smoothie's condescending remarks about Texas. When he can take no more, he devastates the guy with some well-aimed put-downs that likely will elicit cheers and applause from many audiences.

Going, too, has to strike a challenging balance in her performance, and she is every bit as successful. Early on, it's revealed that the seemingly hard-bitten Rosalyn has been distracted by her own golden-lit dreams. Going is extremely deft at revealing flashes of romantic yearning beneath her character's tough facade. Just as Fletcher brings out the best in Rosalyn, Going and Fraser bring out the best in each other.

In addition to Holm and Magnuson, the fine supporting cast includes Angus MacFadyen as the art-gallery owner who gets his comeuppance from Fletcher, and Michael McKean as an arrogant businessman who brings out Rosalyn's predatory side. Lou Rawls gets prominent billing for playing the Tree Man, one of Fletcher's colorful San Antonio friends, but apparently much of his performance was left on the cutting-room floor.

Robinson allows his story to unfold at an aptly leisurely pace. But he is annoyingly fuzzy about a few key details. It's never entirely clear whether Fletcher is well-to-do or near-impoorished. He may be just a street performer --- and, occasionally, a collage artist --- but he seems to have more than enough money to maintain

a large house and pay for impulsive trips to China. Even fairy tales should pay more attention to such details.

Attractively lensed on San Antonio and Los Angeles locations by John Thomas ("Barcelona"), "Still Breathing" sustains its warmly romantic tone with offhanded ease without ever turning silly or syrupy. The impressively eclectic musical score includes everything from operatic excerpts to Texas swing to "Harlem Nocturne." At one point, Holm plays the tuba with a small ensemble for a pleasingly jazzy version of Chopin's "Berceuse." Like many other things in "Still Breathing," the number works much better than you would ever suspect Camera (Deluxe color), John Thomas; editor, Sean Albertson; music, Paul Mills; production design, Denise Pizzini; art direction, Bob West; costume design, Susanna Puisto; sound (Dolby), J. Byron Smith; assistant director, Maria L. Melograne; casting, Amy Lippens. Reviewed at South by Southwest Film Festival, March 15, 1997. Running time: 109 min

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# Los Angeles Times

## Movie Review

*Visions of Love, Romance in Delightful 'Still Breathing'*  
[Home Edition]

Los Angeles Times - Los Angeles, Calif.

Author: KEVIN THOMAS

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## Document Text

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At the beginning of Jim Robinson's delightful debut feature "Still Breathing," an attractive young woman, Roz (Joanna Going), is walking down a dark Hollywood alley where her car is parked when a man pulls a gun on her, only to be hit by a car. A shaken Roz calls 911 at a pay phone outside the landmark Formosa Cafe.

At that very second a young man, Fletcher (Brendan Fraser), in San Antonio has a vision of fragmented images of Roz and the Formosa's neon sign in the dark of night. At that moment you know it's just a matter of time before Fletcher locates Roz, the instant woman of his dreams. When they do meet, at the Formosa, Roz assumes Fletcher is the super-rich Texan that her pal Elaine (Ann Magnuson, aptly tart) has lined up to con into parting with major bucks for a worthless piece of art.

"Still Breathing" is really Roz's story. We all know women like Roz, attractive and intelligent, who have come to L.A. in hopes of launching a career and finding love only to find disappointment in either or both instances. A woman of apparent, if vague, artistic aspirations, Roz has in desperation become a crook hiding behind her job description as a "fine arts consultant."

Roz has in fact had such lousy luck with L.A. men that she gets kicks out of relieving guys of large sums of money. She has reached such depths of cynicism that we understand why she hesitated to dial 911. The best she can say for herself is that she's "still breathing."

Fletcher is going to throw Roz for a loop. He's this sweet, sensitive hunk, an artist of various pursuits whose principal work is playing a trumpet with a group of street musicians (who include Lou Rawls, no less) who perform on Alamo Plaza. Roz is not above resorting to sex to close a deal, but here's a guy who doesn't want to rush things.

Robinson brings a great deal of passion, humor and good dialogue to these familiar trappings of romantic comedy. There's a depth and caring to "Still Breathing" that you don't find in the usual major studio fare. The point is not that Roz is not what she seems but that she's lost touch with the person she once was, the person Fletcher and his equally free-spirited grandmother (Celeste Holm, radiant as ever) perceive her to be. Holm's Ida, speaking from experience, zeros right in on Roz, remarking how easy it is for a woman who is smart and beautiful, a formidable combination, to become disillusioned with men.

Although a handsome, well-burnished production, "Still Breathing" is not without first-film problems. Robinson has given Fletcher and Ida enough definition and substance so that they don't emerge as merely arty, ethereal types for all their fervent belief in love at

first sight--or rather, vision.

But because money is such a major item for Roz you wonder about Fletcher and Ida's sources of income. Ida has taken a small but elegant cottage, a tremendously inviting place signifying clearly some measure of wealth, for Fletcher to live in. We can only conclude that Fletcher and Ida don't worry about money because they have enough not to do so.

We are also left to understand that Fletcher's parents are no longer living rather than living elsewhere; in this film, vagueness about finances and death are unnecessarily distracting. Also, Robinson's opening sequence is staged with such swift, elliptical virtuosity it can leave you needlessly confused if you look away from the screen for so much as a second.

\*

Going has real presence and ability, and you hope that she will break out of the promising leading lady category. Fraser looks to be a big star about to happen. He's physically imposing and has an acting range that encompasses the hilarious shenanigans of "George of the Jungle" to the strong, unapologetically gay son of "The Twilight of the Gods" to Fletcher, an intelligent romantic. Fraser has that knack of seeming to inhabit his characters totally--and he has a sense of humor, a crucial ingredient for a good-looking star.

\* MPAA rating: PG-13, for sensuality and a scene of violence. Times guidelines: The film is suitable for mature older children.

'Still Breathing'

Brendan Fraser: Fletcher McBracken

Joanna Going: Roz Willoughby

Celeste Holm: Ida McBracken

Ann Magnuson: Elaine

Lou Rawls: Tree Man

An October Films release of a Zap Pictures production in association with Seattle Pacific Investments. Writer-director Jim Robinson. Producers Robinson, Marshall Persinger. Executive producer Joyce Schweickert. Cinematographer John Thomas. Editor Sean Albertson. Costumes Susanna Puisto. Music Paul Mills. Production designer Denise Pizzini. Running time: 1 hour, 48 minutes.

\* Exclusively at the UA Westwood, Westwood Boulevard one block south of Wilshire, (310) 475-9444; Cineplex Odeon Showcase, 614 N. La Brea at Melrose, (213) 777-FILM #175; and Town Center, Bristol at Anton, South Coast Plaza, Costa Mesa, (714) 751-4184 and (714) 777-FILM #086.

PHOTO: An artist-musician (Brendan Fraser) thinks he's found the woman of his dreams (Joanna Going) in the romantic comedy "Still Breathing."; PHOTOGRAPHER: October Films

Credit: TIMES STAFF WRITER

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## FILM REVIEW

### "STILL BREATHING"

BY DUANE BYRGE

SEATTLE- "Still Breathing" is a breath of fresh air in the independent film scene: a smart and whimsical romantic comedy.

It stands tall amid the usual dour fodder about suicide or sexual identity that clutters the indie scene. Starring Brendan Fraser and Joanna Going, this good-natured treat was a hit among festivalgoers at the Seattle International Film Festival during the weekend. Similarly, it should win approval on the selectsite circuit once it is released. A savvy distributor could ring up some heady sales in sophisticated filmgoing communities such as Seattle and capture hearts in college towns.

In lifestyle, Fletcher (Fraser) and Rosalyn (Going) couldn't be more opposites. He's an easygoing, charitable chap from San Antonio who gets a lot of gratification from entertaining underprivileged children with his puppet show; she's a driven, materialistic hustler from Los Angeles who preys on Texans and "Persians with Mercedes," using her charm to separate them from their cash.

In writer-director-producer Jim Robinson's scenario, they don't meet cute, rather, they meet magically: Fletcher has visions of Roz outside the Formosa Cafe in Hollywood. In essence, the story line might be categorized as magical realism -- The stiff boundaries of the real world don't work here -- as the two connect in this transcendently sweet way.

"Still Breathing" is at once charming, funny and wickedly droll. Robinson's sprightly storytelling is constantly engaging. Admittedly, the film's surface charms are its best assets, and Robinson generally downplays the characters' darker sides, which sometimes seem a bit slick. Nevertheless, Fraser and Going are sympathetic and charismatic.

Technically, "Still Breathing" percolates with zesty flourishes: John Thomas' luminous cinematography and Paul Mills' tangy music are perfect tones for this luscious romancer.



## Daily News of Los Angeles (CA)

### 'STILL BREATHING' DOES IT BETTER

May 22, 1998

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Section: L.A. LIFE

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Source: Glenn Whipp Daily News Film Critic

**Illustration:** Photo

Sometimes a movie possesses such a quiet beauty that it genuinely casts a spell on you while you're watching.

"**Still Breathing**," the debut of writer-director Jim Robinson, is such a film, a romantic comedy that stands the genre on its ear. It's a movie filled not with jokey concepts or inane banter but with grace and charm and two wonderful performances from leads Brendan **Fraser** and Joanna Going. To call it a great date movie would limit its accomplishment. It's a great movie, period.

"**Still Breathing**" follows Fletcher McBracken (**Fraser**), a San Antonio street musician who has inherited a unique family trait. His grandfather and father both had visions of the women they were to marry and then went out and found them. Fletcher waits for his moment, too, cutting out and piecing together eyes and noses and faces from various magazine photos, trying to come up with a composite of his future bride.

Then one night while sleeping on the piano (it helps make the visions clearer), Fletcher sees her - The One - in a dream, and what he sees isn't good. She's being mugged by a guy with a gun. He also visualizes the word "Formosa," a clue to his love's location.

The woman Fletcher sees in his dream seems an unlikely match. Roz Willoughby (Going), a cynical L.A. con artist, has been burned by love so often that she's decided to make a living out of cheating would-be suitors. She and gal pal Elaine (Ann Magnuson) scam insincere lotharios by leading them on and then making them buy worthless art to prove their intentions. They split the money; the guys get the bum's rush.

Fletcher comes to Los Angeles to catch an international flight to the island



of Formosa, believing that is where he'll find Ms. Right. While he's waiting for his plane, he notices a woman paging through a tourism brochure that includes a picture of the famous Formosa Cafe in Hollywood. Fletcher puts two and two together and drives to the restaurant to meet Roz. She's there, all right, only she has come to the Formosa on a tip that there's a rich Texan coming into town who will be an easy mark. Boy, has she got the wrong man.

It's a quirky premise and could have gone awfully wrong if writer-director Robinson wasn't completely in tune with the material. Elements like Fletcher's rock sculpture hobby or his grandmother playing Chopin on the tuba or the repeated dream sequences that lead the two lovers to each other seem rather precious on paper.

But Robinson has the perfect touch with the material, using Chopin's haunting ``Berceuse" (Opus 57) in several sections of the score to create an aural beauty that nicely compliments some of the breathtaking images that he puts on the screen. The movie somehow captures the essence of stillness in a way that envelops and interests the audience. It's a stellar accomplishment, this quiet, rapturous beauty, because so few films can manage to be both absorbing and radiant at the same time.

**Fraser** gives a wonderfully modulated performance, conveying both Fletcher's oddball quirks and down-to-earth strengths. Going had an even more challenging task, taking Roz's apathy toward life and love and bringing her to a place where she feels open again to life's possibilities. Going communicates all this and more, faltering only slightly in believability during the con-game scenes.

But that's a small quibble for a film that manages the neat trick of being eclectic, interesting, romantic and moving. Anyone looking for an antidote to ``Godzilla" or the often overblown romanticism of ``The Horse Whisperer" would do well to see ``**Still Breathing**." It's one of the gems of the screen year.

#### THE FACTS

The film: ``**Still Breathing**" (PG-13; sensuality and a scene of violence).

The stars: Brendan **Fraser** and Joanna Going.

Behind the scenes: Written and directed by James Robinson. Released by October Films.

Running time: One hour, 50 minutes.

Playing: United Artists Westwood; Cineplex Odeon Showcase, Hollywood.

Our rating: Three and One Half Stars.

# The New York Times

- Review - Movies - New York Times

06/03/2007 11:57 PM

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**The New York Times**  
Monday, June 4, 2007

**Movies**

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**N.Y. TIMES REVIEW**

**FILM REVIEW; Some Enchanted Evening, Man Sees True Love Across a Crowded Nation**

**By STEPHEN HOLDEN**  
Published: May 22, 1998, Friday

PRINT

SAVE

Can a hunky free-spirited street performer from San Antonio thaw the icy heart of a beautiful Los Angeles fine arts consultant who is so burned out on men that she fakes the symptoms of AIDS to drive suitors out of her house?

The answer is, of course, a foregone conclusion. It's the getting there that gives "Still Breathing," a gooey, swooning swatch of romantic hyperventilation, its queasy charms. And let it be said that surrendering to those charms could be as guilt-inducing as polishing off a pint of Haagen-Dazs chocolate ice cream before lunch.

If this movie, written, directed and produced by James F. Robinson, finds a wide audience, it could prove as hazardous to the romantic health of the country as that irresistible Rodgers and Hammerstein anthem "Some Enchanted Evening." That ballad, from "South Pacific," seduced an entire postwar generation into imagining that true love would mystically arrive in the person of a stranger glimpsed across a crowded room.

"Still Breathing" raises the ante much further. Its hero, Fletcher McBracken (Brendan Fraser), shares the family trait with his male ancestors of having romantic second sight. After having premonitory dreams of their one and onlys, the McBracken men will travel thousands of miles, if necessary, to find and wed these dream lovers.

Fletcher is one of those lucky individuals who seems to subsist quite comfortably on nothing. When not lolling around his comfortably messy San Antonio house listening to Verdi and making homemade collages from photographs of pretty models, he is out on the streets of San Antonio giving free puppet shows to adorable Chicano children.

While lying in bed one evening Fletcher has a vision of a gorgeous young woman narrowly avoiding a brutal rape and murder on the streets of Los Angeles. Instinctively realizing she is his true love, he sets out to find her. Once he discovers his dream, Roz Willoughby (Joanna Going), in a moody Los Angeles bar, he spends the rest of the movie persistently and charmingly wooing her.

Although Roz also senses something mystical in the air (the way he tends a knee scratch precipitates a flashback to a special childhood friendship), she resists giving in to the inevitable. Even after Fletcher brings Roz home to meet his kooky but warm-hearted friends and cuddly grandmother (Celeste Holm), who sympathizes with the special agonies suffered by women who are born both beautiful and smart, she refuses to swoon into her fate.

The movie's biggest problem is Roz, an intransigent sourpuss for no discernible reason. Good-looking and successful with a bevy of eligible men at her beck and call, Roz mopes around Los Angeles in an inexplicable funk. Aside from her obvious beauty and intelligence, the movie never shows us what Fletcher finally sees in her. The poor guy keeps reiterating that he senses the "real" Roz underneath her irritating sulk, but Ms. Going provides scarcely a hint of who that might be. It's not for lack of screen time. The movie gives her plenty of room to blossom into something adorable.

Thanks to the presence of Mr. Fraser, the movie is still much warmer than the recent "City of Angels," which it resembles. His portrayal of an impossibly wonderful, caring, intuitive, patient, handsome 90's-style hippie is so good-natured and easygoing he makes this dreamboat seem almost credible. If Mr. Fraser continues to take such roles, he could become the 90's answer to the Patrick Swayze of "Dirty Dancing." Hollywood could do with a few more warm-blooded Romeos like Fletcher. Unfortunately their melting looks won't amount to much if the Juliets they thaw never warm up.

"Still Breathing" is rated PG-13 (Parents strongly cautioned). It has sexual situations and some strong language.

**The New York Times**  
**Travel**  
[nytimes.com/travel](http://nytimes.com/travel)

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STILL BREATHING

Directed and written by James F. Robinson; director of photography, John Thomas; edited by Sean Albertson; music by Paul Mills; production designer, Denise Pizzini; produced by Mr. Robinson and Marshall Persinger; released by October Films. Running time: 109 minutes. This film is rated PG-13.

WITH: Brendan Fraser (Fletcher McBracken), Joanna Going (Roz Willoughby), Celeste Holm (Ida McBracken), Ann Magnuson (Elaine), Lou Rawls (Tree Man), Angus MacFadyen (Philip) and Toby Huss (Cameron).

# Austin American-Statesman

Austin American-Statesman (TX)

May 1, 1998

Edition: Final

Section: Movies and More

Page: E6

## True love 'Still Breathing'

Author: *Rob Patterson*

Article Text:

These days, one may rightly wonder whether the notion of true love is on its death bed. But **"Still Breathing"** might just convince some folks that it's not yet time to pull the life-support system on romance. And this independently produced little charmer of a movie does it in a way that twists the conventions and recasts the cliches of the good old "date movie," which it's being touted as.

**"Still Breathing"** starts on somewhat shaky ground, intercutting from a bucolic San Antonio to the sometimes dangerous urban hustle and bustle of Los Angeles. Brendan **Fraser**, with long ragged hair, two-day stubble and faraway eyes, still looks like he hasn't quite brought George out of the jungle. The stunning Joanna Going has perfect leading-lady looks in her first starring role, but it's the beauty of an ice princess. It all feels so modern, so slightly Gen X, which so many movies do these days for the sake of specious youth appeal.

But then something happens as this film unfolds: It seduces you with its gentle and offbeat approach and sensibility, as a time-honored tale of love unfolds in a way that hasn't quite been told before.

**Fraser** is Fletcher, a San Antonio slacker who lives in a grand Alamo Heights house. He dances marionettes on the street in front of the Alamo. He builds cairns from rocks in his back yard. And he dreams of his true love, and tries to construct her face from pieces of photos cut from a magazine and pasted onto a giant collage on a wall of his home. In other words, he seems a bit daffy.

Going is Roz, an artist living in L.A., a thoroughly modern Millie who has forsaken her vision for cold, hard cash. In cahoots with her friend Elaine (whom Ann Magnuson portrays with delicious zeal), Roz uses her looks to con rich men out of their money for overpriced modern art. In short, she's a shark.

But she's the woman of Fletcher's dreams, which tell him to fly to Los Angeles to find her. When they meet, Roz thinks she's found her intended too -- her next intended mark, mistaking Fletcher for a Texas millionaire (Austin musician Junior Brown in a cameo) she wants to fleece.

With that setup, this whole affair could have been played wackily, or with high drama. But the movie's Texan director-writer James Robinson instead goes for an old-school tone as the seemingly fated mismatch unfolds. There's a touch of sweetness that balances the up-to-date flourishes, making **"Still Breathing"** a rather distinctive animal that is neither your current big Hollywood romance nor an indie full of hip attitude.

When the film settles into the heart of its story, it catches a dreamy mood, like the thoughts that come to mind as one settles into a spring afternoon nap. A subtlety of tone emerges, which imbues the eccentricities of Fletcher and his San Antonio crowd -- which includes Oscar winner Celeste Holm as his mother and singer Lou Rawls as a street musician -- with a winning charm.

Like the best sort of love, perhaps, **"Still Breathing"** is initially disconcerting, but wins you over with its steady if languid allure. In an age of disillusionment and pessimism, it's a film that still believes in the redemptive power of romance, and it just might make you believe, too.

Caption:

Brendan **Fraser** portrays a San Antonio slacker who goes to Los Angeles to find the woman of his dreams. She turns out to be a con artist played by Joanna Going.

PHOTO

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## THE SEATTLE TIMES

May 17, 1998

Edition: FINAL

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Page: M1

### FILM FESTIVAL FAVORITE 'STILL BREATHING' IS BACK IN TOWN

Author: *JOHN HARTL* SEATTLE TIMES MOVIE REVIEWER

Article Text:

As this year's edition of the Seattle International Film Festival begins its 25-day run Thursday at the 5th Avenue Theatre, reminders of festivals past are everywhere.

One of last year's entries, "The Other Side of Sunday," recently turned up at the Varsity; right now it's at the Grand Cinemas in Tacoma. "Gonin," which played the 1996 festival, has just opened at the Varsity. "All Things Fair," another 1996 entry, makes its American television debut at midnight Wednesday on Cinemax.

Starting Friday, "**Still Breathing**," one of the top Golden Space Needle winners from the 1997 festival, will be back for a theatrical engagement at the Metro.

It won the best actor prize for Brendan **Fraser**, a Seattle actor who wasn't that well-known at the time, although he became everyone's favorite "George of the Jungle" just a month later. After his festival visit, he returned to California to co-star with Ian McKellen in "Gods and Monsters," which will be shown as part of the 1998 festival.

**Fraser** said the role of Fletcher McBracken, the Texas street performer he plays in "**Still Breathing**," reminded him of "character traits in artists I'd met in Seattle." He was impressed by the quality of the script by writer-director James F. Robinson, and actively pursued the low-budget project during a break between studio movies.

"It's immensely romantic, and it had great potential for a beautiful film," said **Fraser**. "The locations were domestic and exotic at the same time. We used a house in San Antonio, with this river running through (the property), that captures the spirit of this neighborhood that has such vitality and mystery."

Although the story line has fantastic elements, he feels that it "evolves organically. The spiritual quality reminded me of 'My Life as a Dog.' "

"**Still Breathing**" was also a Golden Space Needle runner-up for best actress (Joanna Going plays Roz Willoughby, a Los Angeles woman Fletcher pursues) and for Robinson's direction. The movie marks his feature-film directing debut, although he has a long list of television credits, including documentaries and music videos. It took him 12 years to raise the money for this debut.

"I thought, I'm going to write something that would have been one of my favorite movies if someone else had made it," said Robinson.

"The Lady Eve" came to mind. He set out to create a romantic comedy in the vein of Preston Sturges' 1941 classic, with Going in the Barbara Stanwyck role as a cynical con artist and **Fraser** as the naive young man who becomes infatuated with her (the Henry Fonda part).

"I wanted to have those two trains collide with each other," said Robinson. The script is designed to contrast the comparative rural innocence of San Antonio (Robinson's hometown) with stressful, earthquake-prone Los Angeles.

"It was partly inspired by the L.A. riots," he said, "and I've been fascinated since I was a kid with the two cities."

Although Spanish architecture turns up in both locations, the styles are different. Robinson set out to use the differences to comment on his characters, "each of them with a separate palette." Also in the cast: Ann Magnuson as Roz's mentor, Lou Rawls as Fletcher's musician friend and Oscar winner Celeste Holm ("Gentleman's Agreement," "All About Eve") as Fletcher's nurturing grandmother.

"Fletcher is the person everyone wants to be," said Robinson.

"Roz was where I was after three years of not making a living in L.A., and trying to raise children in the inner city. That gave me something to talk about when I started writing the script."

Fletcher's trip to Los Angeles, inspired by a dream of a woman he's never met, sets the plot in motion. He thinks he will meet her in Formosa and books a flight to Taiwan. Shortly before his plane leaves, he accidentally finds her at the Formosa Cafe in L.A.

"The premise to me is essentially this life-or-death issue," said Robinson. "This is his moment. He could screw it up. And it's a huge emotional risk for Roz, who doesn't want to fall in love.

"It really is about the single most important thing in your life."

Caption:

BRENDAN **FRASER**, PICTURES WITH CO-STAR JOANNA GOING, WONS THE BEST-ACTOR PRIZE AT LAST YEAR'S SEATTLE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL FOR HIS ROLE AS A STREET PERFORMER IN JAMES F. ROBINSON'S "**STILL BREATHING**. " IT WILL BE BACK FOR A REGULAR RUN FRIDAY AT THE METRO CINEMAS. PHOTO

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# Star-Telegram

F O R T W O R T H

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

May 19, 1998

Edition: FINAL AM

Section: CLASS ACTS

Page: 10

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Movie Review

## **STILL BREATHING**

Author: *Michael H. Price; Star-Telegram Writer*

Article Text:

Starring: Brendan **Fraser**, Joanna Going Plot: Brendan **Fraser** plays an eccentric artist who is searching for the perfect sweetheart. Joanna Going plays a heartbroken young woman who feels she cannot trust any guy. Wouldn't you just know they're made for each other?

Why go see it? **Still Breathing** is a near-perfect teen-romance movie, with tenderness to spare. It has just the right edge of doubt and despair. Brendan **Fraser** proves himself a much better actor than George of the Jungle allowed him to be. Joanna Going is just right as a distrustful schemer who would rather surrender to romance.

Reasons for rating? The PG-13 rating is for mature themes and situations, discreetly portrayed.

1 - 10 score: 8

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## St. Louis Post-Dispatch

May 21, 1998

Edition: FIVE STAR LIFT

Section: EVERYDAY MAGAZINE

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"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.

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

Memo:

MOVIE REVIEWS

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8 out of 8 people found the following comment useful :-

**Still Breathing is still breathtaking**, 13 July 2006

★★★★★☆☆☆☆

Author: [editor-306](#) from Canada

Combining eccentricity with serendipity, Still Breathing is still, almost ten years after it was first released, one of the best fate-filled and wistfully magical love stories of all time. Take one somewhat unusual street performer who is mystically drawn towards his soul mate - a hardened con artist miles away, and then back their journey towards, away and towards one another with a gorgeous soundtrack that moves effortlessly from Chopin to Carly Simon, and you've got one very touching if not markedly unique story. Fraser is great as the slightly odd lovestruck suitor as is Going, who clearly portrays her struggle with losing the grip on her tough anti-emotion veneer as it starts to crumble under Fraser's enticing conviction. The lovely locale of San Antonio, TX also adds to the charm of this special film that will leave you wondering if one soul is truly destined to be, exclusively, with another.

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ yes ☐ no ([Report this](#))

8 out of 8 people found the following comment useful :-

**The best Truth/Love screenplay that's ever been written?**, 16 July 2003

★★★★★☆☆☆☆

Author: [galileo](#) from Chicago, IL, USA

I'm blown away by this screenplay. It's the best modern movie about "true love" I've seen. The emotional depth portrayed in the characters is explosive yet classic. Marry that with incredible cinematographic images and a wonderfully eclectic, sophisticated soundtrack, and you've got the ingredients to a contender for my short list of all-time favorites. As you can tell by this over the top recommendation, this movie's got the kind of overboard sentimentality that inspires the same in me!

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ yes ☐ no ([Report this](#))

6 out of 6 people found the following comment useful :-

**It's so unbelievably probable that you want it all to happen - for a real dream!**, 11 June 2001

★★★★★☆☆☆☆

Author: [Ruby Liang \(ruby\\_ff\)](#) from sf, usa

Like most people who discovered STILL BREATHING - written, directed, and produced by James F. Robinson, I chanced upon this fantasy of a film while checking out Cable programs. The beginning sequence just kept me curious and wanting to know more, what's going to happen to the two main characters and so on. At the time, I just saw Brendan Fraser in "Blast From the Past" opposite Alicia Silverstone, and appreciated Joanna Going's role in another small gem, "Eden" (1997, written and directed by Howard Goldberg), as a wife-teacher-mother who has Multiple Sclerosis. STILL BREATHING has magic, and it's so relaxingly delightful!

You might say it's quirky, or want to dismiss it as mere fantasy romance. But if you believe - as the film suggests, fate takes a hand in the destined arrangement of two persons being together. The pairing of Brendan Fraser (as Fletcher, the goofy but smart, always a sincere aura about him) and Joanna Going (as the aloof, vulnerable and hesitating Ros) is a godsend unlikely possible couple. James F. Robinson's writing is just right, and his direction is right on. Kudos to October Films for distributing such a wonderful 'small' film, greatly satisfying and enjoyable. It's a surprise gem.

There are special close-ups of things - a leaf, a hand, a rock, a knee...each has its own subtle, subliminal significance. Welcome, fate and destiny. Fraser is this young man with such a dedicated and steadfast focus in what he believes - in his heart (a trait handed down from generations in his family) - it is not hokey. It's so unbelievably probable that you want it to be - to happen for real. It's romance at play without showing cupids and 'cutesy' elements. It all seems so downright natural - even though we know we're in a fantasy Hollywood movie. It doesn't matter: you're on this seeking journey with Brendan and you're not gonna let go - can he fulfill what he held close to his unwavering heart? Joanna Going's Ros seems perfect opposite Fraser's Fletcher. It's matchless casting! Wonderful writing. Imaginative. Creative. What a love and destiny story. Ah, Fletcher and Ros. (I'm repeating myself.)



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The supporting cast proves to be just as delightful: Celeste Holm as Fletcher's grandmother Ida who has versatile talents; Lou Rawls is the Tree Man who plays music; Ann Magnuson is Ros' social pal Elaine; Michael McKean is a momentarily rich business man. Yes, the menu includes classical tune played by a jazz band, puppet show to cheer a young child, stones stacking as an art, slide projections with 'geographical' touches, endearing hints of black & white flashes. There is wisdom of love, or love legend a-telling... It's San Antonio, Texas vs. L.A. city scene - which place would you choose? Depends on whom you'd be with - or shall we leave it up to fate?

The soundtrack and sound effects contribute to the whole enjoyment of STILL BREATHING. Check it out. Leave skepticism aside. Don't miss a beat.

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ yes ☐ no ([Report this](#))

7 out of 8 people found the following comment useful :-

**Deep meaning flowing through it - Excellently cast**, 15 June 2004

★★★★★★★★★

Author: [kirkham-1](#) from California

If you are not a sensitive guy - don't bother. Otherwise, this film is a treat. You must see the film in its entirety or you will not get it. Super casting job - I do not know of any others who could have handled the parts so well. A true look beyond the superficial plastic sides of characters we usually see. A truly pleasing experience to watch. Brendan Fraser and Joanna Going have much more going for them than the typical fluff of Hollywood types and this movie displays their depth well. Celeste Holm is enchanting and the supporting cast add much color and flavor.

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ yes ☐ no ([Report this](#))

5 out of 5 people found the following comment useful :-

**Inexplicably overlooked romantic comedy**, 28 March 2005

★★★★★★★★★

Author: [wiluxe-2](#) from Austin, Texas

I saw this at it's premiere in Austin at SXSW a few years ago--Joanna Going sat two seats over from me in the balcony at the Paramount on Congress Avenue in Austin--and the audience loved it. Brendan Fraser is pretty charming in the lead. I was surprised by the cameos: what's-his-face, Lou Rawls, as a street musician; and what's-her-name, who played Fraser's mom (I don't have the cast list handy). An "OLD Hollywood" icon. Anyway the plot is pretty unique, but maybe the main plot device could have been more clearly explained right off; I knew what was happening only because the director said what was happening in his opening remarks to the Paramount audience. The producer, a tall blonde BABE in a very lovely dress, gave me a CD of the soundtrack as I was leaving; I told her I thought the film was great and that I hoped she'd make a lot of money off it. She sighed and said she hoped so too.

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ yes ☐ no ([Report this](#))

4 out of 5 people found the following comment useful :-

**Beautiful**, 1 December 2003

Author: [Buffycar](#) from Illinois

I absolutely LOVED this movie. The way it was filmed was so beautiful. It made me want to visit Texas. I was thrilled to see Joanna Going. She was on a soap opera I used to watch a loooooong time ago. She is as beautiful as ever. The characters are believable. Joanna Going's character, Roz, is a con artist but instead of disliking her you feel sympathy for her. I would watch this movie again and again. The music weaves throughout the film and makes you feel good.

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ yes ☐ no ([Report this](#))

2 out of 2 people found the following comment useful :-

**Deeper than it sounds**, 13 June 2003

Author: [lassofrivendell](#) from Zionsville, Indiana

Still Breathing is a cute, feel good movie for all romantics out there. It is quirky, and even in its simplistic thinking, it is truly a 'deep movie'. Brendan Fraser is terrific as Fletcher, and Joanna Going is splendid as Roz. However, many people might look down at this movie because it is rather, well, fictional. Many believe that true love is implausible, but this movie teaches that whatever the scenario, true love is completely realistic. I enjoyed this movie very much and hope that, without becoming repetitive, there will be more like it.

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ yes ☐ no ([Report this](#))

3 out of 4 people found the following comment useful :-

**Beautiful, spellbinding**, 21 November 2003

★★★★★★★★★

Author: [pzylik](#) from Calgary, Alberta, Canada

I can't remember how I came across this unheard-of movie a few years ago, but I am a fan of Brendan Fraser and so I settled back to watch it. I'd never heard one little thing about this movie before, and I was so pleasantly surprised with the whole experience. There was a quiet magic about the whole story. It was a beautiful, peaceful, serene experience just to watch the relationship develop and to enjoy those stunning scenic shots. When the movie ended I felt so relaxed and refreshed! Some months later I had a chance to watch it again, and once again it was like a calming meditation. "Beautiful" and "Magical" are the only two words coming to mind to describe this movie. It's excellent, and I recommend it highly if you're in the mood for something sweet and peaceful that will make you feel much more alive afterwards. I give it 8 out of 10. Wonderful movie.



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1 out of 1 people found the following comment useful :-

**Excellent Move**, 16 June 2007

★★★★★★★★

Author: [fusionjazz1](#) from United States

I was channel surfing one Saturday afternoon in '05 and fell into the last half of this film. I was hooked! I called a store manager of Blockbuster to help me find this movie for purchase in all their stores back in '05 and she had one VHS left on the sales shelf.

There are no more reprints of this for retail sale unfortunately. After watching the movie in its entirety, it was heartwarming. Truly a 'feel good' movie to cheer you up. This movie is beautifully done. The scenes and story line just flows wonderfully to blend into a great story line. Excellent direction from beginning to end. Finally, a movie with a great ending! Joanna Going and Brendan Fraiser are great

together. It's one of my favorites. It touches the heartstrings. It may see like a chic-flick but guys would enjoy this too. The mystery and comedic aspects throughout make it lightheartedly touching to watch. The whole concept of how to find your true love has always been a mystery. This movie touches upon that. If only men do find their true love this way it would make a great reality-TV series. (LOL) The SOUNDTRACK is excellent. It's a shame they stopped printing this movie for retail sale. (<http://stillbreathing.com/>) They really should re-release this and sell more of the DVDs (at a reasonable price). It's too excellent of a movie to sit on a shelf or sell on the streets. Now and then cable movie channels air this but it's rare. If you get an opportunity to watch this movie, it is indeed, a true treasure of a film. I highly recommend it.

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ yes ☐ no ([Report this](#))

1 out of 1 people found the following comment useful :-

**good acting + great score = solid flick**, 31 May 2007

★★★★★★★★

Author: [tlopesio](#) from United States

This is hands down the best performance from Brendan Fraser EVER. He makes his "odd" character likable and charming, which was a big surprise...he's usually way too over the top for me. The movie has some slow moments (like most of the scenes involving Joanna Going's character and a Spanish dude, and some other girl who always shows her cleavage) but other than that the flick flows nicely. It's pretty low budget, but the score really makes you feel like you're watching a bigger movie - the score helps many moments in the film. The best thing about the movie is how it handles love and romance, which is done in a very subtle, methodical fashion that makes you really understand and associate with the characters. Highly recommended if you're in the mood for a different type of romantic comedy.

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ yes ☐ no ([Report this](#))

1 out of 1 people found the following comment useful :-

**My All Time Favorite Movie**, 17 April 2007

★★★★★★★★

Author: [ErinGoBragh2000](#) from United States

I love this movie and have been hoping it would come out on DVD. I have been waiting for a few years now. There are some used ones listed on Amazon, but I doubt they are true copies. I actually have the VHS, but I want it on DVD before my VHS degrades completely. I also wish they would play it more often on TV. If anyone reading this has any say in the possibility of coming out on DVD, you have my vote. It blows me away when I see true losers on DVD, but then have such a great movie neglected. The first time I saw the movie, it was playing on HBO, I think I watched every showing of it until they quit playing it. It is totally a feel good movie. It's about the innocence, and trust of a sweet natured man has against the jaded con-woman who is trying to run a scam on him. It has a mystical bent, which I really enjoy. I am a huge Brendan Fraser fan, there have only been a couple movies he's done that I really think stink. I highly recommend seeing this film, although one might consider it a chick flick, my husband really likes it too.



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1 out of 1 people found the following comment useful :-

**Surrender to this movie and believe.**, 11 June 2005

Author: [beachrat-1](#) from United States

For those thinking this is a chick flick, my partner brought this to me because it resonates with our story so strongly. And he is a gun-totin', beer-drinkin', crude & rude redneck. Sometimes it does happen that there's an amazing connection between people who belong together but can't necessarily believe it, because of personal histories and all of the paraphernalia of "real life". And it takes one person to believe all the time, or two people each to believe enough of the time, to carry them through the parts where you just have to "trust" the other person and take the leap. That's really what this movie is about, to us, and it captures all of that just perfectly.

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ ☐ [\(Report this\)](#)

1 out of 1 people found the following comment useful :-

**Have you ever dreamed of your true love?**, 16 August 2001

★★★★★★★★

Author: [Lindsey](#) from IL

At the beginning of the movie I was a little worried. It seemed very odd, yet as the movie picked up it got more & more interesting. With the increase of romantic comedies revolving around sex, this is romantic on a new level.

This movie brings to life the fantasy of uniting with the one person who is supposed to be with you. Although Brendan Fraser plays an especially eccentric character, you really begin to enjoy him as the movie continues as does Ros (played by Joanna Going). This movie is extremely enjoyable.

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ ☐ [\(Report this\)](#)

1 out of 1 people found the following comment useful :-

**it took my breath away**, 11 August 1999

★★★★★★★★

Author: [Michelle \(beanmak@aol.com\)](#) from Illinois

George of the Jungle as a romantic leading man? I would have moved into a tree just to look into those eyes before I die. Joanna Going was wonderful as a cynic vexed by love. And how about that sound track? The last few romantic movies I have been to had sound tracks that were obtrusive. This one was lush and subtle!!

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ ☐ [\(Report this\)](#)

1 out of 1 people found the following comment useful :-

**Best romance between two straight people I've seen.**, 4 August 1999

★★★★★★★★

Author: [pyotr-3](#) from Washington DC

Utterly beautiful from start to finish. This film is not for the hopelessly cold and unromantic, but for the rest of us it is Nirvana. Brendan Fraser's heart is as warm as the San Antonio sun in this movie, and he shows us all just how beautiful life - and love - can be. There is inspired use of Chopin's "Berceuse" throughout the movie, and it casts a magical spell over everything and everyone. If you need a film to make you FEEL GOOD, this is it.

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ ☐ [\(Report this\)](#)

1 out of 1 people found the following comment useful :-

**I'm a romantic, and I liked it.**, 22 July 1999

Author: [Ross Jenkins \(rossj@telusplanet.net\)](#) from Edmonton, Canada

sometimes you just have to love pay-tv for letting you see movies that you would otherwise never see in theaters or on video. I was just flipping by when I saw Joanna Going (who is really a babe on top of being a good actress) and Brendan Fraser necking in her living room, and I was hooked.

Maybe I'm just a mushy romantic, geek but I liked both the story and the acting. I loved the whole bit on trying to find your true love, and how you have to admit to being worthy of finding it. Like that other guy said, the casting and locations were just great. The harshness of LA and the humid, languid beauty of Texas fitted the mood of the film greatly.

Did I mention that Joanna Going (who I first saw in Wyatt Earp) is a great actress and a babe as well?

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ ☐ [\(Report this\)](#)

1 out of 1 people found the following comment useful :-

**I'm glad I rented this movie.**, 23 June 1999

Author: [ramona-10](#) from Las Vegas, Nevada

I don't recall this film being released in movie theaters. I decided to rent it because I am a big Brendan Fraser fan and figured it must be a direct-to-video lightweight romantic comedy giving me the opportunity to gaze upon the gorgeous Mr. Fraser. But this movie made a big impression on me.

I think the film has all of the elements to become a cult classic, in the same way "Harold and Maude" did in the 1970s and "Somewhere in Time" did in the 1980s. Why? Because it deals with a person's total and unconditional belief in something. At the start of the movie I wasn't buying it. I felt that Fletcher's character was studied eccentricity. But when I saw how completely he believed in his one true love--hopping a plane to Taiwan, no questions asked--I wanted to see more.

One of the things I liked so much about the movie was that I did not feel manipulated. The tone of the movie is such that you and you find yourself drawn in. Like Roz, most of the moviegoing public are cynics and would fight tooth and nail before letting go and enjoying the ride.

There are images that stay with you from the movie. Roz' apartment, which looked so hip before she visits San Antonio, looks clinical and empty when she returns home. And there are lines--"Whose eyes do you want to look into when you are dying...."



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**Texans, art, seduction and True Love**, 23 March 1999

★★★★★★★★

Author: [Iain Brown \(iain@iain.com\)](#) from McKinney, TX

I'm way out of step with the critics I've read on this one. Syrupy, sugary are words that just don't come to my mind. I'd settle for sweet, perhaps, in a very positive sense. I love this movie. I love Joanna Going.

Perhaps I see this differently because I know so many Texan artists (yes, even ones who build monuments), and I see a purity to their art which Brendan Fraser's character touches with accuracy and sensitivity. Art is a passion which glows in both Fraser and Going, in radically different ways, grounded as they are in San Antonio and LA.

Each time I see the movie, I catch a new nuance. The fear in Going's eyes when she recognizes her dream. Fraser's "dead inside" comment that shows how much he really \_does\_ understand what's going on. Fraser's "drive real fast" speech which is perfect Texas. The drawing, at the end, that shows the art hasn't been burned out of Going's soul. Everything Lou Rawls says (there isn't much). And the final phrase of her last voiceover, which puts her choices into perspective.

The ivy.

The impromptu performance art of the slide projector and Going's body shows the depth of both characters, as well as being one of the most sensual non-nude scenes I've seen.

The style and feel of San Antonio is perfect. So alien to Going's character... another reason I think I disagree with the critics; the seduction \_would\_ be slow, and more lasting.

This is a laid-back, slow moving movie, with a magic between two unrelenting opposites of great character, played by two very sensitive actors, unusual enough to be several rungs above a typical romantic comedy.

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ yes ☐ no ([Report this](#))

2 out of 3 people found the following comment useful :-

**More than just a Chick-flick**, 23 March 2003

★★★★★★★★

Author: [artzau](#) from Sacramento, CA

This little film makes a simple statement about the much touted "family values" that Conservatives love to invoke. In many respects, this should be a silly comedy based on fantasy and wispy romantic premises: con girl meets honest guy is overwhelmed by simple honesty and gives up her predatory life style. However, what makes it work are solid performances by Fraser and Going. Fraser has developed a real flair for comedy in his career. Too, Going has a delicate beauty and solid talent, which she showed off to great display in the TV miniseries NetForce in contrast to Scott Bakula's hamboning. All in all, this simple romantic fantasy works and is very enjoyable.

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ yes ☐ no ([Report this](#))

2 out of 3 people found the following comment useful :-

**unique movie**, 27 October 2002

★★★★★★★★

Author: [Justo Ramirez \(ramirezlugardo@hotmail.com\)](#) from Mexico

The logic of the true love is braking the walls between the standard way of living and the wish for filling a peace of the soul, if there is something in the world that can be worth, is to find it. The movie was made for people with very high sensibility, and the real message could be unprovided for others. Thanks to the producers of this film.

1 out of 1 people found the following comment useful :-

**Dreams can come true!**, 5 June 1999

Author: [Foos](#) from Lak Forest, IL

Still Breathing is one of those rare films. A film with a heart, that treats the audience as if they have a brain. The film allows the protagonist (Going) and the audience to discover the truth at the same time. There are dream sequences and moments within the film are poignant without becoming clawing. Fraser is solid as is Going and the solid cast. Celeste Holm is wonderful as is almost everything about this movie. A neat discovery in the video store!



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**What? I liked a movie with Brendan Fraser**, 10 March 2001

★★★★★☆☆☆☆  
Author: [maxwellsham](#)

I think so many people are going to miss this movie just because it had Brendan Frazer when he is one of the best reasons to so the movie. He really is nothing like previous roles and is very subtly funny. This movie does not move very fast and it really is a character drama in the truest sense of the word but somehow all the things that make you wonder why? after watching a bad movie make you think yes that was cool after seeing this one. Everything works and the film is really beautiful and totally original, I think. In all honesty this movie has helped turn me on to romantic drama just by itself. Look at the Vote and look at the movie.

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ yes ☐ no ([Report this](#))

**A little seen gem**, 28 October 2000

Author: [Jon \(ssgtjon@hotmail.com\)](#) from San Antonio, Texas

I went to see this movie mainly for the fact that it was filmed in San Antonio, but ended up loving the movie as a whole. Despite the eccentric characters, they end up as believable and not caricatures. I don't know much about the actress who played the love interest that Brendan Fraser dreams about and then falls for, but she was a knockout. The Alamo Heights locations and nearby San Marcos for the river scenes were all wonderfully used, but the city looked a little dead in this one, while Los Angeles looked like all glitz and sophistication. Every San Antonio character spoke with just a hint of a Texas accent, which was just right for the setting. Not an outstanding, but an enjoyable time filler.

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ yes ☐ no ([Report this](#))

**Fantastic, quirky romance**, 15 September 2000

★★★★★☆☆☆☆  
Author: [rosearrow](#) from Texas

I am not a big fan of either Brendan Fraser or of romance movies, but I was forced to watch this at a friend's house one evening, and it surprisingly good. No, no...it was surprisingly great. It's a very quirky plot, with Brendan's character finding his true love through his paternal line's gift of telepathy (that only works for finding their true love). She thinks she'll never find real love, and so makes a living as a scam artist without a conscience, which is completely different from his very artistic, trusting soul. Believe me, it works. Find a rainy day sometime soon and rent this.

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ yes ☐ no ([Report this](#))

**True Romance at its best!**, 24 August 2000

★★★★★☆☆☆☆  
Author: [maryehickcox](#) from Santa Ana, California

Finally, a movie that deals with "true love" and not lust. It is refreshing to see a movie that offers a unique spin on delayed gratification. Brendan Fraser is splendid as a quirky, romantic, "knows what he wants" man.

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ yes ☐ no ([Report this](#))

**A Gem**, 6 August 2000

★★★★★☆☆☆☆  
Author: [Eric Chapman \(caspar\\_h@yahoo.com\)](#) from Pittsburgh, PA

The premise - sweet-natured, goofy guy gradually wins over cynical, sophisticated girl - has been around a long time, but if you get the right people involved and you're working with a patient, thoughtful script, it's foolproof. You can't go wrong. "Still Breathing" is a perfect example of this.

A cool breeze of delicate moments, tender surprises and disarming understatement, it achieves a magic that clunkers like "Simply Irresistable" can only dream about. It understands that romantic comedies are all about the hesitations, the silences, the searching looks - NOT contrived situations and screwball antics.

It also realizes that the actors who are paired have to BELIEVE in the material, in each other, and aren't just there because their agents thought it would be a good career move. Brendan Fraser and Joanna Going trust the script completely, they surrender to it. You can tell by the offhand, unforced way Fraser says his lines - knowing there's really no way he can foul them up. And Going; who looks like Winona Ryder, Teri Hatcher and Alyssa Milano (depending on the angle) shows the emotional turbulence of going from someone who is very sure of herself to suddenly not being very sure about anything at all. She's lost her innocence, then found it again but it's been so long she's lost it that she has a hard time recognizing it. It's also great to see veteran actress Celeste Holm infusing the film with her sparkle and intelligence.

**hot, hot, hot!!!**, 4 October 2007

★★★★★☆☆☆☆  
Author: [meereida21](#) from Texas

Oh, my GOD!!!! For years, I've had a thing for Brendan. This movie sealed the deal. He is too hot for words in this flick!!! The chemistry between the players is freakin' amazing!! My poor hubby searched high and low on the internet to find a copy of this for me, and fortunately, when our house was robbed last Christmas, they left my all time fave movie. I don't care just how "hardened" you may have become in the dating world...this movie will remind you what romance is all about. Being a Texas with a heart felt fondness for San Antonio doesn't hurt, either. Ladies...I guarantee that after this movie, your night will be filled with pleasant and slightly naughty dreams....especially the wife beater, personal serenity device...and OHMYGOD....the slide show scene. AHAHHHHHHHHHH!!!! Trust me, it's a gooder!!!! You'll love it!

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[Index](#) 51 comments in total

**It just had to be the ivy!**, 7 March 2000

★★★★★★

Author: [leina\\_rose](#) from Union City, CA

I missed "Still Breathing" when it had a three-week run in San Francisco two years ago. Although I've watched it at least six times on tape, I'm still kicking myself because I would have loved to experience watching this movie on the big screen. Oh! To be engulfed by all that ivy...

"Still Breathing" is the first film that I've seen where colour was used so well. Green is strongly and wisely featured; it's a very calming colour, perfectly fitting the mood of the film. Ivy plays such an important role here. A definite contrast in feelings was shown through Roz's wardrobe. When Roz (Joanna Going) is in total control of a situation, she wears bright colours. In the scenes where she's unsure of what may happen, particularly the one where she's with Fletcher (Brendan Fraser) and a scam partner at the Formosa, hours after she skins her knee, and in most of the ones set in San Antonio, she wears black. Roz's visions, filmed in black and white, are astounding. Three words came to mind whenever these scenes came on: The Zone System. That's definitely a good thing.

As for the actors... Brendan Fraser was wonderful and cuddly and gentle and oh-so loving and delicious and handsome and so on and so forth. He made sleeping on the piano seem like the most comfortable and most natural way to sleep. His Fletcher was so touching and thoughtful, so goofy and worldly... Joanna Going's beauty is what dreams are made of. She was luminous and hauntingly ethereal; moonlight, stars, and raindrops. All those good words. Her portrayal of Roz was simply lovely... The chemistry between the two actors was quite explosive. Not only did they work so well with each other, Fraser and Going looked beautiful together.

I read a newspaper review that said the story was sexist because it was all about Fletcher dreaming of his true love and finding her and bringing her back to Texas. I have to disagree with that review because both characters have visions of each other. When Fletcher finds her, Roz is deeply troubled by him because he could be something that she stopped believing in years ago: the man who was made just for her. Therefore, the story also depends on whether or not Roz accepts Fletcher as her destiny.

Even the soundtrack is memorable. I particularly liked the sequence where Fletcher tells Roz to close her eyes because of the way Chopin's "Berceuse" sets the mood.

I was left with such a peaceful and happy feeling when this movie came to an end, I cried. There was just something about Roz's expressive eyes and about the way the music swells as she lies down in the ivy that moved me to tears.

This is a love story like no other.

I know for sure the ivy had something to do with it.

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ yes ☐ no ([Report this](#))

**They flunked Chemistry 101.**, 11 November 1999

Author: [Denise Damiano](#) from FL, USA

Brendan Fraser and Joanna Going are missing something essential to any good love story: chemistry. I could not figure out why Fletcher loved Rosalyn, despite the half-baked explanation we were given. And I didn't see any evidence that Rosalyn loved Fletcher, let alone even liked him.

Sure, both leads are gorgeous, but so what?

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#### Visually and intuitively interesting, 5 November 1999

Author: [Sandra Hall](#) from San Diego

If only all romances were so fated, life would be beautiful. Engaging story and nice setting makes for a treat for Brendan Fraser fans. I don't think it went to video or theaters, unfortunately. Catch it on pay cable. I saw it on HBO or Showtime this summer.

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ yes ☐ no ([Report this](#))

#### Holds out hope that the right one for you is still out there, 28 October 1999

★★★★★★★★

Author: [Nimbo](#) from San Diego, California

I give this a ten. It just makes you feel good. Joanna is an eye-ful and Brendan is at his best. That young man is an ACTOR. I thought his underplaying the part made it all seem the more real. He was a little daffy but then aren't all artists. What a thoroughly enjoyable evening. The equal to 'City of Angels'.

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ yes ☐ no ([Report this](#))

#### WHAT A GREAT DREAM....., 4 October 1999

★★★★★★★★

Author: [Christopher Ernst](#)

That's the best way to describe the movie. It's almost like one of those dreams you don't want to wake up from, because it makes you so happy. That's what this movie is all about. Maybe things like this happen in real life and if they do, I want it to happen to me. Fraser once again gives a great performance, Ms. Going is beautiful and just as talented as she is beautiful. The movie might not have worked so well as it did, if it were not for the chemistry they two of them shared in this film. It's funny at times, little sad at times, but it always entertains. I really don't believe much in love, but the movie makes me almost think that there might be a thing called love. I love this movie, I was really surprised to find out that this movie was so terrific, the ivy that you'll see in the movie is so gorgeous. If it comes on cable and your home watch the movie, or go rent it. It will be the best decision you've made when it comes to trying to figure out what to watch on a Tuesday or Thursday night....DID I MENTION THAT I LOVED THIS MOVIE.

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ yes ☐ no ([Report this](#))

#### A movie you can really \_slide\_ into, 28 September 1999

★★★★★★★★

Author: [kitty-77](#) from Pittsburgh

All the positive comments about this movie above--ditto. I have only one thing to add for those of you still in doubt about this movie:

My boyfriend walked in during the first fifteen minutes of this movie. "What the heck are you watching?" Mr. Most-unromantic-man-in-the-world said. Fifteen minutes later he was hooked, two days later he mentioned what a good movie it was, and three days later he began recommending it to others.

So, yes, it's a romance. And yes, Brendan Fraser is incredibly quirky and sexy in this movie. But if Mr. Unromantic was melted by this beautiful, dreamy story, you can bet a barrel of ivy that it is \_not\_ too sugary sweet to be enjoyed. Get lost in this movie and believe again about true love.

Was the above comment useful to you? ☒ yes ☐ no ([Report this](#))

#### all 9's for me, 26 September 1999

★★★★★★★★

Author: [barkus](#) from Missouri

What a total surprise! This movie was fascinating. The hypnotic pace, the great locations, kooky characters, and enough suspense to keep my stomach churning throughout the film. Fraser portrayed a tremendously likeable character. Such confidence. This character is a great role model.

#### Fantastically Beautiful Love Story, 17 October 2007

★★★★★★★★

Author: [gylgamesh](#) from Branagan, Michigan, USA

There is absolutely no explanation why this film did not become a world wide hit and blockbuster, or at least immensely popular! This timeless masterpiece proves that movie-making can still be beautiful, touching, fascinating and heart stopping romantic.

It is also a perfect example of what Hollywood should do much more often: film touching stories about real life people with real life feelings and problems, stories anyone can relate to and believe in.

It has an ideal small cast which act perfectly together, perfect matching soundtrack, beautiful cinematography and more 'romantic' suspense that you would ever expect from a love story.

'Serendipity (2001)' came four years after, delivering a weaker, cornier, more predictable similar story. It had more success due to bigger stars and more marketing millions behind it, but 'Still Breathing (1997)' outdone it in every way.

Watch it and you'll love it forever!





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### Still Breathing

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★★★★★ **Great movie.....but not for big \$\$\$**

I absolutely love this movie, so it was a shock to see the DVD being sold for outrageous prices! No matter how rare it is. So not to take anyone away from Amazon, I myself am a huge addict of this site. However, I feel obligated to tell you how to get this movie without having to deplete your savings account. Target's WEBSITE has the DVD, although they say it will be...

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Published on May 1, 2005 by C. Hayles

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#### The most helpful critical review

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful:

★★★★☆ **Fraser makes us swoon again!**

A heart-warming love story about a quirky guy (Brendan Fraser) who plays a trumpet-playing, puppeteer who is sure he is in love with a seemingly hard-to-please, gold-digging snob (Joanna Going). Fraser has visions of his one true love and sets out to find her in this romantic comedy. A must-see for all Fraser fans.

Published on October 18, 2000 by gracieg99

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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful:

★★★★★ **For Hopeless Romantics**, July 14, 2007

By [ohwhatever](#)  (USA) - [See all my reviews](#)

This movie was recommended to me by a guy friend, who had just announced he was getting married. I casually asked him, "How did you two meet?" And he laughed, and asked me if I'd seen this movie -- "Still Breathing." "It was like that," he said. He wouldn't say any more than that. Instead, he just told me to watch this movie. And, I, being curious, went to the movie rentals to find it. When I watched it, I couldn't imagine the plot to be anything but implausible. Did my friend really think this movie to be realistic -- so realistic that he claims this is how he found his wife? I didn't think so, but Celeste Holm's scene with Joanna Going made me realize why I didn't believe it. This movie gave me some blissful months of hope, in that lonely space of time when a romantic is feeling hopeless. And by the next year, my true love found me too. Strangely enough, we moved to Texas, and we've since gone tubing near San Marcos. This movie is analogous to the Marfa lights of Texas. I wouldn't have believed it, if my friend hadn't told me it happened to him first, and I saw it for myself.

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[Still Breathing](#) by Lou Rawls (DVD - 2000)

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★★★★★ **A sleeper gem**, June 29, 2007

By [Dave "Davelandweb"](#)  (San Diego, CA) - [See all my reviews](#)

TOP 1000 REVIEWER

Like many others, I discovered this movie on cable tv. What a little gem! Joanna Going gives a flawless performance as a jaded and hardened Los Angeles scam artist who secretly yearns to be loved. Fraser, the only weak link in the movie, plays the Texan who has a vision of Going and predictably melts her by the end. The music, visuals, and cameo by Celeste Holm combine to make this a classic worth watching many times over. Fantastic cinematography!

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1 of 2 people found the following review helpful:

★★★★☆ **Calmness and peacefulness of human nature exploited by some people**, March 26, 2007

By [Pork Chop](#)  (Lisbon, Portugal) - [See all my reviews](#)

STILL BREATHING, will be an acquired taste for many people, or better appreciated by those who are fascinated by the game of seduction between humans. It may be a bore for others with a smaller attention span or perhaps a touching picture for the right kind of audience, of chick flicks perhaps.

It fully succeeds in its aims, of establishing an inner peace, calling attention to being in touch with one's own inner child or innocence, and emphasizes the human and social aspects of people, vs the physical, intellectual, for example.

The strong point of this picture, is the strong visual component that is appealing, the calmness and peacefulness that also characterized Brendan Fraser's appearance in an earlier movie, PASSION OF DARKLY NOON. As such, the script appears to have been tailor-ordered, custom fitted, made to order for Fraser, who reprises his role as a low-key, in-control, modest, unambitious man who seeks out the more artistic, introspective aspects that life has to offer, as his central goal.

Both Joanna Going and Ann Magnuson are amusing in their rapport with Fraser's character, bringing their own personality and strong style to the visual aspects of the movie, contributing to the appeal to audience coupled with some soft piano numbers over the 90 mins of the movie, and some percussion or horn numbers, too, forming the soundtrack.

It's a time-travel for viewers, until a certain point, at which Going's character reveals her secret, that she is a grifter, playing rich or modestly wealthy single men for their cash, in exchange for the illusion of romance or of a personal relationship. At that juncture, the movie seems to slow down considerably, and the script becomes perhaps over-worked, over-intellectualized, overwhelming viewers with a flood of literary, musical, and visual artwork aspects. By thrusting these onto the audience, the viewers are drawn back out of the story and into their reality again, from the boredom, and those excesses.

As a rental, this is a good movie. As a theatrical release, it will have its moments. Seeing Fraser squirm to deliver entertainment is worth the price of the ticket alone, much like trying to fit a square peg into a round hole, because he does succeed in pulling off the acting successfully.

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5 of 5 people found the following review helpful:

★★★★★ **110 min trip to another place**, October 20, 2006

By **R Ray "earache"** (Ft Lauderdale, FL) - [See all my reviews](#)

I don't know if there is such a place as the one depicted in the movie. But it makes me believe there is.....and I, too, deserve to be able to go there. I love, and get more out of this movie each time I see it. The only downside is that it has to end.

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9 of 9 people found the following review helpful:

★★★★★ **Beautiful movie that was well thought of**, September 26, 2005

By **Thomas Keneally** (Portland, OR) - [See all my reviews](#)

I saw this movie in 2000 in TV and immediately bought it. Since then, I have seen it multiple times and always discovered something new. The first time director, James Cameron, has done an amazing job in the movie. He has thought of a lot of small details and used his contacts to get an amazing cast. Brandon Fraser was OK, but it was Joanna Going and Celeste Holm that do an amazing job. It was called a chick flick, but I personally found a lot of parts that I personally could relate to. The music pieces from Chopin to La Traviata to Blues pieces were well mixed in the movie. I also found the pieces in San Marcos river with the little children very charming. Though the movie may not have outstanding screenplay, the camera work was lovely. Ann Magnussen was superb as the hard headed con woman who is Joanna's friend. I liked the first half more than the second half. It was hilarious to see how Joanna gets rid of the person, Paolo Seganti, whom she cheats with the help of Angus Macfadyen. The painting that she wishes to buy is so bad.

Some dialogs that are beautiful are when Joanna says that, "My world is about greed and money and ambition and successes." To this Fraser replies, "The basic human desires. That is funny because my opinion of art is that it is about truth and beauty and redefining an imperfect world in a perfect way." The initial part where he creates a portrait of Joanna and shows it to his friends and they completely understand it is excellent. It is almost as though they are a cult of people who live in a separate world. The music pieces and its mixing is outstanding. The parts where they have the band in the party with the tuba version of Chopin is lovely. The original music by Paul Mills is also superb. The camera work with Joanna in the dark is also special. Another special piece is the games Joanna and Fraser play with each other. There are multiple purposes to this movie, it took me a while to understand them and appreciate them. The initial one of finding true love is the obvious one, the ones underneath are also special. These include making a cynic appreciate the beauty in the world, forgiveness and so on. Overall a very scripted movie that was delightful, it took my breath away. It makes me understand the fact that a really satisfying movie does not require a lot of money to be spent on, just good thought, good cast and imaginative story with good direction. I am sorry for people who do not have the DVD of the movie. I wish that it was more easily available.

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20 of 20 people found the following review helpful:

★★★★★ **Great movie.....but not for big \$\$\$**, May 1, 2005

By **C. Hayles** (Dallas, TX USA) - [See all my reviews](#)

REAL NAME

I absolutely love this movie, so it was a shock to see the DVD being sold for outrageous prices! No matter how rare it is. So not to take anyone away from Amazon, I myself am a huge addict of this site. However, I feel obligated to tell you how to get this movie without having to deplete your savings account. Target's WEBSITE has the DVD, although they say it will be available to be shipped in 4-8 weeks. I don't know about you, but I'd rather wait a month or two to get it than spend close to or OVER a hundred dollars.

I'm sorry Amazon.com, I love you! I just dislike some of your sellers price gouging.

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6 of 7 people found the following review helpful:

★★★★★ **Brendan at his best**, April 12, 2005

By [Danielle Muller "Shulamith"](#)  (Sailing, sailing o'er the deep blue sea :) - [See all my reviews](#)

REAL NAME™

This movie is beauty captured in one story about true love and the lengths it will go to be found and recognized.

Still breathing is probably one of the most romantic and lovely romance stories that I have ever watched. Brendan Fraser is touching as an innocent man in love with a beautiful woman who is twisting and using him to suit her will. Until she finds to her shock that she has fallen for him, bringing about Brendan's prediction that she is really a sweet and caring woman, just burned by the worlds harsh views and demands. You don't have to look far to find the love in this movie, it stares right at you from the moment this wonderful movie begins, to its sad heartbreaking end.

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16 of 17 people found the following review helpful:

★★★★★ **Still Breathing is a Breath of Fresh Air in Romance Films**, April 29, 2004

By [J. Whitford](#)  (Falls Church, VA USA) - [See all my reviews](#)

TOP 1000 REVIEWER

First time director James F. Robinson gives us a rare treat - a beautiful romance that both men and women can enjoy. I remember going to see this film when it was in theaters. I was totally surprised by the soundtrack, script and characters. The director showed off San Antonio and LA in their best colors, and created a soundtrack that is a real keeper. The story is about a woman con artist (Joanna Goings) who has given up on love and a performance artist (Brendan Fraser) who only believes in unconditional love. They collide in their nightly dreams (before they even meet) and in their waking hours. Both characters and their friends are true to form. Brendan Fraser's family and friends are really out there artistically, and Joanna Goings associates are out and out thieves. The transformation Joanna goes through to finally accept unconditional love and ultimately accept herself in a relationship with Brendan Fraser is truly heartwarming. This is a movie to be savored on a rainy day when you are curled up on the couch alone or with your honey. Be forewarned. Once you get the movie, you will want the original movie soundtrack. The heady slow mix of jazz and sweet classical music is downright intoxicating.

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★★★★★ **Chick Flick for Guys**, November 30, 2003

By [Stuart Kaufman](#)  (Great Neck, NY USA) - [See all my reviews](#)

REAL NAME™

I don't know why I love this film - but I do. Actually, I do know why... Joanna Going. To the point that I am able to overcome my distaste for the performance of Brendan Fraser. He is annoying, smarmy and soppy, but Joanna Going is so enchanting that Fraser's performance is immaterial. Buy the film to see her - period!

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8 of 8 people found the following review helpful:

★★★★★ **Still Breathing**, January 26, 2003

By **A Customer**

i saw this movie on IFC and had to get it.

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful:

★★★★★ **A guide to inner peace--**, April 14, 2001

By [bffan "bffan"](#)  (Kenosha, WI United States) - [See all my reviews](#)

Still Breathing. The story reaffirms the grace and beauty of true love, the cinematography is gorgeous, the music is simply sublime, the performances are dead-on perfect--this film is amazing. I had a hard time getting it, and even signed petitions for its release on DVD. But it was worth the wait. As near perfect a director's first film as I have ever seen. The performances were nearly flawless as well, Brendan Fraser giving a subtle, layered performance that it would be easy to underestimate, as it looks so effortless. I had never seen Joanna Going before, but after this film, I seek out her other work. Toby Huss is marvelous in a supporting role, and so is Lou Rawls. Lastly, the incandescent Celeste Holm, to whom we are treated so rarely, glows as the grandmother. This film is not for the shallow, the cynical, or the tragically hip, but for anyone who wants to believe in people, in love, and in good, old-fashioned movies, this is a must see. A tip to those who watch the DVD--wait through the end of the credits for a hidden gem from Fraser & Huss.

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2 of 3 people found the following review helpful:

★★★★☆ **Sappy, quirky, hopelessly romantic and deeply affecting film,**  
April 9, 2001

By [E. Martin "scalawagg"](#)  (US) - [See all my reviews](#)

REAL NAME™

I really don't know how many stars to give this film. People who like it will *\*really\** like it. People who don't will probably be left scratching their heads. I'm doing both.

First, I find the story cornball. There are significant holes in the plot. And the dialogue *\*is\** unremarkable sometimes cliched.

On the plus side, it *\*looks\** great. The cast is wonderful. It is very *\*sensual\** without being explicit--or even very suggestive! The people who made it believed in it implicitly. But most of all there is Joanna Going's deeply affecting performance, by turns coquettish, scheming, vulnerable, frightened, "bewitched, bothered, and bewildered."

Whatever its deficiencies, I cannot turn away from a movie with such heart. It shares a place in my heart next to "Floundering."


N.B. There is nothing in terms of language or sex that should give offense. But *\*this\** is still an film for adults. (Adolescents can only fully enjoy (if at all) with there parents away!)

Finally, there is a profoundly *\*spiritual\** core to this movie, beyond even the use of "visions" and "synchronicity" as plot devices.

James F. Robinson, the producer/director/screenwriter, bears further watching.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful:

★★★★★ **A movie for people who "get it"**, April 5, 2001

By [Isaac Church "quadrag"](#)  (Loomis, CA USA) - [See all my reviews](#)

This movie, may not be perfect, but it comes very close. I loved it from the first time that I saw it and I've shared it with many friends and family since. I've observed that the friends with depth to their soul - the ability to see not only the world around them, but the possibilities that life offers, and yet we so rarely achieve - simply adore this movie. In short they "get it."

On the other hand those who (and don't get me wrong, they're still my friends) see and live life on the surface, are bored, and dismiss this movie as "weird," or "slow."

If you're wondering what potential there is for that special someone in your life, show them this movie...



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LS 1734013

63%

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One of the good movies I've seen lately that lacks the standard violence, steamy sex and foul language. Yes, a movie can lack the above and still be good. Nice romantic story with likeable characters and of course Brandon Frasier.

ate

57 out of 65 people found this review helpful.

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OceanBluePearl

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Fletcher (Brendan Fraser) is an artist and puppeteer, living in San Antonio, Texas. He's been waiting all his life for a vision of his one true love. Then, late one night, Fletcher has a vision of a lovely dark-haired girl fleeing from danger, and then a neon sign that says "Formosa". Assuming that his true love must be Chinese, Fletcher books a flight to Taiwan. While between flights at LAX airport, he sees a picture of the Formosa Cafe in Hollywood, recognizes the neon sign, goes to the cafe, meets Rosalyn (Joanna Going), and recognizes her as the girl in his vision. In contrast to innocent, trusting Fletcher, however, Rosalyn is a cynical con artist, working an elaborate fine art scam. She thinks she's meeting a wealthy Texan entrepreneur at the Formosa, not a street performer. As Fletcher and Rosalyn get to know one another, the depth of their soul connection becomes clearer, although Rosalyn stubbornly refuses to acknowledge it. After years of disappointment, she has given up hope that there is someone made just for her, that she will prove worthy of him, and that true love will bring her happiness. All she knows is that, day after day, she is still breathing. Slowly, gradually, despite Rosalyn's resistance, Fletcher's unconditional love opens her heart, melts her fears, and restores her innocence and trust. This is a touching romance, with great chemistry between Brendan Fraser and Joanna Going, a terrific soundtrack, and a happy ending. Review updated 27DEC2007

59 out of 73 people found this review helpful.

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MK 341345

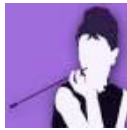
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Wow! A gentle, beautifully filmed movie that didn't put the husband OR kids to sleep. Brendan Fraser is a talented actor...I'm delighted to see this quieter side of him. Great music, too. A pleasant way to spend a couple hours of your life.



Diana N

44%

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A thinking person's romance, part fairy tale and part screwball comedy, *Still Breathing* is an offbeat, overlooked gem. The quirky story is enhanced by its locations and its casting. Brendan Fraser's sleepwalking acting style works well in the role of

Fletcher McBracken, and the supporting cast is good. But the real star is Joanna Going, as Fletcher's fated lover, Rosalyn Willoughby. Going looks like a classic film star, recalling the best of film noir's greatest femmes fatales, Jane Greer. She holds her cards close to her, playing the exasperatingly cynical con artist with enough causticism to erode iron until just the right moment, when she transforms into a sparkling, postmodern version of Kay Francis. The film's ending, like that of the great 1930s screwballs, is ambiguous enough to make one think, yet it still provides a lovely, ultimately satisfying resolution.



DH 1053198

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When I first read the review, it looked good and if anything my so-to-be wife would definitely dig it. This was a choice movie. It moved in all the right directions. Trust me dudes it, it was good.

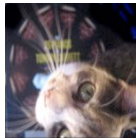
16 out of 20 people found this review helpful.

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Johnny C

67%

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Anyone who didn't like this movie would have to be as cynical as the main character. Absolutely the best romantic comedy I've seen in years. Brandon Fraser and Joanne Going are terrific, the script is thoughtful and melt your heart romantic. The music and photography beautiful. Altogether one of the ten best movies I've seen this year.