

STRONG LANGUAGE

UK press cuttings

This week's films

Double Jeopardy

Empire, 15, 105mins
Is Ashley Judd the new Hillary Clinton?

Julian Po

Newham Showcase
12, 83mins

Constipated tale of the unexpected

The Wood

Warner West End, 15, 107mins
Feel-good LA comedy

Fast Food

ABC Shaftesbury Ave.
18, 95mins

Cheap, cheerless fodder

Strong Language

NFT, 74mins

Surprising vox pop movie

American Beauty

Empire, 18, 122mins

Impressive but flawed suburban drama

Simpatico

Warner West End 15, 98mins

Unconvincing slice of Americana

A genuine British surprise

is Simon Rumley's **Strong Language**. Here a blizzard of young Londoners give vox-pop views on everything from one-night stands to Blur, via Aids, lager, guns, drugs and racism. It's essential viewing for any prospective mayor of London. The actors never interact, and the whole thing could have been shot in a passport photo booth. You want to slap some, cuddle others and sink a pint in empathy with the DJ who finds his flatmates in various states of nudity and disrepair on the steps leading up to his flat.

Although shot like a documentary, there is a sliver of narrative that jolts you out of the numbing complacency of this London questionnaire. When you spot it, you'll think hard and deep about this "docu-popart" film. And shiver when you have to catch a bus home.

→ (James Christopher)

TITLES

27.1.00