

SEE DEEZ MUSIC REVIEWS



REVIEWED BY: HAMBONE
 ARTIST/GROUP: REEL BIG FISH
 ALBUM TITLE: CHEER UP!
 LABEL: Mojo RECORDS
 RELEASE DATE: JUNE 2002
 GENRE: Ska
 OVERALL RATING: **

After a four-year hiatus this party Ska band finally release their fourth LP "Cheer Up!" However, even though this group went through some major lineup changes since their last album, their sound is exactly the same. If I had to describe this album in one word, "boring" comes to mind. Every song sounds the same as the previous.

The one highlight of this album is their cover of Sublime's "Boss DJ." I might be going to hell for saying this, but RBF did an even better job at "Boss DJ" than Sublime did.

I would only recommend this album for the die-hard Reel Big Fish fan. If you are not one, don't even bother with this album.

Editors' note: Hambone, you are going to hell for saying they did a better job than Sublime. That's straight up blasphemy!

For Fans of:

- The Mighty Mighty Bosstones
- The Suicide Machines
- Sublime

THE KEY:

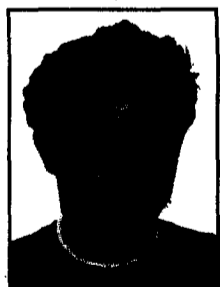
HORRIBLE **
 I'VE HEARD WORSE **
 BORROW OR STEAL IT, DON'T BUY IT ***
 I WOULD PROBABLY BUY IT ****
 STUPENDOUS *****

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The Reactor

Cheap Sea ...and Sticky

by Jason Russq
Capital Times Staff Writer



Can you count all the movies involving rap stars attempting to showcase their acting abilities? I didn't think so. Most of these flicks have a tendency to focus on "getting bitches" and "smoking weed." It would be wrong to say that Eminem's stab at movie stardom involves none of that, but I assure you, it's also much more.

While the movie in theory doesn't portray Eminem's actual life, it does a good job of reflecting the mythology behind it. Jimmy Smith Jr. aka "Bunny Rabbit" (played by Eminem) grew up in the extremely bad part of Detroit. Known as 8 Mile, Jimmy's home serves as the border to the ghetto-poor neighborhoods and the upper class, money spilling out from every which way, parts of town. [With his mother (played by Kim Basinger) a raging alcoholic and his father absent since childhood, Rabbit struggles with his troubled life in the trailer park. However, he finds a way to cope by channeling his rage into fresh rhymes and spits them back out in freestyle battles at the local shelter.]

I bet you are all thinking "Wow Jason, sounds like any other movie with a rap star, growing up in the ghetto with nowhere to turn but their rhymes." I assure you it's worth the seven dollars to see. For all the ladies, you get to see the many sides of Eminem from the raging rapper to the sensitive sibling. Fellas, yeah, Brittany Murphy is off the chain. That alone is worth seven dollars. There is one scene (you will know which one I am talking about) that made me jump up and yell "Oh s@#t!" Em's film debut gets the A-OK.



8 MILE



Brittany Murphy and Eminem in a scene from the film