

Islington Gazette 29/4/08

Comedy is fun
but forgettable

violinist who undergoes eye transplant

**FORGETTING SARAH
MARSHALL (15)**

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

THE EYE (15)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

THREE AND OUT (15)

Rating: ★★★★★

PERSEPOLIS (12A)

Rating: ★★★★★

STOP-LOSS (15)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (15), the latest film from producer Judd Apatow – the man behind *The 40-Year-Old Virgin* and *Knocked Up* – is not quite what one would have hoped.

Jason Segel (who also wrote the script) plays Peter Bretter, a musician who is dumped by his actress girlfriend Sarah Marshall (Kristen Bell).

After a stint of unfulfilling womanising, Peter decides to get away to the spot in Hawaii that the couple had always planned on visiting – and predictably Sarah is also there with her new boyfriend – the nymphomaniac English rock star, Aldous Snow (Russell Brand playing himself).

The script, Segel's first, is funny and first-time director Nicholas Stoller does well to let his cast play with it.

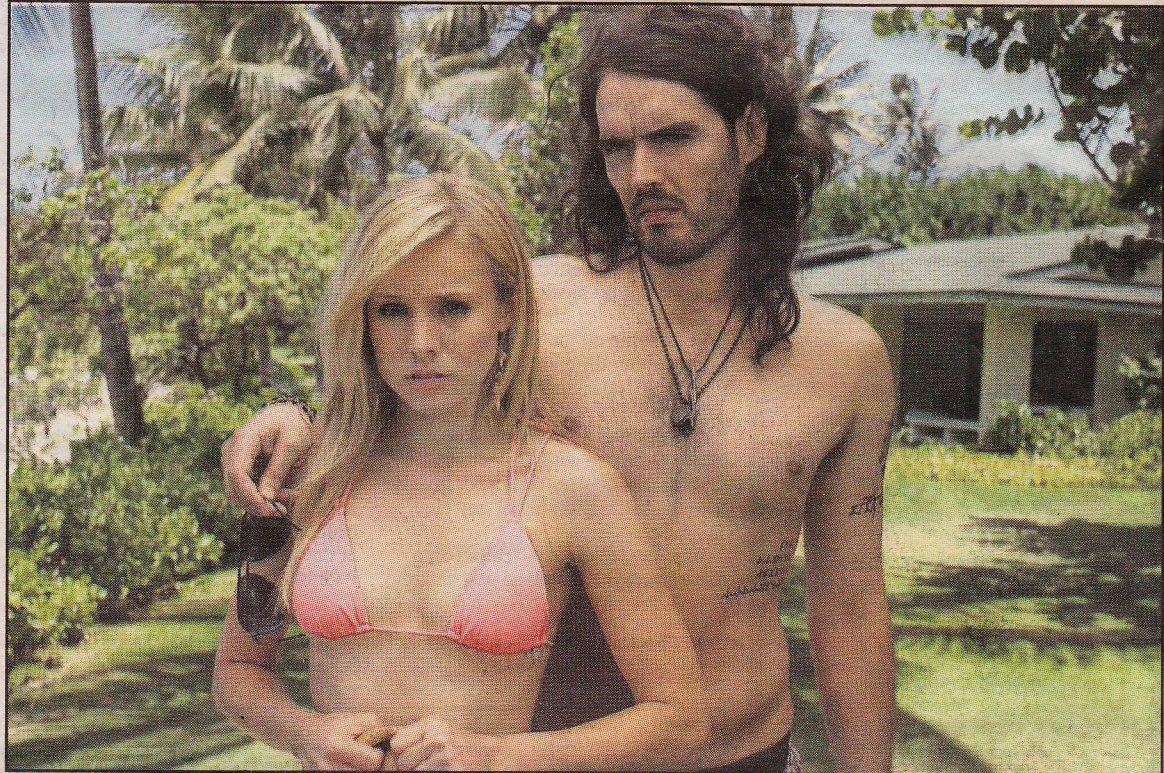
Brand, Segel and Apatow favourite Paul Rudd give sterling comic performances and the absurdity of the situations keeps things entertaining.

The problem is that when these guys are not in full comedic flow, the film falls flat and the romantic plot feels like a last-minute addition to tie a series of – admittedly excellent – comedy sketches together.

The lack of a strong narrative makes the film drag after the first appealing hour or so, becoming increasingly less entertaining as it reaches its rather bizarre finale.

It's a light-hearted, amusing film, but anyone expecting a truly clever romantic comedy will be disappointed.

– JO CAIRD



■ KRISTEN Bell and Russell Brand star in **FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL**

in all its grimy glory contrasted with real affection, but all of the characters... line of Stephen King with the effort