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My VH1 Music Awards - from the fans

by Alec Styborski
staff writer

how music lovers perceived the past year in music.

On Sunday, My VH1 Music Awards '01 were held to honor the music over the past year. As usual, many known celebrities and artists presented the VH1 music awards. However, the fans were given an opportunity to choose the categories, finalists, and the winners of each category.

Voting began in September by using VH1.com. The voting continued until the very last minute before each award was presented. This interactive and spur of the moment VH1 awards show created something more personal to every music lover out there. During the past year, artists and the music industry have altered perceptions and self-images, produced new music and revealed new artists. As a result, this show recapitulated

Eric McCormick, the star of "Will and Grace," hosted the show and was introduced in a way that impersonated Elton John's "I Want Love" video, which featured Robert Downey Jr. But before McCormick took the stage by mocking the "I Want Love" video, Bon Jovi and his band mate, Richie Sambora, commenced the show by playing the classic and chilling song "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" in memory of The Beatles' George Harrison, who died last Thursday after a long battle with cancer.

The show began in a mournful manner, but as the show progressed, it became a customary awards show that was supported by celebrities, humor and live music.

Dave Matthews Band and U2 were both nominated for six awards. DMB



Violinist Boyd Tinsley (left) and Dave Matthews from the Dave Matthews Band proved nearest and dearest to the hearts of fans at the My VH1 Music Awards.

received three awards and U2, unfortunately, went away empty-handed. The three awards accepted by DMB

were My Favorite Artist, Must Have Album ("Everyday"), and Damn I Wish I Wrote That (best song for "The

Space Between"). Yes, Damn I Wish I Wrote That was in fact a name of a category, and a person named Jace, who is from Bradford, Pa., surprisingly suggested the category.

Christopher Walken triumphed over Robert Downey Jr. and won Best Actor in a Video for his bizarre appearance in Fatboy Slim's unique "Weapon of Choice" video, which was directed by maverick filmmaker Spike Jonze. Bono, Gwen Stefani, Mary J. Blige, and among others musicians won the There's No "I" in Team award (best collaboration) for the song "What's Going On." "It's Been Awhile," by Staind won the award for Your Song Kicked Ass But Was Played Too Damn Much. Lenny Kravitz won Best Male Artist and the Best Female Artist went to Gwen Stefani.

My Favorite Video went to Chris-

tina Aguilera, Lil' Kim, Mya and Pink for the "Lady Marmalade" video. Coldplay was recognized for the Best Kept Secret award, while Alicia Keys won for Best New Artist. Britney Spears took the top honors with her win in Navel Academy category (best bellybutton), although Aguilera, Lil' Kim, Mya, and Pink walked away with the award for Is It Hot in Here or Is That Just My Video? The video was a remake of Patti Labelle's "Lady Marmalade," which promoted Baz Luhrmann's exotic "Moulin Rouge."

From Coldplay to Britney, Dave Matthews Band to Staind, the diverse spectrum of the music industry was honored by the fans. Thanks to VH1's My Music Awards, fans were given an opportunity to give to the musicians what they have provided us with during the past year.

'Baby Boy' has big meaning

by Breanna Bush
staff writer

Imagine at age 20 having two children by two different people. If that doesn't cause stress, how about trying to live as if you have money? That is pretty hard when you don't even have a job. How could you live? The answer would be to live at home with mom.

That is exactly what Jody's (Tyrese Gibson) life is like in the movie "Baby Boy." Jody loves his children, a girl and a boy, and even gets along great with their mothers. His son's mother, Yvette, is Jody's love.

Yvette and Jody find out that they are having another baby together, but Jody won't stay true to her. Or can he? What happens to their relationship when Yvette's ex-boyfriend, Rodney (Snoop Dogg) gets released from prison on probation and is required to live with Yvette by his probation officer?

Jody picks up a job by stealing women's clothes and selling them on the street. The money is good and just what Jody needs. Now he has enough money to spruce up Yvette's car (the car he is always driving).

Jody is a good man, or "baby boy," as he is referred to



Tyrese Gibson and Tamara LaSeon Bass star in "Baby Boy" along with Snoop Doggy Dogg and Ving Rhames.

But Jody sleeps with other women and Yvette knows about it.

Jody lives in a nice house with his mother, until his mom brings home a man who is an ex-convict. Jody begins to reminisce about his brother who got thrown out by his mother's last boyfriend. He got killed on the streets. Jody doesn't want that to happen to him and he feels invaded when Melvin (Ving Rhames), his mother's boyfriend, moves in for good. It seems like his mother has gotten a new man in the house and has her own life. Where does Jody fit in?

throughout the movie. He just tends to be a little selfish. After a talk with mother, things begin to clear up in his head and his choices become wiser, until a murder occurs. To find out more, rent or buy "Baby Boy" on DVD or VHS.

This movie is an excellent drama showing modern urban life. With surprises around every corner, you can't take your eyes off of it for a second.

★★★
out of 4

'Scrooge' premieres at Erie Playhouse

Not into the holiday spirit yet? Visit the Erie Playhouse for its holiday production of "Scrooge," a musical re-telling of Charles Dickens' classic tale, "A Christmas Carol." This tune-filled holiday treat will shake out the bah-humbugs and put love and generosity back into your heart.

Based on the great Albert Finney movie musical with book, music and lyrics by Leslie Bricusse, "Scrooge" is an expanded stage version that Mr. Bricusse premiered in London in 1996 starring Anthony Newly.

Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" stands as one of the most beloved stories for Christmas time.

David Matthews, the managing director of the Erie Playhouse, will play the role of Scrooge. Dan

Yonko plays the role of Bob Cratchit, Kevin Hirst is Tiny Tim and Jeff Lipiec plays Jacob Marley.

"Scrooge" is directed by Almitra Clerkin. The orchestra will be conducted by Judy Matthews and Cheryl Jordan will handle the choral assignments.

Show Dates and Times:
December 7-9 and 13-15

Ticket Prices:
Thursday & Sunday:
adults \$17, students \$9
Friday & Saturday:
adults \$19, students \$9

Location:
The Erie Playhouse,
13 West 10th Street,
Erie
Box Office: 454-2852
x41
Website:
www.erieplayhouse.org

Comedy in Concert

On Jan. 5, there will be a zany night of music at the Warner Theatre.

The Erie Philharmonic will be all laughs and silliness for this concert of skits and comedy, featuring the

ringer "Taco Bell's Canon."

Admission is \$22 and up. There are discounts for children, groups and seniors. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 8 p.m.

'13 Ghosts' - scary flick with 'horror'ble acting

by Lauren Hiegel
staff writer

"13 Ghosts" is a thrilling remake of a 1960s movie by William Castle about a family that loses its home in a fire and inherits an amazing, yet unusual house from their uncle. He was a ghost hunter who captured ghosts and put them in the glass house. The family finally starts to think things are looking up and is ecstatic about the house until it finds out it is designed by the devil and powered by the dead.

Trapped in the house, the family is in a race to save itself from the 12 ghosts that can only be seen with a special pair of glasses. But where is the 13th ghost? That is key to the

which had me terrified and grossed out. This movie was quite frightening and was interlaced with humor, which made it creative.

The make-up and special effects were top-notch and the ghosts were very grotesque and unique. For example, the Jackal was freaky with its straight jacket, caged head, creepy run, and the way it attacked by violently scratching its victims. I believe that the visual effects were the best part of this movie.

"13 Ghosts" has a decent storyline that keeps you interested. However, it seemed like the writer of this movie kind of gave up. A downfall I found was that there was no background about the 13 ghosts and we don't know exactly what happens to them



Shannon Elizabeth stars in "13 Ghosts," which is a state-of-the-art remake of the classic William Castle horror film.

mystery.

In the house are exterior steel panels that slide up and down, revealing glass-container cages which hold the 12 invisible ghosts. These glass containers have spells that keep the ghosts contained in them. With the help from another ghost hunter, who can read minds and see people's pasts, the family realizes that the house is a riddle that it needs to solve in order to defeat the dead and the devil.

F. Murray Abraham, Tony Shaloub, Shannon Elizabeth, Kathryn Anderson, Matthew Lillard and J.R. Bourne star in "13 Ghosts"

at the end. Also, the acting was not satisfactory. The actors were not all that convincing. Lillard, who plays the psychic ghost hunter, overacted but was funny. Abraham, who plays the father and is the main character of the movie, had no personality was very boring for being the "hero".

Overall, the movie is good entertainment and will most likely get a scare out of you. If you are looking for a fun horror movie, "13 Ghosts" is the movie for you.

★★★
out of 4

New Releases

<p>Movies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Oceans II' 	<p>Video*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Almost Famous' - 'Pearl Harbor' - 'American Outlaws' - 'Ghosts of Mars' 	<p>Music*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limp Bizkit - America Tribute to Heroes - Big Boi and Dr. Dre present: Outkast <p style="font-size: small;">Special thanks to Media Play for providing information</p>	<p>DVD*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Almost Famous' - 'Pearl Harbor' - 'Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure' - 'Weekend at Bernie's II'
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*Release Date: 12/7

Watch
'Twas the
Night' on the
Disney Channel
at 8 p.m.