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# Professionals, students to screen short films

by Daniel J. Stasiewski  
managing editor

The third annual Short Film Festival will offer more than just student films, this year, as the public relations class project teams up the Great Lakes Film Association.

The event, scheduled for Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Reed 117, will feature both student films and short films by professional filmmakers for the first time.

"We're having a fantastic evening of shorts, comprised of somewhat more edgy material and somewhat more moderate material," said Chris Hvizdak, COMBA 08, one of the student's involved in event coordination.

The "more edgy material" comes from both the student and professionals. Hvizdak, himself, has films on the schedule, including the darkly comical "Man? Which?"

"It's a five minute proto-trailer, which parodies the recent direct-to-video trend of narrative serial killer biopics," said Hvizdak.

In addition to Hvizdak's work, the

event will feature the student work "Romeo and Juliet," a parody of Shakespeare's masterpiece.

The "edgiest" of the professional entries may just be "Timmy's Wish," a Erie-area cult hit in which Jesus helps a little boy kill his parents and then dispose of the bodies.

But the material shouldn't turn anybody off. The nature of the festival is not to shock, but, as Hvizdak puts it, "It's just a fun evening to disseminate the wonderful artform of short film to the Behrend and Erie communities."

In addition to being able to see the films, audiences will get the chance to win "mystery" door prizes.

As for the filmmakers, there is no pressure for one film to perform better than any other. The festival is designed solely as a showcase, with no competition involved.

The film festival is developed as part of Dr. Ursula Davis' public relations class. The Communication Department will also hold its own Media Arts festival on April 26. The arts festival will showcase student works, with the difference being its competitive structure.

## Schedule of Films

### "Man? Which?"

Upbeat serial killing takes hold in western Pennsylvania in this parody of the recent "direct-to-video" craze.

### "Timmy's Wish"

After he's sent to his room for refusing to eat his vegetables, angry little Timmy prays to heaven to be delivered from his cruel parents. Much to his surprise, his prayers are answered—big time. Now it's up to Timmy to clean up the mess.

### "The Dangers of Smoking"

Witness graphic illustration of the impact smoking has on the human body.

### "Duct Ape"

A vivid, knee-jerk reaction to the tape and plastic wrap-hoarding phenomenon following recommendations of the Homeland Security Department.

### "Romeo & Juliet"

The Shakespearean masterpiece as realized through somewhat less-than-so-



GARAGE MUSICALS

Even the detective sings in "Petunia," a short film showing Tuesday at the Short Film Festival.

plicated means.

### "Jihad-O-Matic"

A brutal conflict between mythic advertising adversaries reaches its boiling point.

### "Petunia"

A reinvention of the traditional musical, this comic satire details an old man

who believes his dead wife has come back from the grave.

### "Tostadora"

What if a person who spoke only English were charged with producing Spanish language television commercials?

(Synopses from Festival News Release)

# The boys are back and better than ever



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hanson is one of the many boy bands from the '90s making a return to the music scene.

by David Hiltbrand  
KRT Campus

There are those who say the golden era of boy bands is over, swept away by a flood of lawsuits, solo ambitions and changing teen tastes.

"You'll never see trading cards and cute boys in matchy-matchy outfits doing fancy choreography again," says Zena Burns, music editor for Teen People. "It's morphed into boys who play their own instruments in bands like Good Charlotte and Simple Plan."

But if the boy band is extinct, somebody forgot to tell the boys.

"Penny & Me," from a forthcoming CD by '90s sibling sensations Hanson, just debuted in the No. 2 position on the Billboard Hot 100 singles-sales chart. Former New Kids on the Block singer Jordan Knight has a new set of NKOTB material, including remixes of '80s hits such as "Step by Step" and "Cover Girl." And another New Kids alum, heartthrob Joey McIntyre, is set to release his album "8:09" on April 27.

The management of Menudo, the group that launched Ricky Martin, recently announced that it would audition 10- to 14-year-olds in New York this summer for a revival of the Latino boy band with the revolving-door policy. When a member got too tall, or his voice changed, or he turned 16, whichever came first, he was summarily replaced.

After a four-year layoff and endless litigation, the Backstreet Boys are back in the studio. And despite the solo careers of JC Chasez and Justin Timberlake, and occasional film roles by Joey Fatone and space boy Lance Bass' work on "Hollywood Squares", the 'N Sync guys say they'll begin writing songs for a new CD this summer.

The hurdle all these groups face is that it's exceedingly difficult for pop performers who had teen appeal to reconnect with their audiences.

"The typical Backstreet Boys fan was 12 years old in 2000. Now they're 16," notes Tom Vickers, a music consultant and former Capitol and Mercury Records executive. "Are they going to have the same reaction? Oh, Brian (Littrell) is so cute! No. Now they're into the Strokes or the White Stripes."

The hope, of course, is that maturing fans will see that their old faves have matured, too.

The Hansons will release their new disc, "Underneath," April 20 on their own 3CG Records. "We played an acoustic show a few days ago, getting ready for the full tour this summer," says lead singer and middle brother, Taylor, now 21, married, and the father of a 16-month-old son.

"It's been four years since our last album and seven since our first one, and the fans are different than they were...They're in college and getting on with their lives. But they're still singing along and waving their hands."

The Henry Ford of boy bands is Lou Pearlman, a former air charter owner and cousin of Art Garfunkel. A remarkable fleet of groups, Backstreet Boys, 'N Sync, LFO, Take 5, C Note, O-Town, Natural and others, have rolled off his Orlando, Fla., assembly line.

The formula is rudimentary, Pearlman says: "You need someone with dark hair, someone with light hair, someone with medium hair. You need at least three strong lead singers. And they have to be young and clean-cut, parent-friendly."

On top of that, Burns adds, "you have the really cute one, the one who's not so cute, the shy one, and the goofy one."

If the makeup of these bands is predictable, so is

their shelf life. "It's a five-year run, on average," Pearlman says. "The bands get to the point where they have a lot of money and they become more independent. Or else there's a falling out and someone wants to go solo."

Merrily Goodell, the wife of a Minnesota veterinarian, had two sons, Ryan and Clay, in Take 5, a Pearlman group. Though big in Asia and Europe, the band fizzled in the States and broke up in 2001 after four years. Goodell came away from the experience disgusted.

Before her boys joined, she says, "the picture that was painted was they would have these wonderful tutors. It would be like getting a top private-school education, and it was clean-cut people they would be around. That wasn't the case."

Both children emerged "severely depressed," Goodell says. Clay "had an eighth-grade education and he was 17. We put more than \$200,000 into this, and the boys didn't make any money," she says, though Pearlman claims he was the loser in the deal.

Eventually with boy bands, it seems money is a bone of contention. Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync sued Pearlman, and members of O-Town, the band Pearlman created on the ABC reality series "Making the Band," now say the contracts they signed were not in their best interest.

But even if they got ripped off, most former band members look back on their time with a degree of gratitude.

"The guy who created Menudo, Edgardo Diaz, promised us a lot of things that didn't happen," says Roy Rosello, who was in the Ricky Martin edition of Menudo in the group's mid-'80s heyday. "All the money we were supposed to make we didn't get, but the experience was worth it."

"The business side was cutthroat, but I got to travel the world," Ryan Goodell says. "I loved going on stage and having girls holding up pictures of you."

It took effort for the boys to keep their heads on straight: "A few minutes ago nobody cared, and now millions are screaming for you," Taylor Hanson says. "To keep your sanity, you have to believe it's not really you they're screaming for."

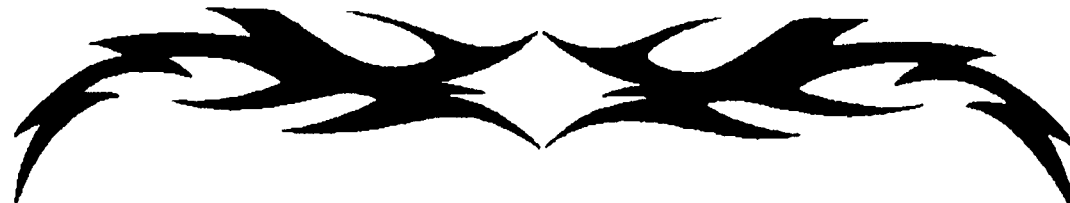
It was equally hard for some to re-enter civilian life. Ryan Goodell, 23, is an undergrad at UCLA and hopes one day to practice entertainment law.

"You get used to people catering to you," he says. "Then suddenly I was just another application number to get into UCLA."

A few singers have discovered that the best escape from the boy-band ghetto is to marry well. Nick Lachey, formerly of 98 Degrees, has gotten far more attention as Mr. Jessica Simpson on MTV's "Newlyweds" than he did for his recent CD "SoulO." And Bryan McFadden just left Westlife, the United Kingdom's most popular boy band, to pursue TV projects with his wife, Kerry, the former Atomic Kitten singer who sprang to fame as winner of the British version of "I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here!" Yes, things may be ugly in the shallow end of the pop music pool, the work is grueling, the chance of success slim, the management usually rapacious. But there's never a lack of talented kids clamoring to dive in.

That's why it may be premature to trumpet the end of the boy-band era.

"I'll tell you exactly when it'll be over," Pearlman says. "When God stops making little girls. Until then, we'll keep going."



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# Arts & Entertainment Highlights

## Top 40 Singles

1. "Yeah"-Usher feat. Lil Jon & Ludacris
2. "This Love"-Maroon5
3. "Toxic"-Britney Spears
4. "My Immortal"-Evanescence
5. "Tiptop"-J-Kwon
6. "One Call Away"-Chingy feat. J. Weav
7. "My Band"-D12
8. "With You"-Jessica Simpson
9. "I Don't Wanna Know"-Mario Winans feat. Enya & P. Diddy
10. "Someday"-Nickelback

\*\*According to Billboard.com\*\*

## Album Releases on April 20

- Johnny Cash-"Cash Sings Cash"
- Jerry Garcia-"All Good Things: Jerry Garcia Studio Sessions"
- Marilyn Manson & The Spooky Kids-"Lunch Boxes and Choklit Cows"

## New Movie Releases

- "Kill Bill Vol. 2"-Uma Thurman, Michael Madsen
- "The Punisher"-Thomas Jane, John Travolta
- "Connie and Carla"-Nia Vardalos, Toni Collette

## DVD Releases on April 20

- "Master and Commander"
- "The Haunted Mansion"
- "Wild Things"-Unrated
- "A League of Their Own"-Special Edition