

Everybody Wants Some!! – Review

The latest from esteemed director Richard Linklater has been described by its director as both a “spiritual sequel” to his much-loved 1970s high school picture *Dazed and Confused* (1993) and, to some degree, his 12-years-in-the-making **masterpiece** *Boyhood* (2014).

Focusing on a college (university) baseball team in the **carefree** summer days before classes start in the summer of 1980, the similarities between it and *Dazed...* are **plentiful**: both films take their names from classic rock songs (Led Zeppelin and Van Halen respectively), both feature a **quiet, likeable** male protagonist about to embark on a new stage of his life amid a superb ensemble cast, and both deal with the **wonder** of what it is to be **young** and carving out your own identity among friends old and new.



The **beauty** of both *Dazed...* and *Everybody...* is how they both offer slightly **amplified, idealistic** portrayals of life for its young American subjects, but with such **affection** and **joy** that they never feel dishonest. The major difference between the two is that by its nature, *Everybody...* is more concerned with male **bonding** than it is the female experience: although Zoey Deutch is fantastic in the role of Beverly (love interest to Blake Jenner’s Jake) the spotlight is very much on the dynamics within the high-flying baseball team that Jake finds himself a part of, and their interactions inside and out of the **house** they **share** together.

As with its **antecedent**, there isn’t much of a story here. The film takes place over one **weekend** in which Jake and his **teammates** do little other than play games, drink, smoke marijuana, attend various discos, concerts and parties and try to pick up girls. But thanks to the superb work of its young cast - Glen Powell as Finn and J. Quinton Johnson as Dale are especially **strong**, the former occupying the same kind of role as Matthew McConaughey did in his star-making turn as Wooderson in *Dazed...* - it is a pleasure to spend time in the company of these (seemingly) preternaturally confident young men, each of whom is imbued with a distinct, **believable** personality all of their own.