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RECORD REVIEW

Facing the Storm (****)

The new album is here and it truly is taking us all by storm. Storm Front is Billy Joel's first album of new music since 1986 and it takes no time in reminding us of his place in the music world. He kicks it off with a fast paced tune entitled "That's Not Her Style" that combines a mix of blues crossed with a touch of rock-a-billy. The effect is truly inspiring. To say that it was worth the three year wait is an understatement. This album is fantastic.

This album has the opportunity to become a classic. It has a pleasent blend of past and present that should please avid Joel fans and introduce him to a whole new audience. It is the songs such as "The Downeaster"Alexa"" (a song about the sea life), "Leningrad" (that reflects from his time spent in Russia), and "And So It Goes" (written in 1983, it has an oddly mixed blend between music and words) that truly jump out at the listener.

As always, all of his songs are thought provoking, as well as enjoyable to the listener. The album is a myriad of Joel at his best. All we can hope is that it doesn't take three years until we next hear from him.

(The best rating is four star, one the worst)
-George Hirko

Showcase *1776" Presents "1776"



Showcase Theatre will present the musical play, "1776", on Nov. 8-11th with repeat performances on Nov. 16-19th, at its facility licated at 54 Tunkhannock Avenue in Exeter, next to the Fox Hill Country Club.

"America's musical tells the story of the events leading up to and the eventual signing of the Declaration of Independence. It also has a story of two longdistance love affairs and how that love inspired the will to proceed with what seemed like an impossible task," according to Director Jane Tomassetti, Trucksville.

She added that "the musical tells the story of North and South coming together and putting aside differences that would eventually change the course of history."

Performances by Showcase Theatre are done two-arena and begin each evening at 8:00 P.M., except for Sundays which start at 7:00 P.M. proceeded with a "dessert buffet" at 6:00 p.m. for an additional nominal donation to the group's Building Fund.

Tickets will be available at the door each evening of performance; however, because of limited seating capacity, advance reservations are encouraged. Group rates are also available, payable inadvance.

Arrangements and reservations can be made by writing Showcase Theatre, c/o P.O. Box 1635, Kingston, Pa. 18704... or calling the Theatre at 654-2555.

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Bat Video Hits Stores

Batfans beware, Batmania is coming to a video store near you.

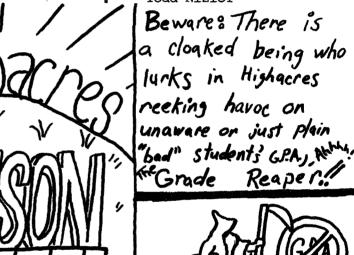
The summer blockbuster will hit the shelves Nov. 15th. Released from Warner Home Video, Batman is expected to cost \$24.98 with a shipping order of 13.5 million copies. Batman will surpass the previous champ, E.T., by 2.5 million copies.

"you won't be able to avoid Batman," says Ron Castell.
Castell owns the 900- store
Blockbuster Video chain.
"There's a lot more video stores and mass merchants than there are theatres. And every one of them will have giant Batman displays."

Warner Video had originally decided to ship 8 million copies. Batman will gross \$337 million from initial shipments, \$87 million more than the box office take.

Batman is the 1st mega-hit to open directly after the movie's release. Video Business' Bruce Apar calls profit-minded releases "the wave of the future."

-Todd Niziol



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