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club le monde

uk press cuttings

Club Le Monde

Certificate 18; 80 mins

● With clubbers reputedly turning their backs for good reason on the (not so) Super Clubs, Simon Rumley's third feature *Club Le Monde* is a timely reminder that you don't have to be wearing the latest Ministry t-shirt to have a good time. Set over the course of one night in 1993, in the seedy London establishment of the title, *Club Le Monde* leads us onto the dance floor as it follows various clubbers in their efforts to make it through the night.

The principal plot revolves around Ali (Allison McKenzie), who arrives at the club only to find her ex-boyfriend Mike (Brad Gorton) hanging out there too. But packing in just about every conceivable club-related scenario, Rumley criss-crosses a multitude of supporting storylines around them. From a pair of public school boys trying to score ecstasy to two Essex girls continually sniffing coke in the loos, Rumley paints his people in broad comic

colours. Some – such as Danny Nussbaum's gum-chewing, poppers-loving oddball Mr. Sunglasses – work better than others, but given the tapestry nature of the narrative this is to be expected. As for the music, Rumley's choice hits the right note, particularly with the reprise of 808 State's *Pacific 202*, while the energetic dance-floor scenes compare favourably to recent efforts, such as the Hacienda sequence in Michael Winterbottom's *24 Hour Party People*. Cutting back and forth in one montage, as a DJ would mix two records, Rumley visually captures the feel of a club-night with some aplomb. Almost as much fun as the real thing.

UGCs Chelsea and Shaftesbury Avenue

★★★★★

JAMES MOTTRAM