

STRONG LANGUAGE

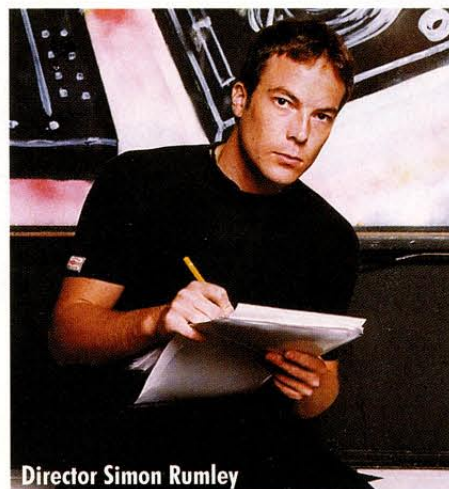
UK press cuttings

STRONG LANGUAGE



STARS David Groves, Paul Tonkinson, Tania Emery, Stuart Laing
DIRECTOR Simon Rumley
SCREENPLAY Simon Rumley
CERTIFICATE N/A
DISTRIBUTOR NFT
RUNNING TIME 1hr 16mins
OPENING DATE January 28

A vox-pop-art-docu-drama-movie for the MTV generation



Director Simon Rumley

Destined for instant cult appeal, writer-director Simon Rumley's **Strong Language** is one of the most innovative débuts you will see all year.

Cross-cutting between 15 young Londoners, as they discuss a variety of topics to camera (clubbing, politics, AIDS, racism, Soho, and even Oasis versus Blur), the film's initial appearance suggests a true-life document of what it's like to be a twenty-something surviving in the Nation's capital. The 'characters' range from a lift attendant (Tonkinson) to an advertising executive (Laing) to a South-London waitress (Emery), each with their own perspective on living it large. But what binds them is a central tale, told by a nameless narrator (Groves), which relays the tragic events of one night and how it changed his life. As the story unfolds, so our 15 friends intersperse their own opinions, branching off from whatever topic our story-teller has then reached.

If it all sounds rather schematic fear not, for Rumley's film – aside from emerging as one of this decade's most important documents of British youth culture – inextricably links his vox-pop candidates with the main thread of the film. Scored with a pumping electronic soundtrack, the no-budget nature of the film is rarely impressed upon us. Rather, it shows just what can be done with imagination and the determination of a director who has something to say.

While some characters do head towards stereotype (the Chelsea girl springs to mind), Rumley, blessed with a phenomenal ear for naturalistic dialogue, ensures most of his men and women are fleshed out in a solidly three-dimensional manner. The film's time-period may date back some five years (the film, unbelievably, having struggled to find a distributor), but **Strong Language** remains a refreshingly universal work, expressing the words that films like **Human Traffic** could only stutter over. Seen as the first of Rumley's youth trilogy (he's just shot part two, called **The Truth Game**), **Strong Language** heralds the arrival of a major British talent, and one I urge you to follow.

James Mottram



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FEBRUARY 2000

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