

MUSIC



NATHAN CARTER
staff writer

Thankfully, summer is on its way, and with warm weather comes the onslaught of large-scale music festivals. Warped Tour hits this summer, but there is a festival much sooner, even though it's at the opposite end of the country. Coachella Music and Arts Festival hits Indio, California for a 3-day weekend, April 16-18.

They will showcase both up-and-coming artists as well as seasoned veterans of their genre on multiple stages: everything from Coheed and Cambria to Jay-Z.

The amazing thing about their schedule is that it's such a variety. I wish I could discuss all of the artists in this article, but there is only time to pick a few.

On Friday, April 16, the band As Tall As Lions performs. Probably most famous for their song, Love Love Love, they've carved a spot in the indie scene, mixing sort of a trance-like jazz sound with Coldplay-type vocals.

Kickin' Myself is another good track by them, and it's where you really hear the amazing vocal range of lead singer Daniel Nigro. In contrast to As Tall As Lions' breezy indie sounds, the cult legend Echo and the Bunnymen will also be performing on Friday. Their punk sounds and their creation of a sort of '80s grunge were best heard from the soundtrack to the film *Donnie Darko*, which featured The Killing Moon. Easily their most famous

recording, *The Killing Moon* became a hit in 1983 and reached the top twenty charts of both America and their home of England.

Yeasayer, a band of recent fame in the NPR scene, will also be playing. Yeasayer creates a very interesting and original indie sound. The way they meld instrumental variety and often harmonized vocals is truly amazing to me for the exact reason that it is so layered and different from most other music I'm listening to. *Tightrope* is a good track by them, as well as *Wait for the Summer*.

Other notable artists performing on Friday: The Avett Brothers, Grizzly Bear, She & Him, Jay-Z, Vampire Weekend, and The Dillinger Escape Plan.

The following day, Saturday, April 17, holds a mind-blowing assortment of artists including legendary Primus member and bass master, Les Claypool. For starters, MGMT is a band that has combined 70s style synth with electronica to create an amazingly original sound that has surprisingly reached the height of popularity. The band doesn't have specific songs I would suggest, other than maybe *Electric Feel* and *Kids*, because in all honesty, the entire album of *Oracular Spectacular* is good. MGMT is also working on a new album that's set to hit stores April 13 called *Congratulations*.

Portugal the Man is yet another brilliant band to grace the stage of Coachella. PTM creates an original, trance-like sound with most of their

songs, although they began with rather harshly instrumental roots. They often harmonize in their songs as well, with tracks like *The Sun and The Woods* coming from their 2008 album *The Satanic Satanist*, as well as more recent tracks like *The Dead Dog* from their newest album, *American Ghetto*.

Old Crow Medicine Show will also be there with their six-member folk ensemble that carries bluegrass as well as country influences with them.

Their last three albums have all hit number one on the U.S. Bluegrass charts, with the highest praise coming to their newest album, *Tennessee Pusher*. Probably best known for their songs *Down Home Girl* and *Wagon Wheel*, a tribute to Bob Dylan's work, *Old Crow Medicine Show* can't be missed.

Again, in contrast to OCMS, Porcupine Tree is playing at Coachella in all of their splendor. This band is one that I've loved for some time now. Their lead singer, Steven Wilson, created *Porcupine Tree* in 1987 and has been what I view as carrying the flame of Roger Waters from Pink Floyd. Porcupine Tree's music is much like Pink Floyd's, yet the forms of metal and progressive are seen more in the mix with that psychedelic trance. Some of their best songs are *Fear of a Blank Planet*, *Normal*, and *Dark Matter*, the latter being the first song I heard by them and actually had it mistaken with Pink Floyd's work. It's that good.

Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros are also playing.

This ten person indie/pop ensemble band led by Alex Ebert, is probably most famous for their highly praised album *Up From Below* and specifically the track, "Home." The song demonstrates an amazing 70s-style semi-harmonious sound with a story to tell, and this band does it well.

Other notable artists performing Saturday: Coheed and Cambria, Muse, RX Bandits, Tokyo Police Club, and Faith No More.

Finally, Sunday April 18th, seems to hold the most unknown artists, thereby promising new discoveries.

Deerhunter is best known for their ambient punk sound that's really revived an odd mix of Sonic Youth and The Killers sounds. *Agoraphobia* and *Strange Light* are great songs by them, as well as anything off the *Microwcastle* EP.

Florence and the Machine highlights musician Florence Welch performing with a four-member support band.

Their sound is also another mix of indie and pop, but her vocals really stand out against her contemporaries, as she reminds me of another Karen O figure (from the Yeah Yeah Yeahs). Simultaneously, the material they've produced has an undeniable and rather original element of soul music. Florence and the Machine is best known for their songs *Dog Days* and *Kiss With A Fist*.

Local Natives, an indie-based rock group from Los Angeles, recently released an album in February called *Gorilla Manor*. With it being their first album released in the U.S., they obvi-

ously had to meet certain expectations. And they did! The band has been a feature on NPR for some time, as well on the Jimmy Kimmel Show. Best known for their harmonized vocals, I suggest the songs *Wide Eyes*, *Sun Hands*, and *Airplanes*.

The French alternative indie rock group Phoenix will also be playing at Coachella.

Achieving almost instant fame once their material hit American shores, they are most famous for the song 1901 and their only U.S.-released album, called *Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix*. Another couple of songs I would suggest by them are *If I Ever Feel Better* and *Everything is Everything*.

Recently formed in 2007, the Swedish band Miiike Snow is performing. Also gaining NPR fame upon American arrival, they're best known for their self-titled album and the opening track, *Animal*. Other notable artists playing on Sunday: Spoon, Sunny Day Real Estate, Mutemath, Thom Yorke (Radiohead), and Gorillaz.

While this show is in California and I don't expect many of you to get out there for the festival, I've still provided a variety of bands that can't be missed.

They're obviously doing great things in the music industry, or Coachella wouldn't sign them to perform. Check them out, and see what you think. If you're anything like me, their music will make your day on some days and be exactly what you wanted to hear. Enjoy.



<http://beatcrave.com/tag/coachella>; <http://blogs.citypages.com>

FILM REVIEW

Down the Brick Lane

NATHAN CARTER
staff writer

When I went to see *Brick Lane*, the first film in the International Women's Film Festival being showcased here at Behrend, I'll have to admit that I didn't expect a great movie. However, after viewing the strongly cultural film, I am glad to say that it was a great movie, and I recommend it.

The film centers around Nazneen Ahmed, who after her mother kills herself for undisclosed reasons, is pressured to marry Chanu Ahmed and live in East London.

She is forced from her home country of Bangladesh where she lived a carefree life. Now, for the first time, cultural tradition rears its head for Nazneen. After moving to London, she meets a young Muslim like herself named Karim, whom

she falls in love and pursues an affair with.

She experiences happiness and contentment for the first time since childhood in the swoons and caresses from the young Karim. Suddenly, though, London receives the news of September 11, and the Ahmeds and other people of Muslim faith begin to be persecuted and humiliated by the others in London. This marks the turning point in the film. While cultural tensions and traditions rise, and an affair becomes serious, Nazneen is forced to confront her crumbling family who want nothing more than acceptance and success.

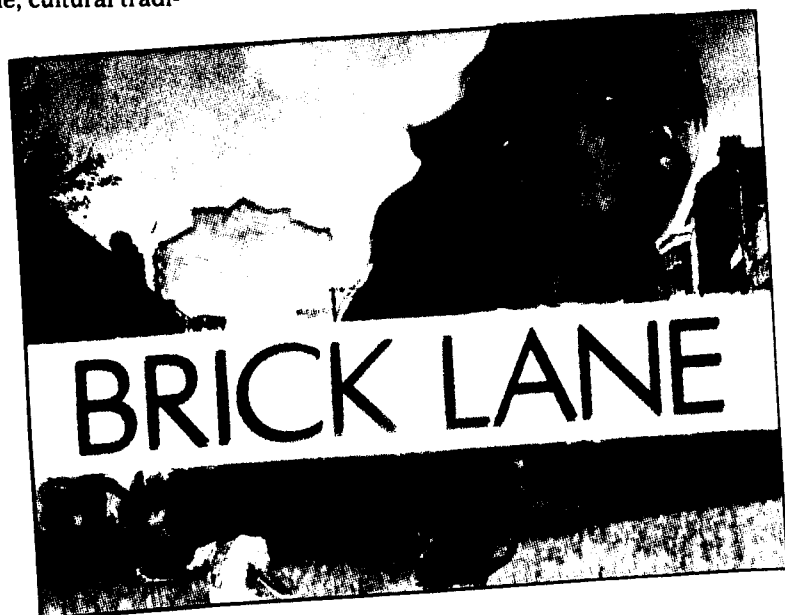
The true victory of the film

didn't come in the plot or even the acting, in my opinion, although they were both good. The best part of the film was by far the cinematography and the musical score that was infused.

The filming style is sort of new age frequent-cut, seen most prominently in *Crash*, and supports a higher level of drama. It ignites a pace where the audience has no choice but to sympathize with something, if not the characters, than the setting and situation.

In *Brick Lane*, the setting is rather beautiful and the camera style glorifies the dramatic tendencies in scenery, for example natural lighting and natural wear. Very much reminiscent of the youthful pro-

gression of *Slumdog Millionaire*, *Brick Lane* creates its own original take on Middle-Eastern romance and lifestyle.



<http://www.latmanhasit.co.uk/page5.htm>

Criterion: a cinematic wonder

DAN KINEM
senior reporter

There is a certain level of ridiculousness and nerdiness involved in worshipping a DVD company.

A DVD company is not the person making the movie. It's not who is in the movie. In fact, it has nothing to do with the movie itself; they are just presenting the movie. But when it comes to The Criterion Collection, all praise is justified.

They do cinematic wonders and are one of the most important things to happen to film in general in the last 30 years.

The Criterion Collection started in the 80s on laserdisc and set the groundwork for great releases. With their guarantee being "a continuing series of important classic and contemporary films," they really live up to it.

They are consistently releasing important films that otherwise may never have been available.

Criterion is like Pokemon cards were in fourth grade, except for educated art-loving adults. Once the consumer realizes that Criterion has a passion for film, which can clearly be seen in the time and care put into each DVD package, they will seek out purchasing more and more regardless of the high price tag.

From pushing the boundaries on DVD artwork to including rare and exciting special fea-

tures that enhance the movie-watching-experience, they make a purchase worth every penny.

Despite its importance and impact, many people remain unaware of Criterion's existence.

They specialize in presenting the best possible version, best quality, and best features of many of the world's most important films. They put out some of the greatest films from some of the world's greatest filmmakers, including many lost and obscure masterpieces.

In many cases Criterion rescues films that have no proper DVD release, let alone a quality print, and restores it and puts it out for all cinephiles to enjoy.

It is rare to see a company that cares so much about cinema and respects film and its fans so much. It is more than making money: they will release films that aren't likely to sell more than a 1,000 copies their first year, and it isn't even a concern; the only concern is getting the film out there.

When you have a Criterion DVD in your hand, it is something special. It just feels like pure perfection incarnate. While there are a few questionable releases, they are all given a justification on their importance.

There is really something for everyone from Criterion. If you are into horror, foreign, romance, documentary, ac-

tion, mystery, historical, comedy, or just plain good film, they have something for you.

They have put out films from directors like Wes Anderson (*Rushmore*, *Royal Tenenbaums*, etc.), Ingmar Bergman (*Seventh Seal*, *Fanny and Alexander*), Alfred Hitchcock (*Lady Vanishes*, *Notorious*), Federico Fellini (*8 1/2*, *Amarcord*), Akira Kurosawa (*Seven Samurai*, *Rashomon*), David Cronenberg (*Dead Ringers*, *Videodrome*), Jim Jarmusch (*Down By Law*, *Stranger Than Paradise*), and so many others for people to explore.

Please do yourself a favor and expand your mind. It is a great way to experience many new and different things. To see everything Criterion has released, visit <http://criterion.com>.



<http://blog.pentagram.com/>