

## High Fidelity

*High Fidelity* is a quirky comedy which was an immense labor of love for John Cusack. A story of a lovelorn, music-mad dweeb who runs the "Championship Vinyl" vintage long-play record store in Chicago. *High Fidelity* sports Cusack as producer, co-writer, and lead (he plays the dweeb Rob Gordon). In addition, he brings his sister Joan in for a supporting role, and he probably carefully picked most of the tunes on the extremely variegated soundtrack.

Rob (in a device that is getting tired fast) talks straight at the camera, ticking off Top Five hit lists as well as his Top Five Break-ups, all of which we experience in flashbacks. His parade of girlfriends runs a gamut from the troubled Lili Taylor to the smashing Catherine Zeta-Jones to his current squeeze Laura (Iben Hjejle), while his buddies, who also work in the shop, include two goofy pop music encyclopedias, the terminal slob (Jack Black) and the shy, pallid nerd (Todd Louiso) who don't want to sell records to customers so much as correct their debased tastes in rock.

The movie has its fun and clever moments, especially if you are (as were most people in my preview audience) a couple in their twenties who has been going together for anywhere from six to 24 months. Older than that, you may feel things passing you by, especially the constant references to record classics and pop/rock groups you probably don't know. Surprisingly, Cusack got the veteran British director Stephen Frears to put this very hip feature together, and he has come up with a sweet comedy/drama that is liable to linger in some Generation Xers' minds.

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