

ENTERTAINMENT

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25 years in the making

Rush singer/bassist Geddy Lee has come out with a solo album...and proves he can stand alone. **Page 20**

Sore loser? Not him!

The Two Bits Man grudgingly gives his 2000 presidential campaign concession speech. **Page 25**

A misguided odyssey—'Planet' leaves viewers seeing red

By Jamie Schulz
Stupid fillings, my mouth hurts

MPAA Rating: PG-13

Starring: Carrie-Anne Moss, Val Kilmer, Tom Sizemore
Director: Anthony Hoffman
Studio: Warner Brothers
Running Time: 106 minutes
Rating: ★★

The year is 2050. Over the past fifty years, the earth has become overpopulated and over-polluted, and its resources are depleted. Aerospace divisions from around the world have been setting up Mars for human colonization, sending algae and carbon dioxide to make the atmosphere (the gravity was already close enough) comparable to that of Earth.

Well, the setup was good. The execution, however, is not. There's already been the big Mars movie for the year, that being the contrite *Mission to Mars*. So *Red Planet* pretty much follows

in the footsteps of *Mission's* plot. As with any recent sci-fi movie, the crew is a motley assortment, comprising of the sexy girl (Carrie-Anne Moss), the hothead (Benjamin Bratt), the geeky scientist (Tom Sizemore), the all-star (Simon Baker), and others.

Like *Mission*, the crew is on its way to Mars and all things are going swimmingly. Then once they hit the planet, everything falls apart. While *Mission* had its asteroid fields, 'Planet's' downfall comes in the form of a solar flare, knocking out the space station's main computer, power, et cetera. Carrie Ann-Moss, as the one in charge, decides to send the rest of the crew in a landing shuttle while she stays onboard to try to fix the system.

Planet's plot (or what constitutes the plot) involves the astronauts trying to escape the Mars automated exploratory probe, whose systems got knocked to "guerilla" during the Mars landing. And when AMEE (the probe)

isn't trying to knock them off one by one, the astronauts are doing a fine job of it themselves, releasing any of the pent-up anger and jealousy that had been kindling on the space station.

There is also supposed to be some underlying romance between Kilmer and Moss. Not only does the movie hardly touch on this (we are given hints through several very short flashbacks), but the romance is hardly even felt. It seems like all the actors are only trying to go through the motions, as if they, like us, are only wishing for the movie to be over.

If there is one saving grace, it lies in the wonderful CGI and sound effects. But these two alone do not make a movie. *Red Planet* follows too much in the footsteps of *Mission to Mars*. If you're like me and saw both *Mission* and *Planet*, I hope you've learned your lesson—like the planet, any movie making Mars its subject is simply uninhabitable.



By Jasin Boland / WARNER BROTHERS

Carrie-Anne Moss's job as mission commander for a normal little trip to Mars seems secure enough...until everything goes wrong. Val Kilmer joins her in *Red Planet*.

Going live, aiming high

By Alan Back
Never even touched the printer

Artist: Big Sky
Title: *Under the Megawatt Moon*
Label: Phoenix Presents
Genre: Rock/Pop
Tracks: 15
Rating: ★★★★★

Recorded at Orlando's Sapphire Supper Club in June, *Under the Megawatt Moon* is the fourth offering from the Gainesville, Fla.-based septet Big Sky. Some groups have a hard time when it comes to making live albums, sacrificing studio precision for onstage energy (or vice versa), but not this bunch. They've been working on both sides of the equation for seven years now, and their effort comes through loud and clear.

Keeping a seven-piece band together from one song to the next is harder than it seems. If you don't have a solid rhythm section, you

can't even hope to pull it off. Fortunately, Big Sky has one in the form of Ashton Allen (bass), Dave Moore (keys/congas), and now-former member Sean Crowley (drums).

What singer Mark Gagnard may lack in finesse, he makes up in energy and enthusiasm. Dave Kurzman matches that drive with his flute and saxophones; you can almost picture him slinging his axes around in front of himself as if they weigh next to nothing. (No small feat, considering how large and heavy a baritone sax is!)

Cue up "Reunion" to hear him and the two guitarists (Ben Rowell and Chris Floyd) start the crowd jumping to a loud, rowdy hoedown, or skip to the band's juiced-up cover of "Down Under" for a little blue-beat/reggae fun. Men at Work might have recorded the song like this if they'd grabbed hold of a live wire or two during their heyday.

See *Big Sky*, page 23



By Alan Back / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Ben Rowell, Mark Gagnard, Dave Kurzman, Sean Crowley, and Dave Moore lend their talents to Big Sky's new live disc, *Under the Megawatt Moon*.



Courtesy 20TH CENTURY FOX

Robert DeNiro and Cuba Gooding, Jr. play the principal roles in *Men of Honor*, the inspiring story of an African-American bent on breaking down the racial barriers and becoming a Navy diver in the 1950s.

'Men of Honor' hits the right notes

By Sarah Graybeal
Leavin' on a jet plane...again...

MPAA Rating: R

Starring: Cuba Gooding, Jr., Robert DeNiro
Director: George Tillman, Jr.
Studio: 20th Century Fox
Running Time: 128 minutes
Rating: ★★

Before you read this review, know this: I am a sucker for inspirational movies. *Men of Honor*, the story of an African-American struggling to become a Naval diver in the racially-charged 1950s, is an inspirational movie.

As a boy, Carl Brashear (Cuba Gooding, Jr.) wanted nothing more than to please his father. When a recruiter tells of the wondrous careers awaiting young men in the Navy, Carl climbs aboard with dreams of greatness. Little

does he know that the color of his skin will relegate him to frying burgers in a ship's kitchen.

Never one to stand by in the face of any inequality, Carl shocks the crew when he decides to join the other enlisted (and white) men for a swim in the ocean one hot afternoon. When he outswims the officer sent to force him back onboard, the captain reluctantly promotes him to swim-and-rescue diver. That's just fine with Carl...until he sees the heroic work of Navy diver Billy Sunday (Robert DeNiro), who goes into the water without a proper dive suit in order to rescue a doomed peer.

Ignoring all the people who say it can't be done, and disregarding the plain fact that there are no black divers in the Navy, Brashear sets out on his quest.

Cuba Gooding, Jr. is well-cast here, easily convincing the audi-

ence that he has the determination and the drive to accomplish the impossible and garner the title of Master Diver—the highest rank an enlisted man can attain in the Navy.

Robert DeNiro gives a good turn as Billy Sunday, the acid-tongued, alcoholic Navy man dealing with the bitterness of no longer being able to dive (he is medically disqualified after his earlier rescue effort) and the resentment he feels towards Brashear's success in the face of all odds. Charlize Theron also adds to her rapidly growing resume with a small but respectable role as Sunday's long-suffering Navy wife.

If feel-good pro-military movies make you sick, *Men of Honor* is not for you. But if you're looking for a true story that will leave you feeling optimistic about life, Gooding and DeNiro deliver.

Geddy Lee’s ‘Favorite Headache’ well worth 25-year wait

By Alan Back
Washes jeans while wearing them

Artist: Geddy Lee
Title: *My Favorite Headache*
Label: Atlantic
Genre: Rock
Tracks: 11
Rating: ★★★★★

Longtime fans of Canadian progressive/power rockers Rush may be surprised that the players took as long as they did to come out with solo projects. Guitarist Alex Lifeson took the plunge in 1996, and drummer Neil Peart did likewise with a tribute to Buddy Rich. Now,

after fronting the trio for over 25 years, singer/bassist Geddy Lee is doing it for himself on *My Favorite Headache*. Several cuts continue the mood swings of Rush’s 1996 album *Test for Echo*, starting with the opener and title cut. The nice thing about doing a solo album is that you can stretch yourself past the boundaries of your role in the group, and Lee wastes no time in doing so, handling guitar and piano alongside his bass and vocal duties. He brings in Matt Cameron (ex-Soundgarden) to play drums, and k. d. lang collaborator Ben Mink on guitar and strings.

Lee knows how far he can push his voice and doesn’t go beyond his limits, a problem that sometimes surfaced on *Test for Echo* and the band’s most recent effort, *Different Stages* (1998). For “Working at Perfekt,” he gives himself a surreal science-fiction backdrop and lyrics to go with that voice and ends up with something that would have fit perfectly onto the soundtrack for a killer film like *Metropolis*. The “thinking man’s rock group” vein continues through “The Present Tense” and “Moving to Bohemia.” Taking a cue from Peart, primary lyricist for Rush, Lee waxes philosophical over the importance

of keeping things in perspective—all the while letting his bass weave in and out underneath him. Rattling the windows isn’t the top priority on these or any other track; there’s a lot more to listen to than just those four strings. Taking chances is well and good on an album like this, but sometimes the chances just don’t pay off. “The Angels’ Share” takes a hard left into folk territory, “Slipping” sounds as if Lee took a few lessons from Ben Folds, and neither fits into the overall picture too well. But when he gets the combination just right, as on “Still,” he makes it pay off beautifully. Think back to Sarah McLachlan’s

earlier work, circa *Solace*—sensitive, but with a solid drive—and you start to get the general idea here. What might this track have sounded like if Lee and McLachlan had teamed up for it? *My Favorite Headache* may not answer that question, but it does show that the Rush frontman can hold his own without his bandmates. A quarter-century is a long time to wait for one of rock’s best bass players to do his own thing, but when he delivers this sort of solid end product, you can forgive him for taking his time. (Rush fans, have no fear. A new album is in the works.)

Arnold returns with a vengeance in '6th Day'

By Quin O'Brien
Daily Trojan

(U-WIRE) U. Southern California—He said he'd be back. Perennial action superstar Arnold Schwarzenegger returns to battle this weekend with his new futuristic sci-fi thriller, *The 6th Day*.

After a long acting hiatus and last year's disappointing *End of Days*, Schwarzenegger's once-undisputed ruler of the box office status appears to be in jeopardy. While still worshipped by many as the world's greatest living movie superhero, his clout has dimmed with the rise of younger action stars and their equally violent, over-the-top material. With his newest film, a suspenseful look at one man's quest to reclaim his identity from a mysterious clone, Schwarzenegger said he has put pressure on himself to succeed and reassert his dominance.

"I take my work very seriously," he said. "Whether it's a movie, a speech somewhere, or anything, I take it seriously. When you hope that you're doing well you inevitably put a certain amount of pressure on yourself."

Now 53 years old, Schwarzenegger refused to let the pressure slow down his routine. During the film's production, he submitted himself to rigorous stunts and demanding action scenes that would have left other actors gasping for breath. "I think every movie has scenes that are very rough, you just have to work hard at it," he said. Ironically, he claims that his most difficult scenes weren't physical or dangerous, but those where he had to act opposite himself as his character's clone.

"It was very difficult to do those scenes because you have nobody in front of you, so I'm talking to the wall and there's nothing coming back. You have to record the voice of the other character first, but after

that you're locked into the rhythm of the thing. You're basically just acting through voice and nothing else. It was tedious, but also very challenging."

Schwarzenegger also welcomed the challenge of making a film that examines the ethics of cloning. In light of recent scientific advancements that have made human cloning a reality, he sees the film as an opportunity to warn of its benefits and dangers.

"I think that most people don't know how to deal with cloning, especially lawmakers," he said. "With any development that is new, it could go into the wrong hands. It's like the development of nuclear weapons, nuclear energy and the Internet. If all of those fall into the wrong hands, they can be misused. The laws and lawmakers are way behind in protecting people from that. They're so far behind that it would take them years to catch up."

Would a Schwarzenegger clone

be within the bounds of the law? Schwarzenegger hopes so. "I would have nothing against cloning myself. I'm perfectly fine with that," he said.

This film's emphasis on scientific philosophy and family drama gives insight into its PG-13 rating, an anomaly given Schwarzenegger's usual simplistic R-rated violence and gore. Despite its difference from his previous work, Schwarzenegger doesn't think that the lowered body count will hurt his film's commercial performance.

"I think the story is more about the drama of a man losing his family, his home and his life. It's not about seeing heads flying through the air, blood squirting, people being destroyed and eyes being gouged out. *The 6th Day* has a very good story that should be able to be seen by the whole family rather than just action fans or grown-up people."

Let's hope for his sake that America feels the same.



By Rob McEwan / COLUMBIA PICTURES

Arnold Schwarzenegger must be hoping his tamer-than-usual action scenes in *The 6th Day* find better success than those of his last outing, *End of Days*.

A musical cornucopia for you...

COTTON CLUB (152 Luckie St.)
(404) 874-1993

11/18—Dandy Warhols, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club
11/24—Reel Big Fish, Catch-22
Web site: www.consopro.com/cottonclub.htm

DARK HORSE TAVERN (816 N. Highland Ave.)
(404) 873-3607

11/17—Persona, Crave, Acres
11/18—The Tom Collins, Dreadnot, Euphoria Machine
11/22—Squeeze Bucket, Citrus, Avantage
11/23—World Inferno, Friendship Society, Popaganda
11/24—Rockin' Pontoon, HAL 9000, Weep

ECHO LOUNGE (551 Flat Shoals Ave.)
(404) 681-3600

11/17—Macha, Casionova
11/18—Versus, Azure Ray, The Comas
11/19—The Sea and Cake, Broadcast
11/22—Snapcase, Boy Sets Fire, Death by Stereo, Clocked In
Web site: www.echostatic.com/echolounge

EDDIE'S ATTIC (515-B N. McDonough St.)
(404) 377-4976

11/17—Jan Smith, Wakeman and Willner
11/18—SONiA, Uncle Mark Reynolds
11/19—Elise Witt, Johnny Mosier, Bobby Lee Rogers
11/21—Mimi Thompson, Doug Nissley, Joe Perri
11/22—Grant Langston, Chris Rider, Russell Wolff
11/24—Open Mic Shootout XIII
Web site: www.eddiesattic.com

MASQUERADE (695 North Ave.)
(404) 577-2007

11/17—Armani Death Machine, Package, 5 More Dead, Malicious Mischief
11/18—Clutch, Corrosion of Conformity, Karma to Burn, 60 Watt Shaman
11/19—Type O Negative, Simon Says
11/23—Skid Row, Hipnotic
Web site: www.masq.com

RED LIGHT CAFE (553 Amsterdam Ave.)
(404) 874-7828

11/17—Venus Umbrella, Lexi Street
11/18—Charm School

11/19—Sonia Leigh, The Quick, Sue Wilkinson
11/24—Glenn Phillips, Supreme Court
Web site: www.redlightcafe.com

ROXY (3110 Roswell Rd.)
(404) 233-7699

11/17—Orgy, Crazy Town
11/18—Jupiter Coyote, Park Bench Blues Band
11/24—Drivin' n' Cryin', Something 5, The Independents
Web site: www.consopro.com/roxy.htm

SMITH'S OLDE BAR (1582 Piedmont Ave.)
(404) 875-1522

11/17—Big Ass Truck, Legends of the Giant Squid, Jill Sobule, Eleni Mandell
11/18—Emma Gibbs Band, Abbo's Alley
11/19—Paul Sanchez, Kitty Snyder
11/20—Cool for August, Young Antiques
11/21—Apartment Projects, Bool Beans
11/22—Bloodkin, Skydog Gypsy, Cool Beans
11/23—Mandorico, Eastern Standard Time
11/24—Blue Mountain, Heritage Cherry
Web site: smithsoldebar.citysearch.com

STAR BAR (437 Moreland Ave.)
(404) 681-9018

11/17—Alejandro Escovedo, Glory Fountain
11/18—Star Room Boys, Suzette and the Neon Angles
11/22—Kenny Howes and the Yeah!, Pinkeye, Tay Backs
11/24—Drive-By Truckers, Lona
Web site: www.cloun.com/starbar.html

TABERNACLE (152 Luckie St.)
(404) 659-9022

11/17 and 11/18—String Cheese Incident
Web site: www.tabernaclemusic.com

VARIETY PLAYHOUSE (1099 Euclid Ave.)
(404) 521-1786

11/18—Evan and Jaron, Five for Fighting, Edith's Wish
11/22—Col. Bruce Hampton and the Code Talkers, Blueground Undergrass
Web site: www.variety-playhouse.com

Check out the *Tourdates* Web site (www.tourdates.com) to find out where your favorite bands will be performing next.

Big Sky

from page 19

One drawback of having so many people in a band is that the members can sometimes sound as if they're fighting for space. Gagnard and Kurzman fall victim to this problem in places, and "These Days" and "All Good Things" feel at times as if they're trying to elbow each other off the microphone. At the other end of the scale, you can hear them working together very well on the soul-infused "If" and "Louisiana Man."

Everybody (both on the stage and in the crowd) gets into the act on "El Niño," a surf instrumental that would make Dick Dale happy. Those of you who know the dance that goes along with this one, feel free to do it. Those of you who don't, make something up for now and learn the real thing when the band comes back to Atlanta. When this song starts, the whole house moves to it and echoes with the shout, "*El Niño!*"—and for good reason.

Under the Megawatt Moon is very much what a live album should be. Instead of merely playing the fans' favorite studio tracks note for note, Big Sky opens them up and throws a few curveballs out into the room to keep people on their toes. Something may be a bit fishy with the music business if the disc doesn't draw a little attention to these guys.

To order *Under the Megawatt Moon*, stop in at the Phoenix Media Group Web site (www.radiophoenix.com).

Crossword

I'm Kinda India Middle of Something

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By Kit FitzSimons
Tennis, Indian?

ACROSS

1. Word with Mahal
4. Dad's counterpart
7. With Jo, famous track star
10. Tango need?
13. Land of Opportunity
14. Dr. grp.
15. OJ trial judge and kin
17. Word with Grande
18. Extinct India worst way? (5 wds)
24. "Can be found online" (abbr)
25. Pointy gun attachment skills (abbr)
26. Convention
27. Phrase that's India "Simpsons"? (5 wds)

32. Feather partner
33. _____-Man
34. "...Pooh ____ A. Milne" (2 wds)
35. Suffix for baller?
36. Scale, on a TI-85
38. Throw out
40. Easy dessert?
43. Why Ripkin's stuck India bull-pen? (3 wds)
49. Had food
50. Swiss monte
51. Makes like a blob
52. Medicine Woman of TV
55. AKA syphilis
56. "Masher!"
57. Err India side of caution? (4 wds)
64. _____-I-Am
65. Popular Norse king name

66. Word with meal or cake
67. Military-issue bed
68. Cool _____ cucumber (2 wds)
69. "Details coming soon" (abbr)
71. Pad
72. Disney pair India movies? (3 wds)
80. Hence
81. Unadulterated
82. R-V hook-up?
83. Annoyed comment India temple? (5 wds)
90. _____ Z (2 wds)
91. Rip
92. Ore-_____
93. See 9 DOWN
94. Net co. with a butterfly logo
95. Word on "Cheers" sign (abbr)
96. Prefix meaning "hard"
97. Hwy.

DOWN

1. Pull
2. Santa _____, CA
3. First mo.
4. Shark's mouth
5. "Hidden Story of Scientology" author Garrison (2 wds)
6. "Who cares?"
7. 6/30 or 12/4/15, in math
8. GA Tech's Improv Troupe (abbr)
9. With 94 ACROSS, awed exclamation
10. Prefix for sphere
11. Husbandless woman
12. Hugs, but no kisses
13. "Buh-bye!"
17. Put on
20. www. lead-in
21. Rushing (2 wds)
22. Birds _____ feather (2 wds)
23. (XXX + XX + IX) x X
24. Gillian on X-Files
28. By mouth
29. Bank amt.

30. Hard to find (abbr)
31. Prefix for -some
32. Nervous twitch
33. Tinky Winky's compatriot
38. Wigwam alternative
39. Holds a tab with (2 wds)
40. Candy dispenser brand
41. Anger
42. Grading curve shape
43. Isn't able
45. _____ Reader (news 'zine)
46. Pooh's insides
47. Red horse
48. Agrees silently
49. Some NBA tm. members
53. Tree-hugging org.
54. Express line 12-or-less abbr.
55. Cayman Island plant (2 wds)
57. Santa _____, CA
59. Kill dragons
60. "Hell _____ no fury..."
61. Wile E's supplier
62. Shout of pride?
63. Addams cousin
64. Approximately
69. U.S. back-rubbers org.
71. Red veggies
73. "Ender's Game" creator Card
74. Miniscule masses (abbr)
75. Not together
76. Jag, snag or gist
77. Stonehenge altar boy?
78. Type of bear
79. Portion of many a litter
80. Over-actor
84. California's capital?
85. Owns
86. Haagen _____
87. Word with drum or ring
88. Used a sofa
89. Pooh's middle name?

Answers, as always, can be found in the random PSA space on page 25. Enjoy, enjoy, enjoy.

