

And the award goes to...

VMAs by Jen Carroll staff writer

MTV rocked Radio City Music Hall in New York City last Thursday as the biggest and best names in music and television collided for the 2000 MTV Video Music Awards. The night was filled with music, comedy, and some very interesting surprises.

Last year's show was a hard act to follow with Chris Rock as the host, but the 2000 VMAs had Shawn and Marlon Wayans. Using their comedy to help liven things up, they introduced a countless number of presenters and 10 live performances.

The night kicked off with a high-energy performance by Janet Jackson. The audience went "Nuttty, Nutty, Nutty" for Janet when she sang and danced to her new hit single "Doesn't Really Matter." Sisqo was "shaking his thang" during the live performance of his first single, "The Thong Song."

One of the more interesting performances of the night was Britney Spears. She entered with a version of "Satisfaction" and stripped—literally—into her hit song "Oops... I Did It Again." The most courageous performance, however, was Eminem's "The Real Slim Shady." The rapper led over a hundred look-a-likes in from the street as he marched down the aisle of Radio City Music Hall in perfect time to serenade

his favorite pop target, Christina Aguilera.

N'Sync said "Bye Bye Bye" to the competition as they performed a medley of "Bye Bye Bye," which won three awards, "This I Promise You," and "It's Gonna Be Me." The performance has been dubbed "technologically impressive" even if you don't like the boy

band. Employing monitors to replace their heads, the five-some danced and sang a routine full of precision and undisputable talent.

Nelly went on to teach us lessons in "Country Grammar" and Blink 182 ended the evening with a controversial performance of "All the Small Things," as "little people" rode scooters on stage

and hung from above.

As for awards, Eminem and N'Sync tied for most honored. Both went into the night with six nominations and walked away with three awards each. N'Sync received Best Pop Video, Viewer's Choice, and Best Choreography, while Slim Shady won Best Male Video, Best Rap Video along with Dr. Dre, and Best Video of the Year. Other winners included Blink 182, Jennifer Lopez, Macy Gray, Aaliyah, Sisqo, Limp Bizkit, and Destiny's Child. The Red Hot Chili Peppers received the Video Vanguard award along with one other award after they tore up the stage with "Californication."

The night was not all awards and performances, though. Several unscripted surprises popped up along the way. During Fred Durst's acceptance speech the bassist from Rage Against the Machine climbed onto a large prop on stage and began shaking the scaffolding. He was escorted out by police and later released. Other surprises of the night included some of the unique match ups for presenters. There was Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera, The Rock and Kid Rock, Jim Carrey introducing Eminem, and Carson Daly who dared to bring Sean Fanning creator of Napster and donning a Metallica shirt, up on stage.

The 2000 VMAs certainly followed in the great tradition of MTV award shows, creating raucous and controversy. Laughs and surprise. And oh yeah, some people won some awards.

Emmys by Deanna Symoski

If you were one of the few people who didn't get an award last week, don't worry—your *Friends* didn't get one either. The 52nd Emmy Awards, hosted by Gary Shandling, showcased an array of new shows that trampled over the old favorites.

Sex and the City fell to *Will and Grace* for Outstanding Comedy Series Sunday night. The dynamic duo's supporting actor and actress, Sean Hayes and Megan Mullally, both picked up statues in their respective categories. Mullally beat out previous shoe-ins such as Jennifer Aniston and Lisa Kudrow, while Hayes outshined both hopefuls from *Everybody Loves Raymond* and *Frasier*'s favorite, David Hyde Pierce.

There was no debating the absolute power of *The West Wing* when it picked up the coveted Outstanding Drama award. The rookie drama also picked up Emmys for Outstanding Supporting Actor and Actress and for dramatic writing and directing.

FOX's golden child, *Malcolm in the*

Middle, won two awards for Outstanding Writing and Outstanding Direction in a Comedy Series, while Michael J. Fox picked up the statue for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy for his work on *Spin City*. Fox accepted the award to a standing ovation.

But enough about awards. The show was also full of other emotional moments, showcased in standard montage form. A touching video memorial paid tribute to the talent of those actors and actresses who have passed on during the year. Another kleenex-invoking tribute to love remembered those awe-inspiring moments of the past television season. Highlights from *Ally McBeal*, *Friends*, and *Frasier* were just some of the special clips.

Gary Shandling may just rival Billy Crystal in his hosting ability, running with great ad libs and backstage skits that were so cheesy, they were actually funny. The entire show ended only a couple minutes after 11 p.m., but entertained the whole night.

The Summer Concert Series

Couldn't be there? We've got the next best thing—reviews. Here's a comprehensive guide to what you missed during this summer's concert extravaganza. Look for more reviews, including Dave Matthews, No Doubt and Faith Hill/Tim McGraw, in the weeks ahead.

Rolling Rock: Latrobe, PA, August 5, 2000

One of the most anticipated events of this past summer was the Rolling Rock Town Fair. Some of those who attended had their tickets almost four months in advance. Tickets were selling on eBay for somewhere around \$200 a piece. Still, all this hype led to a show that had to be over by 7 p.m. and left many of the audience's expectations unanswered.

The headliner was the Red Hot Chili Peppers, but technical difficulties and bad communication with the roadies led to a bit of an incoherent set. The songs are always fun to sing along to, but the whole live aspect was a bit lackluster. Flea, the wonderful bass player, was

very entertaining as usual. The Chili Peppers played the recent top hits from *Californication*, but also pulled a few from the old standard of *Blood Sugar Sex Magik*. Still the entire performance fell short of the hype.

The performers who stole the show were Fuel and Moby. Fuel went on in the 3 o'clock hour when the traffic to go get a drink was backed up beyond belief. Many watched the group from the hillside, turning their attention to a large screen for a close-up view. Fuel played some new songs from the album slated to come out later August 19th. In the words of a supreme rock fan, "Fuel rocked hard."

However, a non-rocker seemed to be the real headliner of the whole afternoon. Moby used his techno beats to subdue the crowd. He made fun of Republicans, "frat boys," and the staff on hand at the Town Fair. He asked what "staff" was anyway and replied to his own question with an inquisitory, "an infection?" "Honey" and "Go" seemed to keep the crowd moving and literally kept one fan moving as he was invited to break dance on the stage.

There were a lot of small flaws that can be worked out. The groups were good enough for a memorable show but if the Town Fair does continue, there is indeed room for improvement.

by Doug Smith

Counting Crows: Darien Lake, NY, August 31, 2000

To accent the release of their new album, *This Desert Life*, Counting Crows is now finishing up the final leg of their summer concert tour, in which they co-headlined with Live. Fronted by lead singer Adam Duritz, Counting Crows is one of the best groups that I've ever seen live. As with their past two tours, each show had a life and atmosphere of its own. Almost every show that took place during this summer tour was in an outdoor setting—Toledo Zoo Amphitheater, the Blossom Music Center, outside of Cleveland, and the Darien Lake Amphitheater just to name a few. All of the shows this summer were opened by Galactic, a New Orleans techno funk band which helped to energize the audience before the headlining acts came. Counting Crows is a group that enjoys being on tour, and they are a great band to see live. Whether Adam is bantering with the

crowd or is performing a 10 minute version of "Angels of the Silences," a Counting Crows show is an experiment not to be missed.

One major theme of most of the shows this tour was rain. Almost every show took place during some form of precipitation. From the light rain that drizzled down all throughout the Toledo Zoo show to the torrential downpour that accompanied the show at the Blossom Music Center, rain seemed to be stalking the entire tour. Adam commented to the crowd at the Blossom Music Center that it had rained at every tour stop for the past two weeks. While I have seen bands that can't play when it's raining, playing in the rain just added to the experience for a group that has a song named "Rain King." You can't truly get the Counting Crows experience until you hear "Rain King" in the middle of a thunderstorm. Watch-

ing half naked people go body sliding down the middle of the lawn seating adds so much to the concert-going experience.

With three albums-worth of songs to choose from, Duritz and company play a great blend of their classic songs with tracks from their newest release. Some staples of this tour have been "Mr. Jones 2000," a more upbeat version of their original hit; "Monkey," for Duritz's new girlfriend; and "I Wish I Was a Girl," one of the best songs off of their new album. Amazingly absent from this tour was "Round Here," one of the Counting Crows best known songs, and was performed at every show up until they teamed up with Live.

The highlight of every Crows show has to be the playing of their newest hit song, "Hangin' Around." In the video for this song, Counting Crows is shown jamming with their friends to sing this

song, and this carries over onto the stage performance. All of the other groups touring with Counting Crows come back on stage to perform this song with them. Along with Adam, the lead singers of Live and Galactic both take a turn singing verses of "Hangin' Around." At this point, that song degenerates into a barely-controlled riot with Duritz and company singing part of TLC's "No Scrubs" to the "Hangin' Around" music. The crowd even gets into the song by clapping to the beat of the music under direction of Adam Duritz.

All in all, the Counting Crows summer tour consisted of great concerts. While many people have called me crazy for going to three shows of this tour, I think it just goes to show the greatness of their performances.

by Mike Frawley

Sic' Em FIDO by Deanna Symoski



THE PEEP SHOW: A glimpse into Real TV

I'm taking a rather informal survey this week. I was just wondering how many of you in the course of your lifetimes, have been marooned on a deserted island. Also, if any of you are currently in a boy band I would recognize from *TRL*, please let me know. I ask because I am afraid my life might be terribly boring compared to the "reality-based" shows I now see on television. And if this is real life, I want to know what I'm doing wrong.

Obviously this editorial has been a long time coming. Maybe I should have addressed the whole "real TV" craze when 58 million of you were watching the last episode of *Survivor*. At the time, however, I just couldn't bring myself to question your new religion when you looked so cute huddled in front of your television watching Richard collect his cash.

But now that we're a few weeks beyond the historic event and your "real" heroes have moved on to making milk ads, I thought maybe we could look back and perhaps gain a little perspective.

Ever since reality-based television started gaining popularity a few years back with shows like *COPS* and *The Jerry Springer Show*, I've had to question the term "reality-based." I understand that it is meant to signify a lack of scripted action or actors, but reality? All right, maybe for that cross section of the population comprised of trash and criminals.

Fast forward to recent endeavors like *Survivor* and *Making the Band*, however, and the term reality completely gets lost in the shuffle. Shows such as these have put such emphasis on spectacle, turning the average person into a contestant, that reality is all but sacrificed to the ratings gods. Real TV has now evolved into some hybrid of bizarre programming that combines game show with psychological experiment.

A more appropriate term for these shows may be "fish bowl" television. It started out simply with the documentary, *An American Family*. It was just a small piece examining the everyday occurrences in the average American home. But that went well and a couple of decades later, MTV wanted "to see what happens when people stop being polite and start getting real." So along came *The Real World*. A little kinky, but not too harmful.

But just as all things develop, the envelope got pushed in this genre and too soon the extreme had become the norm. Simply watching how people live wasn't enough. We wanted to see how they lived when deserted on an island or after they married a strange millionaire. It is this warping of circumstance that now makes reality so interesting.

But then that isn't exactly real, now is it? "Real" is a show like CBS' other reality program *Big Brother*. I'll explain the concept because according to ratings none of you are watching. It goes like this: A group of strangers lives together under continuous surveillance to compete for a cash prize by avoiding "banishment." Sounds a little like that island show with the old guy...what was that one?

But *Big Brother* is failing. While the circumstances were warped in this case too, the contestants adjusted much to the dismay of producers. None of you are watching because apparently there is nothing to watch. No dysfunction, no illegal activity, and no rats to fall back on. In fact, standard reality can be so boring, that last week CBS attempted to bribe house members off the show. (Something about being too normal.) In a desperate move to boost ratings, producers hoped to replace one of the members with a 22 year-old up-and-coming nymphomaniac from Florida, just to spice things up a bit.

But this, again, is where reality turns into experiment. The real truth is that while these shows may be wildly entertaining, they certainly do not represent real life. Few people's lives consist of being filmed on a deserted island, (unless you're a swimsuit model), and few others give companionship to strange millionaires for cash (unless you're a prostitute). And it worries me to think that anyone believes the majority of the population lives like this. Real life is a single parent trying to raise two kids on his or her own. Real life is a teenager struggling with obesity. Real life is a college student trying to graduate on time. But apparently these stories aren't interesting enough for the average person to watch, unless the single mom is beating her ex-lover with a chair on *Springer*, or the fat kid is crying on *Maury*.

Reality-based television does nothing but exploit the individuals who take part in it and bring out the voyeuristic tendencies of those who like to watch. I'm proud of myself for not watching *Survivor* until the last episode, and that was only so I could write about it later. I had better things to do, I guess, like hang out with friends, earn some extra summer cash, or play with my dog. Those may not be activities any of you would tune in to see, but maybe that means I did something right.

New Releases

Movies	Video*	Music*	DVD*
<i>Bait</i> 9/15	<i>Gundam Wing: Showdown in Space Way of the Warrior</i>	Madonna <i>Music</i>	<i>28 Days</i>
<i>Birthday Girl</i> 9/15	<i>Little Mermaid II: Return to the Sea</i>	Barbra Streisand <i>Timeless--Live in Concert</i>	<i>Gundam Wing: Operation 3</i>
	<i>Pokemon: Hang Ten Pikachu Po-ke Corral</i>	Fastball <i>The Harsh Light of Day</i>	<i>High Fidelity</i>
		Bjork <i>Selmasongs</i>	<i>Little Mermaid II: Return to the Sea</i>

* Release date is 9/19

23% of you said that the pop music revolution does make you feel old, mostly because you think of it as music your little sisters listen to. The rest of you didn't mind—you even liked some of it. (Apparently a lot of guys have a thing for some girl named Britney).

This Weeks' Question:
Did you watch Survivor?

e-mail votes to behreoll5@aol.com