

STUDENT LIFE

Green Day rules the VMA's

By J. William McConnell
staff writer

It's all about the music. At the very least, we can give MTV the benefit of the doubt on the issue when it comes to the Video Music Awards (VMAs). This three hour and twenty minute star-studded spectacle saw momentary flashes of musical bliss amid the usual award show fare and fashion drudgery. The host of the evening was outdated rap star/producer Diddy, with the DJ role provided by the now legendary Grandmaster Flash.

It was the awards, however, which appropriately received the most attention. Green Day turned out to be the biggest winners of the night, receiving five awards, including Video of the Year and the Viewer's Choice Award. American Idol winner Kelly Clarkson took home two awards of her own for the impossibly catchy "Since U Been Gone," as did Missy Elliot for "Lose Control," which won the Best Dance Video and Best Hip Hop Video awards. Kanye West, Alicia Keys, Ludacris, Fallout Boy, The Killers

and the Gorillaz also left with various awards.

Also of note are the special effect-laden performances - some were great, others mediocre - and still others that were embarrassing to watch. Highlights included the orchestral tribute to Notorious B.I.G. featuring Snoop Dogg and conducted by Diddy, Coldplay's justifiably praised "Speed of Sound" and Clarkson's mesmerizing performance of "Since U Been Gone" to finish off the show.

However, in contrast to those excellent performances, R. Kelly's lip-synched and pantomimed chapters of his exceedingly lengthy "Trapped in the Closet" can only be described as pointless.

All in all, the VMAs of 2005 were too much flash and not enough substance. There was too much focus on who wore what and not enough focus on the more skilled artists. Luckily, the airtime these superior artists were given was well used and gives hope for next year.



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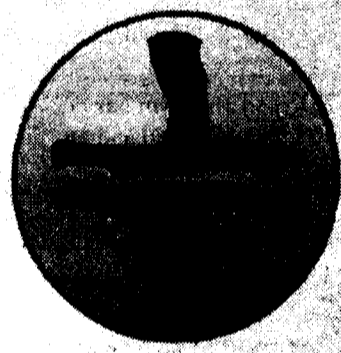
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