



The cast of 'Singles': Campbell Scott, Kyra Sedgwick, Matt Dillon, Sheila Kelley, Bridget Fonda and Jim True.

# How Crowe says almost everything...with 'Singles'

**Hollywood Rob**  
 Writer-director Cameron Crowe's new film *Singles* is a modern-day Seattle—his hometown—it's focused on the lives of six 20-something people who forge relationships in and against themselves, learning to deal with their impending maturity. Crowe, 34, seems to agree with his films. It is that when he finishes a portion of his life he finds upon it through writing. He wrote *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* in the early '80s. It was as much a fiction I'm sure, but also entertaining and probably the best of the rash teen comedies made in the early '80s. In his directorial debut, Crowe's *Say Anything...*, and how he had grown in the years since *Fast Times*. The wonderful thing about it is it was an almost perfect portrayal of the end

of high school. There is very little sentimentality in it, only what feels like genuine emotion to the viewer. *Singles* is what would be a natural sequel to *Say Anything...* if John Cusack hadn't gotten the girl.

The film starts out by immediately breaking one of the cardinal rules of filmmaking: The characters start talking directly to the audience. It serves to introduce each character on the dating scene. It works well chiefly because Crowe wisely limits each to a short segment.

The major thrust of the film's action takes place in an apartment complex for singles where Campbell Scott (*Dying Young*) and Bridget Fonda (*Single White Female*) live. They are perfect for each other ex-lovers who have decided they would be better off as friends.

Scott isn't going out with anyone at all. He has decided after his last relationship it is best to just concentrate

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 Directed by Cameron Crowe.

on work. So, of course the first thing he does when he has free time is to go to a club for singles with his friend.

Fonda is going out with someone, sort of. She dates Matt Dillon (*Drugstore Cowboy*), when he calls her. He constantly emphasizes that their relationship is not exclusive, while she falls at his feet.

Dillon is the awful lead singer of a grunge band called Citizen Dick. The members of Dick are played by popular Seattle band Pearl Jam also featured on the movie's soundtrack.

Kyra Sedgwick (*Born on the Fourth of July*) isn't going out with anyone either. She remarks to her friend in one scene that there are no men, though she wouldn't

give "Mr. Right" a chance if she met him.

These stories are linked by title cards that introduce each different segment of the relationships that bind and intertwine.

The main story is between Scott and Sedgwick who meet at a club when he sees her across a crowded room. She spurns his advances, protecting herself from any heartache he might bring. Fate brings them together later that evening and they hit it off right away.

Side storylines, while making the film's title more true, diffuse the main story. There are so many dangling storylines it can't possibly explore them all. It almost screams to be episodic like a television show so you could see these characters

relationships grow, develop and ultimately end.

The time spent with each character is disproportionate as some of the players in the outstanding cast are barely seen (Sheila Kelley, Jim True) while others deserve to be the center of their own film (Scott, Sedgwick).

"Dyslexic Heart" by Paul Westerburg, the recurring theme song of *Singles* perfectly describes the characters from the film. Most of their hearts read wrong by trusting those they shouldn't and distrusting those they should. They spend as much time running from love as they do seeking it.

*Singles* is sweet, funny, and sometimes even poignant and even though I wanted more of these characters, that can't be given in just two hours.