

The Spice Girls parade on celluloid...or something

BY KARAN SHETTY

The Spice Girls are at a point in their career where they have become so famous that they are almost immune to the barbs of cynical critics. Millions of fans around the world — especially in places where people have a penchant for bubbly music — love and adore the British pop quintet. So do the Spice Girls give a shit if people dis them?

Probably not.

Considering that they are now firmly entrenched in the landscape of 90s pop culture (hell, they've even met Nelson Mandela), a lot of the people who were formerly their detractors have now resigned themselves to arguments concerning who amongst the five is the hottest.

From what I gather, the new motion picture, *Spice World*, is supposed to have taken a page out of Richard Lester's *A Hard Day's Night*, a movie about that other British super-group, The Beatles. There's even a spoof of John Lennon's "bigger than Jesus" statement. While the Beatles were able to mix commercial and critical success while churning out hit after hit, let's just say the Spice Girls

have mastered the commercial aspect of making music.

Spice World, which is about a few days in their very busy lives, is meant to be a self-parody (much like *Scream*) in which the characters seem to know that they're in a movie by actually acknowledging all the clichés and stereotypes involved. They also try and stay one step ahead of their critics by making comments about the inevitable backlash against those who have become famous too fast and by predicting what might happen if one of their singles isn't a hit.

Unlike *Scream*, however, this self-reflexive stuff can't carry the film. I wouldn't have minded so much if the film was just bad. Bad films can have a certain appeal in a kitschy sort of way, which is probably why people love movies like *Grease* or *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. *Spice World*, however, was not only bad but boring as well. It comes nowhere near the line which divides a campy cult classic from "just plain crap". Surely the film has all the right ingredients: bad music, parties, cameo appearances (Meatloaf's in this one too), etc.. But even this mix isn't good enough to keep the film from deviating into something boring and wholly unentertaining.



A drunken man without a neck

BY JANET FRENCH

Explosive green baby poo, Freud, marriage to a beautiful German woman and Newfoundland. What do these things have in common? Why, they're all fodder for Simon B. Cotter's stand-up comedy act.

On Friday, Jan. 23, Simon B. Cotter returned to the Grawood for yet another drunken, side-splitting evening of comedic fun. Gunther Brown, a Dalhousie student, opened for the internationally renowned comic with a fifteen minute set. It was evident that Brown, the aspiring comic, was perhaps a wee bit nervous, but squeezed many giggles out of the crowd when finished his set with the "Top Eleven Ways That Car Bumpers Are Like Penises". Bumpers will never be looked at in the same way again.

After a brief wait, Cotter appeared, already feeling a little tipsy.

"I've learned from past experience not to make plans for the day after

playing Dalhousie," Cotter said in reference to the rum and Cokes that the Grawood staff provided for him more quickly than he could drink. "I'm funnier when I'm sober!" he exclaimed.

I've learned...not to make plans for the day after playing Dalhousie.

Nevertheless, Cotter began by making light of all the many "interesting" traits of Atlantic Canadians. He then progressed on to the topic of being overweight, working out on those silly machines and his insecurities about living without a neck. After joking about the many wonders of fatherhood, the set finished off with much ranting about what exactly happens when a German woman marries a Jamaican man.

After the show and off the stage, Cotter claimed that his material comes solely by making light of his

life experiences. When asked if his wife minds when she and their daughter are referred to in his act, he explained that she doesn't mind when only the general aspects of their marriage and heritage are used. Including his baby daughter in his routine is quite important to him personally.

"I want to include material about her childhood that she can look back on when she is older and find funny," Cotter said.

It appears that parenthood hasn't domesticated Cotter entirely though; his routine was littered with blunt sexual innuendo.

Cotter has a naturally humorous disposition which is contagious. It's always amazing when one man and his microphone can keep the crowd in stitches for an hour merely by sharing a piece of his brain.

Simon B. Cotter will be back at Dalhousie, so keep an eye out. It will be three dollars well spent. His routines are also aired randomly on the Comedy Channel.

All sorts of people are reading the Gazette Classifieds. Are you?

Reflections
Cabaret

ECMA '98
Pop Rock Showcase Venue

THUR, JAN 29 \$5 - 11 PM	KENNY DRISCOLL MICHELE POTHIER JONATHAN M.
FRI., JAN 30 \$5 - 11 PM	BUCKET TRUCK DEVORA AN ACOUSTIC SIN
SAT. JAN 31 \$5 - 11PM	STACEY BROWN LEDREW CHERYL GAUDET
SUN. FEB 1 7 PM - 10 PM NO COVER	RICK JEFFERY MARK GREEN

Come Celebrate With US!
Your Place to Party
for
ECMA '98
5184 SACKVILLE ST.
902-422-2957
REFLECT@NETCOM.CA

Dalhousie Student Union

Honor Awards & Valedictorian Selection

- Each year at convocation, the DSU honors graduating students on the basis of outstanding contributions made to student activities during their career on campus.
- Do you know of a graduating student who has contributed significantly to student life at Dalhousie?
- Would you like to acknowledge your class at your graduation ceremony by giving the Valedictorian address at the 1998 Convocation Ceremonies?
- If you would like to nominate someone for an Honor Award, or if you would like to apply to be Valedictorian, please pick up an application form from the Student Union Office in Room 222, Dalhousie Student Union Building, call 494-1106, or e-mail dsuwp@dal.ca for more information.

Applications are due on February 11, 1998!