

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Watchmen meets expectations with success

By Neil Peters
asst. arts editor
njp5083@psu.edu

continued from front page.

realistically happen if heroes existed. Wars America actually lost are won and the staple of the government's power is a walking god-man. However, with the exception of Dr. Manhattan, the naked blue guy, no one has any super-powers. They are masked crime fighters who follow in the footsteps of characters like Batman or the Punisher.

This strange and different twist to the usual "superhero movie formula" actually is quite a refreshing take on this somewhat worn-out genre. Accounting major Philip Brodis said, "It was a very deep movie. I liked the movie and liked the concepts, and the man who was Rorschach played a really good role."

As original and timeless as the story is, what really makes the film shine are its memorable characters. The most iconic of its cast is the masked and brutal Rorschach. Emotionally damaged and borderline psychotic, Rorschach is actually the character that most people are drawn to. Though he is violent, he also is the film's unbending symbol of justice who fights against all odds to avenge the innocent and punish the wicked with lethal force.

Night Owl, on the other hand, follows more like Batman with respect to the utility belt full of handy gadgets and a flying Owl Ship nicknamed "Archie." He more questioning and reluctant to act as the film's tension rises. Each person brings their own bit of spice to the cast, which comes together to form a great epic.

The movie draws on the graphic novel for its inspiration and sticks to its origins to the most intimate detail. In several cases, the camera angles in the movie are identical to the book's panels. With the film following the comic so closely, some people wonder if the film is even worth seeing if you haven't read the novel.

However, political science major Ryan Romba said "Having never read the graphic novel, I went to see the movie not knowing what to expect and I have say that I was pleasantly surprised. It was very entertaining and provided a great movie experience."

Watchmen is a very different movie with a different meaning. It breaks away from the typical plot of superhero movies known as the "Origin Story" and covers completely



One of eight movie posters for *Watchmen* pays homage to the original cover of the graphic novel, shown above. Rorschach (portrayed by Jackie Earle Haley), pictured below, is arguably the most iconic character in the entire *Watchmen* series.



The Playlist

A LOOK AT THE WORLD OF MUSIC, FROM THE OBSCURE TO THE OBSCENE, THE NEW AND THE OLD.

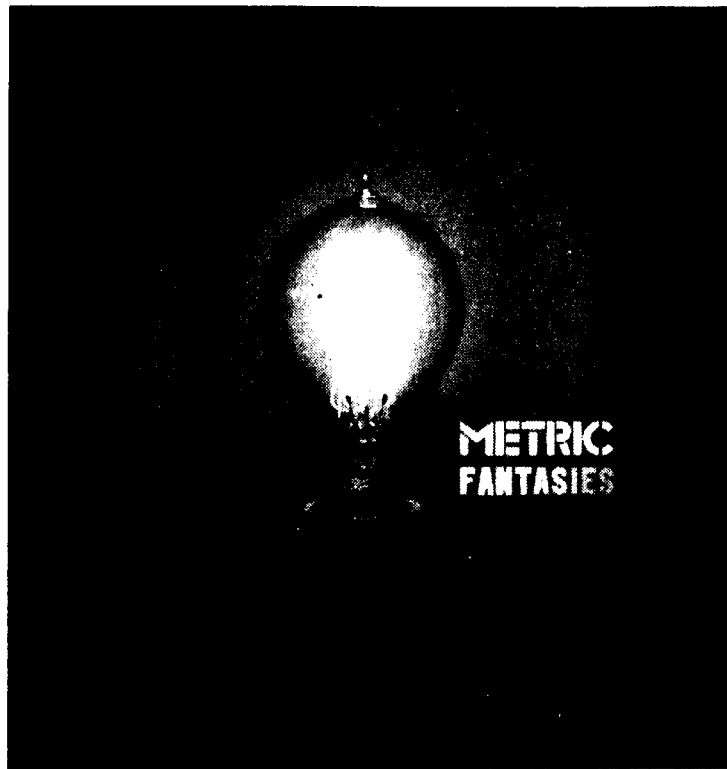
Metric's new album *Fantasies* leaked

By Justin Pekular
contributing writer
jip5085@psu.edu

Usually when a mildly popular and successful indie band has a highly anticipated release, there are people all over the internet checking pages for the next track to be "leaked." This is the case for the Canadian band Metric's new album *Fantasies*. At first the band controlled singles being posted on their Myspace page. The first song from the album, "Help I'm Alive," was posted back in Dec. 2008, and it was a catchy pop tune about the fears of performing. It's definitely replay worthy, with a contagious guitar riff and lyrics that you'll learn after two listens.

Through some means, the album was "leaked" on the internet. A typical leak is when someone starts sharing the album over the internet and, with a critically acclaimed band like Metric, it spreads like wildfire. The day after the leak on March 9, the band uploaded the entire album to their Myspace page for fans to listen to.

After reading a blog about the leak, I cruised over to Metric's Myspace page to give it a listen. I was thoroughly impressed with the quality of songs. The first three tracks are done very well: perfect rock songs driven by Emily Haines's (lead



The cover of Metric's *Fantasies*. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

singer/synthesizer) voice and lyrics. The fourth track, "Twilight Galaxy," is by far my favorite. It has a very groovy electronic sound with poppy drums by Jules Scott-Key that sound like they're being played a mile away. Drawing from the song's title, it provides a very spacey feel with reflective and haunting lyrics.

Immediately after that, the next track brings back the rock with an upbeat song titled "Gold Guns Girls," a song about being dissatisfied with the material realm of life. Again, Emily Haines's genius writing at its prime, asking a listener, "Is it ever going to be enough?" The next track continues with a contemplative and inspiring ballad apparently written by Emily Haines for guitarist James Shaw. As the album develops, it becomes a little less interesting to me. The songs are well written, varying from very mellow to loud and churning guitars.

So, what can I say about this album's leak? There are no professional reviews done by big name magazines. On the other hand, amateurs like myself, who didn't wait for a record to arrive in our mailbox, have been blown away by *Fantasies*. In addition to this, there are thousands of plays recorded for each of the tracks posted on Metric's Myspace page. "Help I'm Alive" floats just below a million plays.

When you look at Last.fm, a site that allows users to record and "scrobble" each play for a song to a site, Metric has thousands more plays. Users are commenting about how much they love the songs, how catchy they are, and how much the new album is awesome. The conclusion I'm going to draw from all of this is that once the album hits stores on April 7, it's going to perform amazingly. We might even get to see a music video or two on MTV2. Keep your ears and mind open for this album; it's going to be worth buying.



The members of Metric from left to right: Jules Scott-Key, James Shaw, Emily Haines, Josh Winstead. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Corruption and hypocrisy ought not to be inevitable products of democracy, as they undoubtedly are today."

—Mahatma Gandhi

FOR RENT FALL 2009-SPRING 2010

3523 South Street
2 Units - 4 Students per Unit

1st Floor: Living Room, Kitchen, Dining Area, 3 Bedrooms, Full Bath w/Shower

2nd Floor: Living Room, Kitchen, Dining Area, 2 Bedrooms, Full Bath w/Shower

Both Units have Wall to Wall Carpeting and Appliances.

Laundry is onsite. Bus to Behrend, 2 Restaurants, Shops One Block North on Buffalo Rd (US RT. 20).

Landlord Pays - Water, Sewer, Garbage, Natural Gas, and Electric.

For More Information or to Make an Appointment for a Showing

Contact Joe at (814) 440-5219

FOR RENT

Rhythms of Life series welcomes Simple Gifts

By Evan Koser
arts editor
emk5110@psu.edu

The all-female, three-member traditional musical group Simple Gifts made their way to the stage in Bruno's last Tuesday.

As part of the year-long Rhythms of Life series, the group came to perform as part of their on-going tour. Simple Gifts was aptly scheduled for performance on St. Patrick's Day, enabling them to showcase their Irish, Scottish and Appalachian musical quality.

Dancing alongside the three talented musicians were the members of FiddleKicks, an all-female clogging group. The two toured together for two days, one spent at Behrend and the day prior at Seton Hill University in Greensburgh, as part of a joint Irish heritage and St. Patrick's Day celebration.

Simple Gifts consists of the founding member Linda Littleton, Karen Hirschon, and Rachel Hall (who has also been recognized as one of the leading concertina players in the United States). Amazingly, the three switch with ease among their 12 instruments. Two violins, a concertina, a mandolin, a banjolin, a few recorders, bowed psaltery, a

hammered dulcimer, a baritone fiddle, guitar, piano, and percussion all eventually found their way into the group's line-up.

While the majority of the rest of Simple Gift's tour consists of straight-forward concerts, the group is known to play (and often do so without hesitation) for educational and enlightening purposes. As stated on their homepage by former Senior Educator of the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum, "Simple Gifts wowed our audience with a cultural and educational program that was fun, informative, and energetic."

The group also runs constructive music workshops. Sophomore history major Sonia Rosales said she loved the experience.

"I've never been so exposed to a new culture, and such different music. This was a perfect group to pick for a day like St. Patrick's Day."

The Rhythms of Life series will continue to bring new experiences to campus on April 21 as the program ushers in Cellofourte, a string quartet emphasizing the blending of rock and classical music.