

Real Life : Nothing New in Heartland

Heartland
by Real Life

Review by David Lutes

Quick! Name the easiest way for a struggling new group to gain fame and fortune in the music industry. Give up? Why it's easy; just combine two or more of these simple steps: 1) Get a neat haircut, 2) Wear some slightly bizarre clothes, 3) Recycle some well-worn musical ideas, 4) Come from Australia.

I think what really bugs me about Real Life, the latest Australian import band, and their debut release *Heartland*, is the way they have managed to combine all of the above.

It seems that after the likes of AC/DC and Men at Work spent the last few years stomping through the North American music industry, a lot of groups managed to tiptoe in behind them. Some are good (Dyvinals, Midnight Oil); some are not (Hunters and Collectors); and some are just average like Real Life.

The group lacks neither heart nor musical talent. It's just that I've heard it all before. Yes, you guessed it, these lads are a synth band. And the only synth-pop that grabs me anymore is a little more daring than Real Life gets.

They combine the same catchy lines over the same danceable rhythms that we have been hearing for the last three years.

Despite this, *Heartland* is not all that bad. A couple of tracks merit special praise. "Send Me An Angel", the album's first single, and the title track are the best two cuts.

What makes Real Life and *Heartland* something more than just another ripoff is their sincerity. *Heartland's* theme is one of love and life and its problems.

Though this comes across as somewhat adolescent at times, the sound is still believable and convincing. This honesty saves *Heartland* from an utterly boring listen, though this, too, may pass.

NEWT3



NEWT3 by mike neale

Coming Soon

The Right Stuff. A definite must-see. Continuing their embarrassment of riches and exercising their infinite good sense, Penhorn will dump *Yentl* for Woody Allen's supposedly delightful Broadway *Danny Rose*. Oh, and the Dal film series will have David Cronenberg's *Videodrome* at the Cohn Feb. 26. A brilliant premise, Deborah Harry and some really neat special FX almost make it work; the second half is a disappointment. A definite maybe. Anyway, have a good break and avoid the crummy ones, willya? **R.F. M**

And now, a short guide to movies during the upcoming break. *Vertigo* should still be at the Hyland. A definite must-see, Jimmy Stewart and luminous Kim Novak in Hitchcock's 1958 classic. At the NFB Theatre Feb. 16-19 it's John Huston's *The Man Who Would Be King* with Sean Connery and Michael Caine. The following weekend the Classic George Cukor directed screamfest *A Star Is Born* with James Mason and Howlin' Judy Garland. At Penhorn starting Friday, Feb. 17 it's Phil Kaufman's much-heralded adaption of Tom Wolf's

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quadrivium

Quadrivium - Quiz 8406

Where would you find these fictitious places?

1. Anydrus River
2. Archenlan & Glasswater
3. Dor-en-Ernil & Nindalf
4. Fort of Beelzebub
5. Helium (the capital city)
6. Mildendo
7. Pimp St. & Murder Alley
8. Twin Cities of Tsk-Tsk and Tch-Tch
9. Winkie Country & Wogglebug College
10. 100 Aker Wood & Where the Woozle Wasn't

Answers to Quiz 8405

1. Jean Harlow
2. Greta Garbo
3. Clark Gable
4. Gary Cooper
5. Orson Welles
6. Charlie Chaplin
7. Humphrey Bogart
8. Mae West
9. Marlon Brando
10. Marilyn Monroe

The man who refuses to be intimidated by tough quizzes has won again. By supplying just 5 correct answers, Kevin Patriquin will receive a double pass to *Videodrome* playing at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium on Sunday, Feb. 26 at 8 pm.

There will be no paper next week so the deadline for Quiz 8406 has been extended to noon Wednesday, Feb. 29.

A REMINDER



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