

King Missile fires itself onto the charts

Phallicly obsessed New York band returns with new CD



King Missile (L-R) David Rick, John S. Hall, Chris Xefos and Roger Murdock

"On 'HAPPY HOUR,' we investigated different ways of making the marriage between lyrics and music tighter than it has been in the past. The title is ironic, because the words talk about self-denigration, low self-esteem, isolation, being trapped, and the driving need to just end it all. 'HAPPY HOUR' is exactly an hour long...kinda happy, definitely an hour."

-- John S. Hall

One of the most unusual and arresting bands to come out of the New York musical underground in recent years, King Missile combines raw, elemental rock with literate, outrageous lyrics (sometimes sung, sometimes spoken). The unit is fronted by John S. Hall, whose words mark him as one of rock's most visionary, offbeat storytellers. He is joined by Dave Rick (guitars), Chris Xefos (bass, keyboards), and new member Roger Murdock (drums).

In 1991, King Missile released "THE WAY TO SALVATION," their first album for Atlantic and their fourth overall. Eight solid months of touring ensued, with the Missiles logging in over 100,000 miles and 130 shows. The result was the creation of a tight musical unit, something of a break from King Missile tradition. It is a shift clearly reflecting on their second Atlantic outing, "HAPPY HOUR."

During pre-production for "HAPPY HOUR," King Missile considered a number of possible producers before deciding to return to their original studio overseer, Shimmy Disc label chief Kramer. The latter produced "HAPPY HOUR" along with engineer Steve Watson and King Missile.

"Sometimes we're silly, sometimes we're funny, sometimes we're angry, sometimes we make nice songs, and sometimes we try to make a nice song and something goes wrong."

--John S. Hall

"HAPPY HOUR," undeniably King Missile's most accomplished album to date, finds the band weaving a widely diverse sonic tapestry that forms a remarkable counterpoint to John S. Hall's trademark lyrical insights.

The key tracks include "Detachable Penis"; "Martin Scorsese," a violently loving

tribute to the film director; and the neo-mystical "The Vulvavoid." The album also boasts "It's Saturday," a brilliant drum/spoken word duet; "Take Me Home," highlighted by Rick's dazzling guitar work; and the bizarrely intoxicating "Ed."

Their first three albums, 1987's "FLUTING ON THE HUMP," 1988's "THEY," and 1990's "MYSTICAL SHIT," were produced, engineered, and released by Kramer on his Shimmy Disc label. "FLUTING ON THE HUMP" yielded two college radio smashes: "Take Stuff From Work" and "Sensitive Artist." "THEY" continued John's spoken word approach, but with more lush instrumentation.

"MYSTICAL SHIT" proved to be the breakthrough King Missile album. It spent 12 weeks on *Rockpool's* Rock Independent chart, grabbed the top slot for a remarkable four weeks, and yielded two college radio hits: "Cheesecake Truck" and the #1 smash, "Jesus Was Way Cool."

As of this writing, "HAPPY HOUR" is in the proverbial can, and "Detachable Penis" has risen to #1 on the college radio listings. Comments John: "Sometimes we're silly, sometimes we're funny, sometimes we're angry, sometimes we make nice songs, and sometimes we try to make a nice song and something goes wrong."

The Adventures of Huck Finn: An adventure for the young at heart

More than just a children's movie

by Jen Tobakaris
Collegian Staff

Okay, I'm going to contradict myself. In my last article about *Fire In the Sky* I stated that movies rarely live up to the

"Why had I picked to review a children's movie?"

Sitting in a theatre jam-packed with a bunch of little kids, I started to worry. Why had I picked to review a children's movie? Because it's much more than a children's movie!

Huck Finn (played by Elijah Wood), is a sassy young boy with a sarcastic sense of humor and a mouth for telling the hugest whoppers this side of the Mississippi. During one of the many fiascoes he and his friend Jim get involved in Huck comments, "My butt's hanging way out and I don't want to get it shot off just yet."

Jim, Huck's best friend, is played by Courtney B. Jance. He is the soft-spoken runaway who asks Huck to help him get to Cairo and escape to freedom. Huck, being Jim's only friend, agrees to help.

Together the two journey down the Mississippi River together, encountering one adventure after another. Their trip is dangerous because Jim is a runaway slave and is wanted for murder. Jim's picture is plastered all over the place with a reward of 400 dollars. He asks Huck, "Damn, is that what I look like?"

The scenery and cinematography in the movie was excellent. The camera shots of Huck and Jim travelling down the river on their raft, made me feel as if I were there experiencing the journey myself. The music by Bill Conti added to the fear of Jim being caught and the action-packed scenes throughout the movie.

The most humorous and best part of the movie was when

Huck and Jim met up with the King and Duke, two con artists that are employed by the three "Rys," Robbery, bribery, and forgery. They bribe Huck and Jim to help them swindle a fortune from a dead plantation owner that left his will to his two british uncles that no one has ever seen before.

Huck poses as their British page boy and Jim is an African slave, dressed like a tribal head hunter. "They even taught me some Swahili. It sounded like a pig in heat to me," Jim tells Huck.

If you read the book you probably know how the movie ends, but for those of you that didn't it's well worth your while to see this movie. It's jam packed with action, suspense, humor, and sentiment.

This movie's not just for

kids, it's for the young at heart. Mark Twain's book is still read and enjoyed today. Somehow the movie manages to keep the book's charm and interest that

'They even taught me some Swahili. It sounded like a pig in heat to me.'

have made it a classic over the years. The movie has just as much appeal that maybe someday it too will be considered a classic.

books that inspired them. Well, I was wrong; at least in the case of Mark Twain's classic, *Huckleberry Finn*.