

The New York Times

Remember the Daze

Highs and Lows

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Published: April 11, 2008

A generally entertaining but half-baked variation on [Richard Linklater's](#) high school period piece, "[Dazed and Confused](#)" (made in 1993, set in 1976), "Remember the Daze" (set in 1999) takes its cue from the earlier film in an excess of ways. Set to a soundtrack of popular tunes from the era, it unspools on the last day of the school year and trails assorted students into the following morning as they party, flirt, hook up and even momentarily consider their futures.

Played by promising newcomers, the film's privileged suburbanites (with unusually good looks, clear skin and lean bodies) run the gamut of standard teenage types: stoners, dorks, jocks, cheerleaders and aspiring gangstas.

Solid on a technical level, "Daze," which played at film festivals last year under the title "[The Beautiful Ordinary](#)," features crisp cinematography by Steve Gainer (whose camera flagrantly ogled the teens in [Larry Clark's](#) "[Bully](#)") and fluid direction by the 25-year-old Jess Manafort, who also wrote the script. It's in her favor that the re-creation of high school life depends more on memory than on imagination, but a little added heart wouldn't have hurt. Ultimately, the ensemble of more than 20 featured characters seems as vapid as the intentionally caricatured adults who pop up on occasion.

Where are this decade's John Hugheses? Or even the Cameron Crowes?