

Cheap Seats and Sticky Floors

Jack Black and "School Of Rock," Rock

By **MATT MOSLEY**
Film Reviewer

If there was an award for the cutest film of the year, *The School of Rock* would win hands down. It's filled with a wonderful spirit, quirky characters, and a great passion for its subject matter. Rock!

Jack Black stars as Dewey Finn, a dirty, free loading guitarist, who wants nothing more than to win the \$20,000 prize in the upcoming "Battle of the Bands." After being threatened by his roommates, Patty (Sara Silverman) and Ned (Mike White), to be thrown out of his apartment at the end of the week if he doesn't come up with the rent, Dewey lies his way into a substitute teaching job at a very exclusive prep school.

The job was initially supposed to go to Ned. Instead of teaching the school curriculum, Dewey decides to secretly start a band with the kids and teach them how to "rock out," so he can use the class for the upcoming \$20,000 showcase at the end of the month.

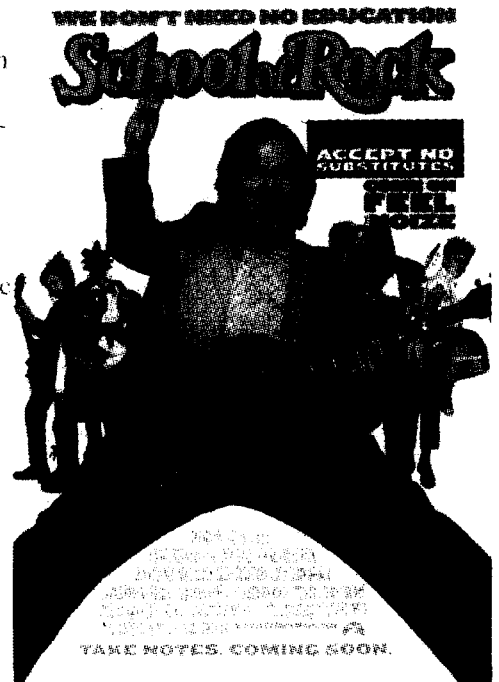
Black is perfectly cast as Dewey. He brings a lot of himself to the role by tapping in to his own experiences as a musician in his band, Tenacious D, a comedy/rock act that has enjoyed some success over the past few years. I'm not a fan of his musical work, but I appreciate the comedy and style he takes from his band and uses to bring the character of Dewey to life.

Joon Cusack plays Principal Mullins, the misunderstood, stressed out disciplinarian of the school, in one of the best performances of her career. She stays away from cliches and shows a wonderful range of emotions in the short amount of time she's on screen. Cusack is one of those comedic actresses who is always consistent, always likable, and always a pleasure to watch tumble around in bizarre roles.

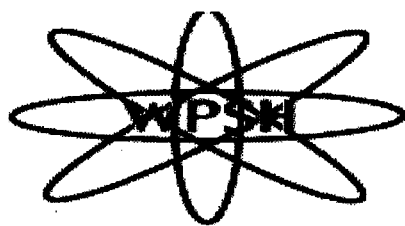
Normally, I would complain about the conventional state of the written word, but screenwriter Mike White has penned a film that is not only enjoyable for kids, but for adults as well. I'm reminded of the animated film from 1998, *Anz!*, in which the comedy plays on different levels. Kids will enjoy Black's eccentricities and will relate to the childhood problems of the class, and adults will appreciate the eclectic uses of musical history and the passion for which the subject matter is handled.

We've seen the story of *The School of Rock* a zillion times before, and in this case, it's not really a bad thing. Director Richard Linklater (*Dazed and Confused*, *Sah'Urbia*) embraces the conventions and therefore has made a film that doesn't take itself too seriously.

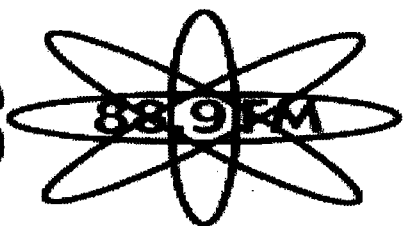
You enjoy the predictability and are able to laugh along with it right up until the cheesy ending. It's a breath of fresh air to see a film that is genuinely funny and does not feel the need to rely on bad jokes in order to get laughs.



Jack Black is on the rise



SEE DEEZ REVIEWS



WPSH The Reactor
Radio Club



I do not think it's possible for Dave Matthews to put out a bad record and *Some Devil* is proof. Without his band backing him up this time, Matthews doesn't fumble once. When listening to "Garvasligger", it's hard not closing your eyes, making a fist, and singing along. The song *Some Devil* will keep you company in your bedroom while you're alone. Plus, Dave is really hot so why not enjoy the time between the two of you. For the guys, what a great CD to woo a lady with.

Wow... O.K. best music I've ever heard with good friend Tim Reynolds, *Some Devil* comes with two discs. The first is a live set with Matthews and Reynolds playing up a storm favorite like "Grey Street" and "Seek Up" disc two is Matthews' best ever album. I think this is Matthews' best physical performance. It's not cluttered with a million things going on. It's more soulful and raw and captivating.

Although when listening to some of the songs, I did come across a few familiar beats and tunes but how someone as great as Matthews has to have a few flaws right? *Some Devil* is great proof that Matthews isn't going anywhere anytime soon. With or without the band Matthews is still an amazing singer/songwriter/guitar player. And Matthews C.D.'s will continue to spin in people's C.D. players for a long time to come.



Rating: ★★★★★

REVIEWED BY:

MICHELLE O'MALLEY

ARTIST/GROUP:

DAVE MATTHEWS

ALBUM TITLE:

"SOME DEVIL"

LABEL:

RCA

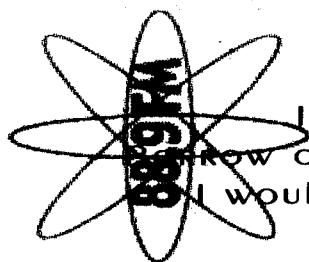
RELEASE DATE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2003

GENRE: Pop/Rock

OVERALL RATING:

★★★★★

WPSH



The Reactor

THE KEY

HORRIBLE *

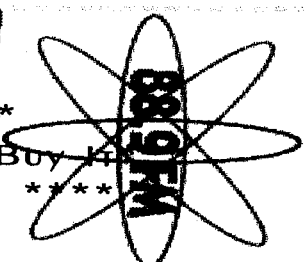
I' HEARD WORSE *

SHOULD I STEAL IT, DON'T BUY IT

I WOULD PROBABLY BUY IT

STUPENDOUS **

The Reactor



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