

ARTS

The Fish are to be reckoned with

by Paul Meiorin
An Emotional Fish
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 WEA Records
An Emotional Fish are an Irish

band, not another U2, but are also far from the traditional Irish blend of music of the **Pogues** or the **Waterboys**. This may be the reason that their

debut album is so strong during a time of oversaturation of successful Irish rock bands. Their straight ahead emotional music comes across with the polish of a well-produced American rock outfit.

The album is produced by Tim Palmer, who has to his credit the **Mission's** debut *God's Own Medicine*.

An Emotional Fish was recorded at Windmill Lane Studios in Dublin, which is where **U2** recorded most of their albums.

The first track "Celebrate" is also the first single from the record.

The song is impressive, and I must admit when I first heard it on the radio, I was hoping that the DJ would tell who the band was immediately so that I wouldn't have to sit through a 290 minute non-stop rock ride. Because of "Celebrate" I was anxious to hear the rest of the album, and the opportunity to do this review has not led to disappointment.



Gerard Whelan, Enda Wyatt, David Frew and Martin Murphy are the Emotional Fish.

Vocalist Gerard Whelan, who sings without any accent, is a stand out on the album. His hard hitting vocal style is impressive especially on

songs such as "Lace Virginia", "All I Am" and "Colours".

The music of **An Emotional Fish** seems to fulfill two-thirds of their name. They play "an emotional" blend of music, but what "fish" has to do it I can't figure out. The album ends as it started, which to me proved that they are a band to be reckoned with.

Strangely, **An Emotional Fish** haven't yet received more than critical acclaim for their debut release which may indicate that they will break into the North American market with their next album, which from the indications of this first one, should be equally strong.

An Emotional Fish don't seem to have cashed in on marketing themselves as the next **U2** or **Hothouse Flowers**. Their strength is their varied and individual sound. This seems especially bold in a time where there seems to be a formula for how to be the "successful Irish pop band".



Get that camera outta my face! Or the camera person had a very shakey hand and was walking on uneven ground. Regardless of the photo, this album features a strong and varied sound which serves these Irish lads well.

Strong performances make for entertaining film

by Sally Teodoro

Class Action
 directed by Michael Apted
 20th Century Fox

Class Action, directed by Michael Apted, premiered last Monday at the Hyland Theatre.

The movie featured the awe inspiring, creative genius of Gene Hackman and MaryAnn Mastrantonio.

Personally, I have a soft spot for Hackman, ever since I saw him as Lex Luther in *Superman I, II* (and unfortunately *III*), I thought, this man has potential. After religiously following his career, I have yet to be disappointed.

MaryAnn Mastrantonio is a newcomer to me. She played Tom

Cruise's girlfriend in *The Color of Money*, but for some strange reason I don't remember her. Her most recent claim to fame was in the "water movie" *The Abyss*.

Fortunately for everyone involved, both Hackman and Mastrantonio give performances that will remain etched in the memories of every person in the theatre for years to come. OK, maybe not years, but at least a week.

Class Action is basically about an accident victim suing Argo Motors, a large automobile company, for distributing a defective car, the 1985 Meridian. Hackman, who plays Jed Ward, the champion lawyer of the underdog, decides to take on this extremely difficult lawsuit. His opposition is a large, powerful and

extremely successful law firm. Mastrantonio plays Margaret Ward, the lawyer assigned to "annihilate the witnesses".

Oh, by the way, the two opposing lawyers just happen to be father and daughter. Problem? Definitely.

Jed Ward, as seen in the movie, is a superior, self-righteous, sarcastic man. And those are his good points.

Amidst all this negative energy, you can't help but like him, and I'm not just saying this because I adore Hackman. Jed Ward is the type of man that is usually right about everything, knows it and flaunts it.

Margaret Ward has essentially the same character, but refuses to believe it. This is the heart of the father/daughter conflict; trying to come to terms with one another and

each other's faults.

Mastrantonio is incredible. She has a very powerful screen presence. At one point, I even forgot that Hackman was in the film. Although she does not dominate the movie, both her and Hackman equally produce excellent and forceful characters.

The lawsuit and the family conflict soon cross paths in the courtroom. The story then develops further with a brilliant ending.

The director, English-born Michael Apted, was at Monday's premiere for a brief question and answer period. His film credits are extremely impressive.

The first film he directed in America was *Coal Miner's Daughter* with Sissy Spacek. His other credits

include *Gorky Park* with William Hurt and the latest feature film he directed was *Gorillas in the Mist* with Sigourney Weaver. Impressed? There's more.

In May, Apted will start filming a contemporary *Dances with Wolves*. His yet unnamed film takes place on an American Indian Reserve with Val Kilmer as an FBI agent. I guess we'll just have to see it to believe it.

The entire production of *Class Action* is extremely well done. It's definitely worth the exorbitant amount of \$8.

Hackman is incredible, Mastrantonio is equally inspiring. I'll probably remember her in this film and with any luck, in probably many more to come.

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