

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Playlist

A look at the world of music, from the obscure to the obscene, the new and the old.

3OH!3 takes center stage on the pop scene

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Heavy beats, catchy rhythms, vocals that complement the rap/pop genre, and lyrics that will make you get your grind on is what 3OH!3 is all about. Two guys rapping, talking about sex, women, drinking, partying, everything a college student wants and needs to listen to at any party.

The band consists of two friends: Sean Matthew Foreman and Nathaniel Warren Seth Motte. Coming out of Boulder, Colorado, which has the area code 303, the inspiration for the band name. They met in a physics class at the University of Colorado, and, inspired by the underground hip-hop scene, came together to produce



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3OH!3 is a new face on the pop/rap scene that consists of two college friends who met at the University of Colorado. They are signed with Photo Finish Records.

the music we know and love today. Their first album was self-titled and self-released in 2007. The band then signed to Photo Finish records, a branch of Atlantic Records. Their second album dropped in 2008, titled *Want*. 3OH!3 has opened for Jessica Simpson, played on Tje Vans Warped Tour 2007 and 2008, played in *Bamboozle Left* and the Pemberton Festival in British Columbia. Upcoming in the future of 3OH!3 is a year of touring. They are supporting Katy Perry on a European tour in February, headlining the Alternative Press Tour, and making an appearance on Warped Tour this summer. A few of their songs have been used on episodes of *The Hills* as well.

What sets 3OH!3 apart from most other electronica/rap bands is their in-your-face cockiness and blatant use of sex appeal. Almost all of their songs have some sort of sexual innuendo in between heavy bass and rhythms. For any fan of punk or pop-punk music, the vocals of 3OH!3 is what attracts listeners to them. They rap, but their voices ooze with a somewhat hardcore background. They remind me of today's Beastie Boys, modified for today's dance clubs. The lyrics are hard and well-delivered, with intermittent poppy elements, showing their electronica side. The lyrics are so catchy that after a few listens, you'll find yourself dropping rhymes along with the guys.

"Push it baby, push it baby, out of control, I got my gun cocked tight and I'm ready to blow." From the song "Starstruck" this lyric outlines the band's love of riding the border between dance club music and all-out sex music. While none of their lyrics will make you sit down and ponder your life or blow you away, they will almost always make you get up and move or even laugh. Whether they're singing about one night stands (see "I'm Not Your Boyfriend Baby") or rolling up to clubs with women, 3OH!3 delivers a fast-paced rap performance.

Any fan of rap, hip-hop, or pop-punk music will dig 3OH!3. They give a refreshing break from all the mainstream, overplayed dance music that today has been reduced down to a single phrase that is repeated over and over to a constant beat. Their songs don't blend together, they get you up off your feet and put you in a dancing, happy mood. Most of their lyrics deal with what college kids have in mind anyways: partying and having fun.

Food For Thought

Stand on principle,
even if you stand alone.

—John Quincy Adams

Comic book films take over the world one cinema at a time

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When it comes to an artistic perspective in feature films, Hollywood's blockbusters typically lack in such a department. The idea of an artistic direction in a film is all but overlooked in the Hollywood sector, leaving it up to the independent film industry to fill the void. Venues like the Sundance Film Festival and, closer to home, the Erie Horror Fest provide the only available outlets for directors and producers who feel the need to express that artistic direction in a full-length, feature film.

In the Academy Awards, as of now, five blockbusters are up for nomination for "Best Art Direction." This includes *The Dark Knight*, *Changeling*, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, *The Duchess*, and *Revolutionary Road*. Breaking this and past nominations down, this will be the first time since the movie *Batman* (which won the award in 1989) that a comic-book movie adaptation has received a nomination. Aside from these two, most award-winners have been musicals, book-to-film adaptations, or historical films. In 1972, the winner was *Cabaret*; *Schindler's List* in 1993, *Titanic* in 1997, *Chicago* in 2002, *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* in 2003, and last year's winner was *Sweeney Todd*.

As it stands, Hollywood's typical box-office hits don't ever make the listing of nominees. While this may seem unfortunate, it actually opens the door to many opportunities for independent film-makers. For instance, the movie many know and love, *Saw*, was released at the Sundance Film Festival in early 2004. After becoming a critical success there, it saw international release later that year in October. This pattern is not new to Sundance and is usually always the case with most successful films. This year's festival will showcase a full-length feature film by Derrick Comedy. For those of you familiar, they got their start on YouTube. They, too, have hit it big and are now looking forward to contending for a nation-wide theatre release of their movie, *Mystery Team*.

While it may seem like there exists hope in the film industry for artistic direction, most films in the Sundance Film Festival go unnoticed by mainstream attention. What truly matters to them is what Hollywood provides for them. And as of late, Hollywood seems to have an ever-growing comic-book movie adaptation market. In light of this, the comic-book tycoon, Marvel, even started their own production company, quickly buying the rights to as many of—if not all of—their own characters that they could. Their own pro-

jections show they they'll have a feature-film release every year for the next five years. Comparable to this is the market for DC comic-book adaptations, especially after the success of *The Dark Knight*.

Also waltzing through this new door of opportunity are movies filmed as if they were still comic-books. With the advent of *Sin City* and its critical acclaim by movie-goers came other films like *300* and *The Spirit*, both of which incorporated a specific filming-technique to better capture the "feel" of the respective comic-book. With *Sin City* and *The Spirit*, both films gathered recognition for utilizing a unique coloring process, which renders most of the film in black and white but retained or added coloring for select objects. The movie *300* was filmed mostly with a super-imposition chroma key technique, to help replicate the imagery of the original comic book.

Following the success of these films is the upcoming *Watchmen*. Seemingly, the film will retain its original color, but will be shot also using chroma key technique, helping to stay as true to the graphic novel as possible. To help the director and writers alike, actual frames of the comic-book were used for the film's storyboard. *Watchmen* will be coming to theatres this March. With the doors open to more and more comic-book films and with the graphic novel, *Watchmen*, being critically acclaimed in Time's 2005 "100 best English-language novels from 1923 to present," it seems the door to artistic direction for any type of movie is up for grabs. Assuming *The Dark Knight* takes home the award movie-goers could start to see an influx of more comic-book oriented artistic films in the near future.



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Watchmen film to debut on March 6th, 2009.

This week in art history

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Jan. 29, 1983 - "Down Under" by Men At Work hit #1 on UK pop chart. The group is an Australian rock band with reggae influences. They won a Grammy in 1983 for "Best New Artist." Its members included Colin Hay, Ron Strykert, Jerry Speiser, Greg Ham, and John Rees.

Jan. 30, 1998 - Howard Stern Radio Show premieres in Indianapolis IN on WNAP 93.1 FM. The shock jock moved to Sirius Satellite radio on January 9, 2006, where he currently broadcasts on channels 100 and 101 in an uncensored format. He has also written Private Parts, which he later made into a movie.

Feb. 1, 1974 - *Good Times* premieres on CBS TV. This American sitcom was a spin-off from the show *Mauve*, which was itself a spin-off of *All in the Family*. It starred Esther Rolle and John Amos and centered on their lives in a housing project in Chicago.

Feb. 2, 1993 - Frito Lay pays court ordered \$2,500,000 to Tom Waits for using his song. The company had initially asked Waits to use his music in an ad in 1988, and Waits had refused. Frito Lay then hired an impersonator to sing a song similar to Waits' "Step Right Up," off the album *Step Right Up*.

Feb. 4, 1977 - Fleetwood Mac's "Rumours" released. The band formed in 1967 in London with Peter Green, Mick Fleetwood, Jeremy Spencer, and Bob Bruning. (Bruning was soon replaced with John McVie) The band had the most success during the late 1960s and from 1975-87.

Feb. 5, 1973 - Comic strip "Hagar The Horrible" debuted. This syndicated comic strip was originally written by Dik Browne. Since Dik's death, his son Chris Browne has taken over the strip. The strip is a caricature of Viking life.



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The infamous Howard Stern