

# STRONG LANGUAGE

UK press cuttings

## GREAT NIGHT IN: Simon Rumley

Simon Rumley, the writer-director of *Strong Language*, chooses Richard Linklater's 1993 ensemble comedy *Dazed and Confused* (Polygram Video, £10.99 from [www.blackstar.co.uk](http://www.blackstar.co.uk)) for a great night in.

### Why is this film special?

It makes me laugh from beginning to end. It is beautifully executed, with cool, laid-back direction that lets the characters and the story do the work. It's also a very ambitious script, with more than 60 speaking parts.

### When and where did you first see it?

At a preview, months before its release, so I wasn't exposed to all the hype.

### The best performance?

It's full of youthful actors, some of whom later became

stars, such as Milla Jovovich (pictured below with one of the young unknowns) and Ben Affleck, who is fantastic as O'Bannion, the sicko sports jock with no friends. Matthew McConaughey is charismatic as Woodeson, a high school drop-out who is still hanging out with the kids long after he ought to.

### Which scene would you rewind?

The party scene towards the end, when all the characters finally meet up. It encapsulates how ludicrous and joyful it is to be in your late teens: people get drunk and stoned; they get off with each other; they fight.

### Has this film influenced your own work?

It made me wonder why no one was doing youth films set in Britain. The ensemble structure was a big influence on *Strong Language*.

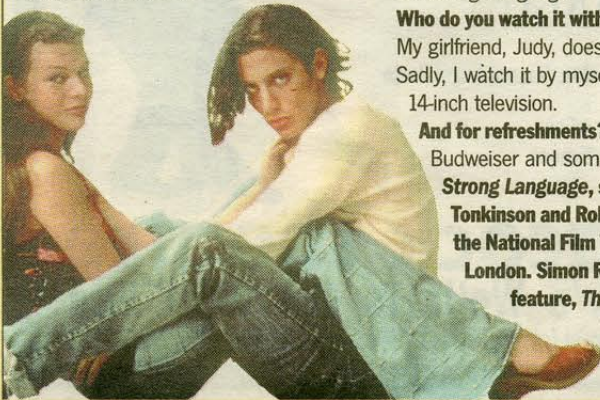
### Who do you watch it with?

My girlfriend, Judy, doesn't really like it. Sadly, I watch it by myself on our little 14-inch television.

### And for refreshments?

Budweiser and some popcorn.

***Strong Language*, starring Paul Tonkinson and Robyn Lewis, is at the National Film Theatre in London. Simon Rumley's second feature, *The Truth Game*, is in post-production.**



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