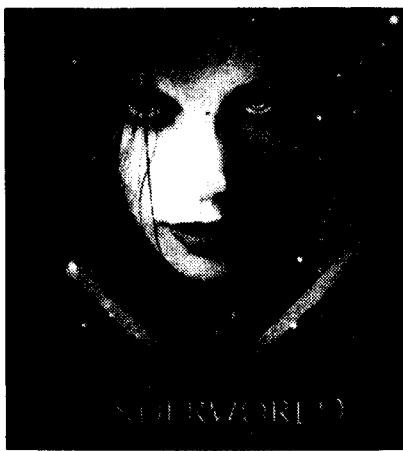


SarZ's Media Virus

Slightly Contagious Film Reviews For The Average Joe

By BRANDON SARZYNSKI
Staff Reporter
BSS177@PSU.EDU

Underworld: Evolution



Photos courtesy of google.com

The Details:
Screen Gems Inc. presents a film starring Kate Beckinsale and Scott Speedman, directed by Len Wiseman, and written by Danny McBride (screenplay) and Len Wiseman (story). The film has a running time of 105 minutes and is rated R for pervasive strong violence and gore, some sexuality/nudity and language.
The Low Down:
Selene (Kate Beckinsale) must defeat two brothers in order to save the world from a plague of werewolves.
The Dirty:
This movie was awesome! Oh wait, wrong movie. This movie felt more like a television show on the WB than something you would see on the big screen. It has been a long time since I saw the first

Underworld, and I must say this film relies heavily on you remembering the first film. It does a brief flashback, but not enough for you to feel like you know what is going on. The action sequences in the film range from OK to pretty good, but not much of it will have you talking after the film. The look and feel of the film almost started to feel clichéd. The color scheme just seems over used in this genre by every vampire movie out there in the past 5 years. Get used to blues, grays, and blacks; because those are the only colors you are going to see besides the blood. And not to ruin the end of the film for you, but it might as well stop mid story and say "To be continued," because the ending just feels like it was a lead in to the next film and provided no real conclusion. Overall the film feels too episodic. It feels too clichéd and it just seems like every other film in the genre. There's nothing really new here at all. As a TV show I'd say it was great, as a film I have to say it was sub, sub par. Wait for this on cable, I can't see spending the money to go and see it. Oh, and if you do decide to go see it, make sure you watch the first film right before you go.



Brokeback Mountain

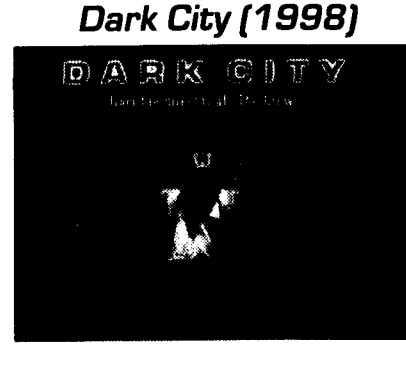


The Details:
Focus Features presents a film starring Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal, directed by Ang Lee, and written by E. Annie Proulx (short story), Larry McMurtry (screenplay), and Diana Ossana (screenplay). The film has a running time of 134 minutes and is rated R for sexuality, nudity, language, and some violence.
The Low Down:
Two cowboys herding sheep in the mountains fall in love, and go back to their normal lives and try to act as though nothing has changed.
The Dirty:
This is a perfect example of great acting. How Ang Lee went from directing the Hulk, to directing one of the most controversial and well done films out there is beyond me. If you want to see an award winning film, go see this one.

Yes, for some the subject matter may be uncomfortable, but it is a necessary story to be told. I think a film like this is a great step towards equality for people regardless of sexual preference, because it portrays the characters in such a realistic and human way that even people who may not agree with it can at least relate to it. What we have here is a retelling of the classic forbidden love tale only it is a bit more taboo than what has been previously done. When it comes down to it, it parallels Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet through a good portion of its run time and then goes off and does its own thing. Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal give an outstanding and fully believable performance. The settings make for a picturesque experience and the directing stands tall above many other films this year. I recommend going and seeing this film in the theaters. Some people may feel awkward at parts, but I think overall it will help them get a better understanding of people who are different than them.



Lost Treasures: Films you haven't seen but should



The Details:
New Line Cinema film starring Rufus Sewell, William Hurt, Kiefer Sutherland and Jennifer Connelly, written and directed by Alex Proyas, and written by Alex Proyas, Lem Dobbs, and David Goyer. The film has a running time of 96 minutes and is rated R for sexuality, nudity, language, and violence.
The Low Down:
John Murdoch (Rufus Sewell) has just awoken to find himself at the scene of a murder he didn't commit. After digging deeper, he starts to realize that he is nothing more than a guinea pig who has evolved.
The Dirty:
This was one of the greatest theater experiences of 1998. What you have is a beautifully shot and directed piece of sci-fi, film noir mystery. This is one of those films that creates a whole new world for the characters to explore, and does so in such an artistic and stylistic way, that

even if you wind up not liking the plot of the film, you are definitely going to enjoy the look and feel. This is a very blue and gray film, but it is not your run of the mill horror genre film. It looks and feels like nothing else out there. It is a mix of time and space that just doesn't seem to fit in any one era or location. There is so much attention to detail in everything, that you may have to watch it numerous times to fully enjoy it. From the changing of characters, the subtle foreshadowing, and numerous clues hidden throughout, you could spend weeks trying to find everything hidden in the film. Now for those that do not enjoy a lot of thinking, this film may not be as enjoyable. I must say it loses a lot in its transition from big to small screen, but if you have the opportunity to watch this film on a big screen TV, I recommend turning the lights down and sitting in the glow. This is one of the few films that can transport you to another place while watching it, and if you have the opportunity to let it surround you, do so. This film is available on DVD for about \$5.99 from any of the major electronics retailers. The special features are a little lacking, but it did come out when DVDs first hit the market.



Yewande

The fusion of rock and jazz

By SHANNON NORDT
Staff Reporter
SAP5019@PSU.EDU

For some, it was more than just a mere lunch. On Tues, Jan. 31, Stacks Market served up a surprise performance by Yewande Abedayo, a Liberian songstress with a unique voice. It was quite a treat for the 100 or so appreciative lunch-goers. Yewande (E-wan-day) has been traveling and performing at various Penn State branch campuses. "My experience has been awesome," she said.

Yewande opened with covers from popular artists such as Lauren Hill and her performance did not fall on deaf ears. "I really enjoyed her renditions. She can sing," said Stephen Williams, 18, Business Marketing. Not only does this Liberian songbird have professional and classical training from Howard and Carnegie Mellon Universities, she also has a master's degree in Public Administration from New York University.

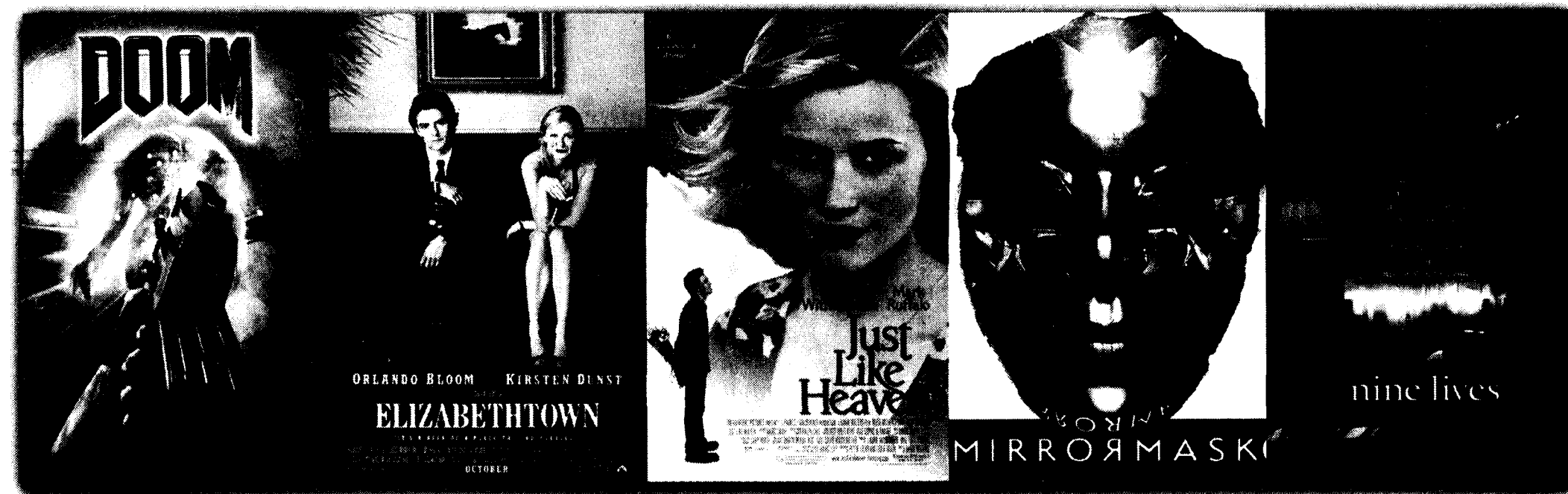
Knowing that her music is a bit outside of the mainstream, in fact, one song is a fusion of rock and jazz. Yewande started her own independent record label, Lotus Records. In less than a year, she has recorded a second album entitled *Evolution*. Performing with her on that album are the Black Eyed Peas, Sean Paul and Enrique Iglesias. "This is a project that truly reflects what I like most about music. It's live. It's rock. It's blues and its hip-hop. It's real life and that is never simple," she said, explaining her CD on her website.

Yewande said her music is inspired by real life issues we all face. "The biggest barriers I am trying to break with my music are issues of race and sexism, while still keeping it light and funky," she said. "Some of my favorite artists like Outkast, Black Eye Peas, Common and Mos Def have a universal appeal and I want my music to be the same." During her tour, Yewande aims to guide students through an evolution of music giving them a message for their soul with a rock vibe.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.Yewande.com>
To purchase a CD visit:
<http://www.CDBaby.com>

IMDB.com's new DVD releases

KRISTEN POOLE for the Capital Times



<p>February 7, 2006</p> <p>Doom</p> <p>Something has gone wrong at a remote scientific research station on Mars. All research has ceased, there is not communication and it's a level 5 quarantine. Rapid Response Tactical Squad are the only ones allowed in and out - they are hardened Space Marines armed to the teeth with enough firepower to neutralize the enemy...or so they think.</p>	<p>February 7, 2006</p> <p>Elizabethtown</p> <p>After causing the company he works for to lose hundreds of millions of dollars, Drew Baylor is fired for his mistake and dumped by his girlfriend promptly thereafter. On the verge of suicide, Drew is oddly given a new purpose in life when he returns to his hometown following his father's death. In a twist of fate, a romance helps get his life back on track.</p>	<p>February 7, 2006</p> <p>Just Like Heaven</p> <p>Elizabeth Masterson (Witherspoon) is a dedicated, workaholic doctor who is way too busy for life. One night, she gets in a horrible car accident and becomes a spirit stuck between heaven and earth. But, she doesn't know she's dead. The story is about her realizing that she is dead and forming a relationship with the person who now lives in her apartment.</p>	<p>February 14, 2006</p> <p>MirrorMask</p> <p>Helena, a 15 year old girl in a family of circus entertainers wishes she could run off and join real life. After a fight with her parents about her future plans, her mother falls quite ill and Helena is convinced it's her fault. Strange dreams and bizarre creatures overwhelm Helena and, as adventures continue, she begins to wonder whether she's in a dream, or something far more sinister.</p>	<p>February 14, 2006</p> <p>Nine Lives</p> <p>Every life has a story. And every story has a life of its own. Captives of the very relationships that define and sustain them, nine women resiliently meet the travails and disappointments of life. The lives of nine women from a variety of different backgrounds are shown in a series of vignettes.</p>
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Feel the force of Battlefront II

By MATHEW MAHONEY
Staff Reporter
MLM5039@PSU.EDU

Lucas Arts and Pandemic have collaborated together to create one of the best Star Wars video games yet. Star Wars: Battlefront II is a unique game that encompasses the Star Wars universe and presents a whole new side of the story to the player. Fans of Star Wars, that also happen to be gamers, can all agree that the problem with bringing the Star Wars universe to the gaming media is that it is never fully done the right way. Either the game requires you to exactly follow the plot already established by the movie or it goes off in a different direction that causes players to lose the feeling of being in the game. The timeline of Battlefront II starts the player slightly before the plot of Episode III. After the initial

missions are over the game picks up with the plot of Episode III. The difference from this game and others that are out there is Battlefront II places you in the position of being in charge of a clone army. The story follows the private journal of one particular clone and offers the player a whole new side of the Star Wars universe as it progresses from Episode III and into Episode IV. Plot lines aside the game play are excellent. When a player starts a mission they have an option to select what kind of clone trooper they want to be like. You can be a standard clone trooper, an engineer or a heavy weapons trooper. The player then goes through the mission in an over the shoulder style of camera as you battle against droids of all kinds. If your character dies it's not that big of a concern. The player gets to select another clone trooper, and this time one that is more

capable of dealing with the mission at hand. As the mission progresses, the player will notice that there is a number on the very top of the screen that is counting down at an irregular pace. This is the number of troops in your reserves. When this number gets to zero the mission has failed. A player can increase this number by taking over command posts and by completing mission objectives. By completing certain objectives the player also gets to open up extra features. You can play as other troop types, get weapon and health upgrades and even play as one of the many Jedi featured in the movies. From first hand experience there is really nothing more fun than playing as Yoda. That little green man of action flies across the board and takes down droids without difficulty. Players are not limited to fighting on the ground only either. Combat

takes place in space as well as the ground. Not only does the player get to control the many space vehicles but there is a wide variety of ground vehicles to use. The control system used in the game is very easy to use and figure out. There is nothing complex or difficult about controlling troopers or vehicles. The boards are not so massive that a player gets lost, but they are not so tight fit that there is little room for exploration. Learning the nooks and crannies to each level help out when playing through the missions, but it is even more helpful when playing on co-op mode. Co-op mode allows two people to play together in the same mission towards the same objective. By knowing the map as you play, it allows one player to cover or focus on a certain area while the other goes for the main objective. Sound effects also take greater precedence in this game rather than

any music. This game is all about sound and visual effects. Despite the chaotic amount of sounds and everything surrounding you in the game it is still easy to focus on where you are and what you are doing. The game play is quick and intense and easily keeps you going from one mission to the next. When it comes to a Star Wars game that involves quick action, Battlefront II is a definite pick up. This game has an excellent plot that also follows the original movie plot line incredibly well. With excellent controls and a game that never gets repetitive this is a must buy for people that like high speed, quick action games. If you are looking for a Star Wars game that is slow and more of an RPG then stick to Knights of the Old Republic, but for fast paced action that gives a whole other side to the story of the Star Wars universe, pick up a copy today. This game scores a 4 out of 5.