

Review: Rock Against Bush 2004

Mehdi Raoufi

On October 9, the Chameleon Club in Lancaster, PA hosted Rock Against Bush, a protest concert in the tradition of Woodstock. Six bands came together, united under one cause - to bring about change, one small town at a time.

The most intriguing part of this concert was the closeness between the bands and the fans. On more than one occasion, the bands would actually stop playing to check on people who were knocked down in the mosh pits.

Midtown, a Los Angeles based band, opened the event. Midtown is a punk band



Midtown Zombie

whose sound closely resembles that of Jimmy Eat World. The warmth and kindness that they brought with them on the stage was something every individual in the club could feel during their intense set.

The next act was one of the most prolific guitarists and people of the 90's rock scene. Tom Morello, former guitarist

of Rage against the Machine and current guitarist of Audioslave, played solo acoustic for this event. The songs he played were union songs, written about the factory worker, peace protests, and others that silenced the crowd and left us in awe.

The last act, Anti-Flag, blew the whole club away. In their song, this hardcore punk



Anti-Flag

band used actual soldiers from the war to verbalize concerns on issues such as the closing of V.A. hospitals in Iraq. The final song was a punk version of "This Land is your Land" with Tom Morello joining Anti-Flag. In short, this concert was very satisfying, musically and politically.

Review

Christian Santos

★★★★★

AUDIO KARATE

Lady Melody

Hailing from sunny California, Audio Karate is the dramatically intense rock band who has been touring the U.S. and international venues for years now. Their third album, "Lady



Melody," is a dramatic change from their 2002 release "Space Camp" which, although good, is nothing compared to this. Every song is frighteningly catchy.

The album detonates with its opener,

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Review

Artist: Tilly and the Wall

Album: *Wild like Children*

Label: Team Love; 2004

Genre: Indie Pop

Martina Pfeuffer

Buoying up above traditional Indie Pop/Rock, Tilly and the Wall make a small splash with their full-length debut album *Wild like Children* on Conor Oberst's newest record label Team Love. Although sticking to the usual acoustics and keyboards, Tilly and the Wall introduce more co-ed harmonies, truly bringing the band together by addressing both the boys and girls of the Indie Pop/Rock scene.

Foregoing a drummer in all cases, the new band relies on a tap-dancer to provide the rhythmic chassis. Jaime Williams' tap-dancing talent has earned her a centerpiece on a microphone box where she expresses herself through song and dance, an astonishing delicacy impossible to replicate on drums.

Of course, Tilly and the Wall sing about the majority of issues all Indie bands write about: teenage romance, anxiety, drugs and alcohol, and childhood remembrances - which is what makes their record label so sincere (Team Love, as corny as it seems). The band's name sprouted from a children's book by the same name. The book is an inspirational story about a mouse that lives by a wall, always aspiring to reach the other side even though she is continually discouraged by everyone around her.

Having experienced the extremes of touring, from opening at sold-out concerts to playing at shows with fewer than ten people, Tilly and the Wall are content to perform no matter how large the crowd. This full-length debut album, *Wild like Children*, was the band's major goal of the year and with it complete, they can now relax and schedule more tour dates.

Horror Craze in Hollywood

Christian Santos

Hollywood took full advantage of Halloween by pumping out a number of horror films last month.

James Wan wrote and directed "Saw," a disturbingly intense thriller involving a serial killer who leaves his victims in puzzling situations, giving them clues in order to escape. The film opens with two men chained to metal pipes in a bathroom who then wake up to find a dead man lying between them. British actor Cary Elwes shares lead roles with Leigh Whannell (who also co-wrote) and veteran Danny

Glover in this must see film.

Another horror movie being released this month is "The Grudge," a remake of Japan's 1993 film, "Ju-On." Karen (Sarah Michelle Gellar) is an exchange student who travels to Japan for her first assignment. She is to take care of an elderly American woman whose nurse has not shown up for work. Upon entering the house, she finds the woman lying on the floor

and fixes her up. After hearing some noise, Karen makes her way up the stairs to investigate and finds a boy with his black cat in the closet. Much like the original "Ju-On," "The Grudge" showcases scenes that are just flat out frightening. The house Karen stays in is cursed by a murdered family and anyone who stays in the house will die.

Finally, the surprisingly delightful "Shaun of the Dead" brings a taste of originality to the table. The title is an obvious spoof on George Romero's classic, "Dawn of the Dead." The film tells the story of Shaun, a thirty-something loser with no ambition or desire to get off the couch. His girlfriend Liz has had enough of him and his loser buddies and calls it quits. Also, his relationship with his "mum" is not doing well either. In the midst of everything, a zombie epidemic has broken out. This clever zombie/romantic comedy, although not as scary as the previous two, still delivers a good watching experience.

Review: Thriller Provocative, Yet Funny

Christian Santos

★★★

KILLER SMILE

Lisa Scottoline



Lisa Scottoline is the hilarious, sharp mind behind this tale of an Italian Catholic lawyer from Philadelphia who plays detective in order to unearth the brutal past of a man who was done wrong some forty years ago.

Mary DiNunzio avoids crazed stalkers and survives bad blind dates while in pursuit of the unfortunate past of a client who has passed away. She is grounded by her best friend, Judy Carrier, and parents, Mariano and Vita.

They set her up with different men, but every date she goes on almost ends in disaster.

The book is written in third person and goes deep into the mind of Mary, a source of comedy for the reader: "Mary finished reading her document and went on to the next. Only 2,999,999,999 to go. If I never eat again, I can be finished by menopause. Yippee!" Mary's character comes off as mercilessly loveable. Even in a sticky situation she never loses an ounce of sarcasm.

Scottoline does a great job blending comical elements with serious situations to keep the story interesting. This book is available in Mont Alto's library and I highly recommend it.