

STUDENT LIFE

Hallelujah Holla -Back

By Joshua Lane
student life editor

The first season of VH1's "(White) Rapper" show will be coming to a close this week. The two remaining finalists, John Brown and Shamrock, will face off in the final battle on Monday Feb. 26, at 10 p.m. to find out who will be the next great (white) emcee.

For those who are not familiar, VH1's "(White) Rapper" show started off with 12 contestants, and they are now down to the final two. The show is hosted by the legendary emcee "MC Serch," from the group Third Bass (check iTunes for "Pop Goes The Weasel" if you still don't know who I'm talking about). The show keeps with the style of hip-hop using plenty of wordplay. For instance, the contestants stay at the "White House," a run-down house located in the capital of hip-hop, South Brooklyn. When they receive their messages, a voice comes on the house intercom telling the rappers, "You've got mayo."

The two finalists are all that remain from the 12 that started the show. Brown is the self-proclaimed "King of the Burbs." He doesn't consider himself a "rapper." He prefers to be called an "entity" because the word "rapper"

doesn't encompass everything he's all about. He claims to be starting a business called "The Ghetto Revival," but it is very unclear as to what this business does. When Brown gets questioned on what the "Ghetto Revival" actually does, his answer is vague at best and usually just resorts to repeating his favorite



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(White) rappers Persia and finalist John Brown in NYC

phrase, "Hallelujah, holla-back."

Shamrock is a southern emcee with some of the worst chin hair you could ever see. But Sham-

rock has been a tough competitor from day one, and probably the most talented. He comes up with witty rhymes and good flows week after week, but he is terrible at freestyling.

None of the rappers have been stellar from day one and that is probably the main reason that contestants are given a cash prize of \$100,000, and not a record deal.

Last weeks show took the final three to the so-called "Mecca" of (white) rap, Detroit. The contestants went to Saint Andrews Hall, which is famous for its legendary rap battles. The contestants were forced to freestyle against some of Detroit's biggest emcees.

The (White) Rapper Show season finally is on Monday Feb. 26th at 10 p.m.

Ghost Rider burns through box office

By Jason Juniewicz
contributing writer

Ghost Rider burned the competition this weekend at the box office, pulling in an estimated \$52 million. Nicholas Cage portrays Johnny Blaze, a man who sells his soul to the devil to save his father, in this latest effort by Marvel Comics to bring one of their characters to the screen following the success of such movies as X-Men 3 and Fantastic Four.

Both Cage and Eva Mendez, who plays Cage's love interest, Roxanne Simpson, give strong performances. However Cage seemed to be at his best when he was playing the fearless stunt cyclist, not when he was trying to play the cursed man trying to figure out what is happening to him. Sam Elliot is great as the Caretaker, and helps add to the "old west" feel that seems to be underlying in the movie. Peter Fonda's portrayal of Mephistopheles and Wes Bentley's performance of Blackheart are truly evil and just generally creepy. Matt Long and Raquel Alessi, who played the young versions of Johnny and Roxanne, were uncanny to their older counterparts.

Previous to its release, fans said they were worried of a repeat of the terrible CGI displayed by another Marvel movie *The Hulk*. However, fan response for the most part seems to say that those worries were not well founded. *Ghost Rider* himself looks great and the trans-

formations of Johnny into *Ghost Rider* are flawless. The Hell Cycle, *Ghost Rider's* evil chopper, also looks amazing.

However, the movie was not completely without its faults. Much of the dialogue spoken by the title character will have even long-time fans of the comic rolling their eyes. This is one movie that proves that you cannot take comic book dialogue and put it up on the screen without sounding ridiculous. The movie at times seemed to move almost too fast at some places. Many of the lesser villain's defeats seemed rushed. The climax of the movie leaves a lot to be



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nicholas Cage in *Ghost Rider* box office winner this week

desired. The movie offered great build-up, then delivered a cut and dry ending that didn't seem to match up with the rest of the action-packed sequences in the film.

If you can suspend disbelief enough to believe a man who has a fiery skull for a head riding around town on a motorcycle covered in hellfire, you will enjoy this movie. Is this Oscar material? No way. But it is a fun movie that fans of the comic as well as newcomers to the character will enjoy.

Producer Avi Arad stated that *Ghost Rider 2* is already in the works, so we can expect Johnny Blaze to ride into theaters again in the future. Marvel has a big slate of movies set for release this summer. *Spider-Man 3* and *Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer* are hoping to keep the recent success of comic book based movies going strong.

Oscar ballot contest

Think you know the winners? Fill out the ballot and drop it off at the Beacon office in Reed 10H before 7:00 p.m. on Feb. 25th. The person with the most correct choices will win a \$15 gift card to Best Buy. The 79th annual Academy Awards is hosted by Ellen DeGeneres and will be shown live at 8:00 p.m. eastern on ABC.

ACTOR -- LEADING

- Leonardo DiCaprio - BLOOD DIAMOND
- Ryan Gosling - HALF NELSON
- Peter O'Toole - VENUS
- Will Smith - THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS
- Forest Whitaker - THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND

ACTOR -- SUPPORTING

- Alan Arkin - LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE
- Jackie Earle Haley - LITTLE CHILDREN
- Djimon Hounsou - BLOOD DIAMOND
- Eddie Murphy - DREAMGIRLS
- Mark Wahlberg - THE DEPARTED

ACTRESS -- LEADING

- Penélope Cruz - VOLVER
- Judi Dench - NOTES ON A SCANDAL
- Helen Mirren - THE QUEEN
- Meryl Streep - THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
- Kate Winslet - LITTLE CHILDREN

ACTRESS -- SUPPORTING

- Adriana Barraza - BABEL
- Cate Blanchett - NOTES ON A SCANDAL
- Abigail Breslin - LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE
- Jennifer Hudson - DREAMGIRLS
- Rinko Kikuchi - BABEL

ANIMATED FEATURE

- CARS
- HAPPY FEET
- MONSTER HOUSE

CINEMATOGRAPHY

- THE BLACK DAHLIA
- CHILDREN OF MEN
- THE ILLUSIONIST
- PAN'S LABYRINTH
- THE PRESTIGE

COSTUME DESIGN

- CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
- THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
- DREAMGIRLS
- MARIE ANTOINETTE
- THE QUEEN

DIRECTING

- BABEL
- THE DEPARTED
- LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA
- THE QUEEN
- UNITED 93

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

- DELIVER US FROM EVIL
- AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH
- IRAQ IN FRAGMENTS
- JESUS CAMP
- MY COUNTRY, MY COUNTRY

FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM

- AFTER THE WEDDING
- DAYS OF GLORY (INDIGÈNES)
- THE LIVES OF OTHERS
- PAN'S LABYRINTH
- WATER

ORIGINAL SCORE

- BABEL
- THE GOOD GERMAN
- NOTES ON A SCANDAL
- PAN'S LABYRINTH
- THE QUEEN

ORIGINAL SONG

- "I Need to Wake Up" - AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH
- "Listen" - DREAMGIRLS
- "Love You I Do" - DREAMGIRLS
- "Our Town" - CARS
- "Patience" - DREAMGIRLS

DOCUMENTARY SHORT

- THE BLOOD OF YINGZHOU DISTRICT
- RECYCLED LIFE
- REHEARSING A DREAM
- TWO HANDS

ART DIRECTION

- DREAMGIRLS
- THE GOOD SHEPHERD
- PAN'S LABYRINTH
- PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST
- THE PRESTIGE

MAKEUP

- APOCALYPTO
- CLICK
- PAN'S LABYRINTH

FILM EDITING

- BABEL
- BLOOD DIAMOND
- CHILDREN OF MEN
- THE DEPARTED
- UNITED 93

VISUAL EFFECTS

- PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST
- POSEIDON
- SUPERMAN RETURNS

SOUND EDITING

- APOCALYPTO
- BLOOD DIAMOND
- FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS
- LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA
- PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST

SCREENPLAY -- ADAPTED

- BORAT: CULTURAL LEARNINGS OF AMERICA FOR MAKE BENEFIT GLORIOUS NATION OF KAZAKHSTAN
- CHILDREN OF MEN
- THE DEPARTED
- LITTLE CHILDREN
- NOTES ON A SCANDAL

SCREENPLAY -- ORIGINAL

- BABEL
- LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA
- LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE
- PAN'S LABYRINTH
- THE QUEEN

SOUND MIXING

- APOCALYPTO
- BLOOD DIAMOND
- DREAMGIRLS
- FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS
- PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST

SHORT FILM -- LIVE ACTION

- BINTA AND THE GREAT IDEA (BINTA Y LA GRAN IDEA)
- ÉRAMOS POCOS (ONE TOO MANY)
- HELMER & SON
- THE SAVIOUR
- WEST BANK STORY

BEST PICTURE

- BABEL
- THE DEPARTED
- LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA
- LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE
- THE QUEEN

SHORT FILM -- ANIMATED

- THE DANISH POET
- LIFTED
- THE LITTLE MATCHGIRL
- MAESTRO
- NO TIME FOR NUTS

Name _____

email _____