

Little Shop of laughs

Little Shop of Horrors
review by Elaine Ostry

Feeling the pressure of term papers and looming final exams?? Take some time off to see some movies you might not have had the time to see before. There are a lot of escapist movies on the screen nowadays, especially thrillers.

But how about something a little less hectic and drama-filled. Like *Little Shop of Horrors*, which is the epitome of the "light movie."

The movie is set in a downtown New York slum, but it is obviously a movie set and not Harlem by any means. This is part of the fairy-tale-like atmosphere of the film. *Little Shop of Horrors* is a musical, and like most musicals, the music is the most important aspect and the characters are stereotypes.

To be sure, *Little Shop of Horrors* is no oeuvre of Ingmar Bergman. But its lack of depth is charming rather than irritating. Rick Moranis is a sweet little goof as Sidney, the (as always) unlikely hero who wins money and the girl. Ellen Green is perfect as Audrey, the dumb blonde (yes, this movie is full of 'types'!) whose dream is "to cook like Betty

Crocker," and "look like Dawn Marie" in suburbia.

Audrey is abused by a mean boyfriend played by Steve Martin. Martin is very funny as he plays upon everybody's fear of going to the dentist. The scene between the sadistic Martin and his masochistic patient, played by Bill Murray, is hilarious. When Martin is eaten by Audrey II, the man-eating plant, he deserves it.

Man-eating plant? What? Well, Sidney is visited by an unusual plant who feeds on human beings. Frank Oz's (The Muppet Man) creation is fascinating, scary and even a little human in the way it smiles and talks (and sings). Sidney is distressed by his plant's habits, especially when he finds out that it is from another planet and is planning to take over the Earth!

Everything works out in the end. Probably the best part of the movie is the music. This is fifties-style music just as the film is set during that time. "Suddenly, Seymour" and "Some Fun Now" are particularly good. "The Mean Green Mother from Outer Space" is nominated for an Oscar. Frank Oz, the director, did a good job in mixing acting and music. The result is a lot of fun.

Ghost's album is art

Frozen Ghost
Frozen Ghost
WEA

review by Dragos Ruiu

This is a debut album by this Canadian duo. Sort of.

Arnold Lanni and Wolf Hassel, who are Frozen Ghost, used to be part of the semi-successful band Sherrif. Now they are going it on their own. These guys happen to be Canadian, something which these days is sure to get you a better chance than other bands. It would be easy to dismiss them as just another Canadian group.

But the truth is that these guys received an amazing record deal where the record company kept its hand out of their recordings completely. This is unheard of in a debut album and they have made the best of it. The music is a simple rock formula, but it's theirs.

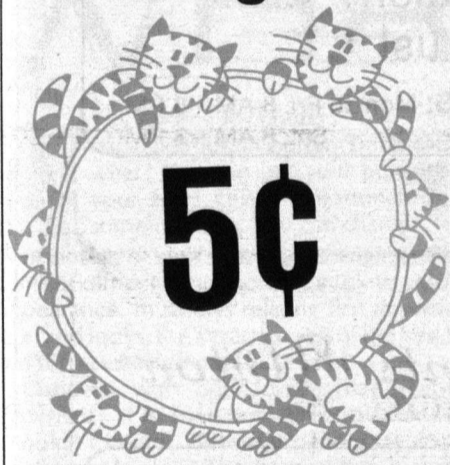
The lyrics match the sounds with their poetry. There are quite a few references to a variety of mythologies, especially the garden of Eden which gets references in multiple songs, including "Wintergardens" and "Rubicon", and they probably make up a few mythologies of their own on this album. The whole impression of this album is that it isn't music, it's art. And it's not bad art.

Some of the songs, "Rubicon" in particular, have a lot of energy while others sail along. "Rubicon" is very interesting because it is very reminiscent of "Rubycon" by Tangerine Dream. If you play them back to back you would swear they almost belong on the same album.

This is a tough record to put under a prefab category, so just call it new-wave-syntho-kinda-U2ish-folk-art-rock. Whatever it is, I liked it, and though probably many of you won't love it, a lot of you will like it. There is a lot of good music here.



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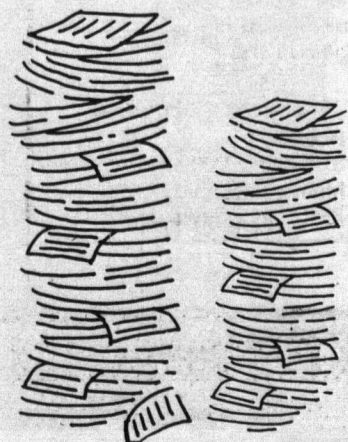
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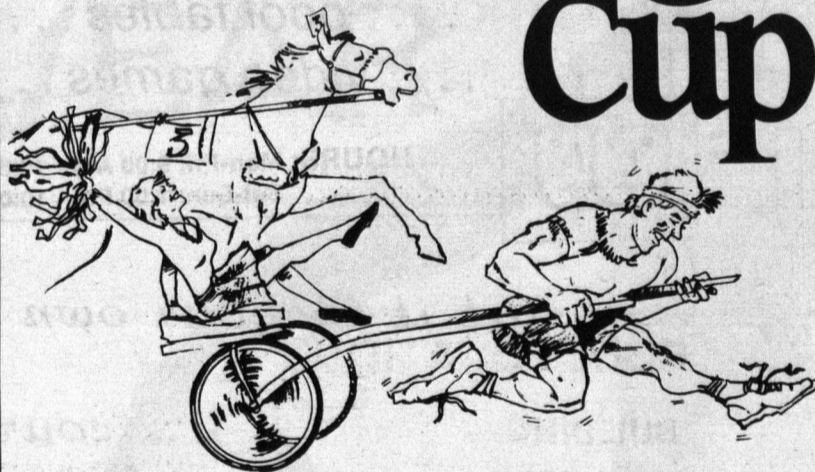
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