

Pearl Jam's "VS:" the album to reverse the trend

by Scott Moore
Collegian Staff

My first reaction to the new Pearl Jam album, entitled "VS". (the first pressing is missing the title), was that its appeal was much more subtle and subversive than that of their debut, 1991's *Ten*.

It's definitely more challenging to the listener, and there is a distinct possibility of a few being alienated.

A lot of little boys and girls who thought *Jeremy* was keen might not like *VS* - but who cares? Pearl Jam clearly doesn't.

That's not to say that the album isn't catchy, because it is. "Glorified G" is one of many new tunes with a distinctly funky feel to it, thanks to drummer Dave Abbruzzese and bassist Jeff Ament.

"Rearviewmirror" is one especially vibrant song, even though its subject matter is obviously moody.

Singer Eddie Vedder's voice

practically drips with emotion on all twelve selections, and it's apparent that Pearl Jam has 'gelled' as a band; they are tighter than ever.

However, as good as *VS* is, it's not quite as spectacular as *Ten*. It doesn't have to be. It's different, energetic, sincere, and NEW. I, for one, am glad that they resisted the tendency to remain stagnant and give us *Ten II*.

There's a disturbing tendency today to denounce fresh ideas, and to blindly give mounds of credibility to things that have been around for a while.

This is why we are overrun with classic rock radio, but you can hardly find one station that plays new, cutting edge music. I hope that people don't put down the new Pearl Jam album just because it's not identical to *Ten*.

The new myths have to be made, the new songs have to be heard, and *VS* might as well be the album to reverse the trend.

TOP TEN MOVIES

10. For the Love of Money
9. The Program
8. A Bronx Tale
7. Mr. Jones
6. The Joy Luck Club
5. The Good Son
4. Age of Innocence
3. Demolition Man
2. Cool Runnings
1. Malice

"Joy Luck Club:" absolute joy!

by Portia Kelly
Collegian Staff

If you're in the mood for a tear jerking, inspirational experience, then you have to see "Joy Luck Club."

The movie focuses on four beautiful Chinese women, all at turning points in their lives, and their mothers who influence them in the strong ways.

The traditional Chinese ways of mothers conflict with the American ways of daughters, which gives a rich flavor to the plot and shows the reality of the Chinese idea of family life.

One of the main characters, June, has no mother, yet her friends' lives have a great effect on her and her mother's past.

The setting starts with a going away party for June, who is moving to China to live with her long lost twin sisters who her mother left behind.

All these family members and friends trigger histories of these four young women and the struggling, suffering past their mothers faced back in China.

Lena is another one of the women who is struggling through a marriage, but finds the courage to lift her mother's weak spirit. Her mother's spirit is dampened because of a past marriage and the death of her first child.

Her innocence, heart, and love is restored, by turning her life around and finding someone to

love her.

Rose is an independent woman who marries a rich, white man whose family does not accept her.

She has no self-worth and puts too much pressure on herself. She even has a baby just to keep her marriage from falling apart.

With the help of her mother, An-Mei, shows Rose that she is somebody and she must forget the pain inside of her. Rose becomes a new woman, strong and sure of herself, which makes her marriage work and her life blossom.

Finally, there is Weaverly, the superficial, materialistic, successful one of the group, and the one who everyone admires.

Yet in her own glory, Weaverly finds gloom and pain because her mother does not believe in her and that is what she needs most. What she finds out is that her mother is her greatest admirer even though she doesn't show it.

This story gives a new meaning to the word inspirational.

This moving drama has its eye on an Academy Award because of its triumph and tragedy storyline. What you expect is what never happens and that's what this movie is all about.

"Joy Luck Club" is an absolute JOY! Everyone should see it immediately or you will be missing out on one of the greatest movies this fall season has brought to us.

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