

MUSIC REVIEW

R&B
evolved
with
Robin
ThickeSTAFF WRITER
SARA MACBRIDE

Robin Thicke is not only a successful R&B singer, but he also composes his songs and acts from time to time. His most recent project is the re-release of his album *The Evolution of Robin Thicke* on Feb. 13.

First released on Oct. 6, 2006, it features songs with Lil Wayne, Faith Evans and Pharrell. The first single off of his sophomore album, *Wanna Love You Girl*, reached as high as number 15 on the Billboard Top 100 and made it to number one on the Billboard Hot R&B/Hip Hop Songs. The song became Thicke's first number one hit on the R&B singles chart and he became the first white male artist since George Michael to top the chart.

After the re-release of the album with three new bonus tracks, *The Evolution of Robin Thicke* sold over 853,000 copies since Feb. 13 in the U.S. alone. For his single *Lost Without U* he appears in the music video with his wife, actress Paula Patton. It has been announced that Thicke along with Chris Brown will be opening for Beyonce in her 2007 North American tour.

Thicke was born to vocalist Gloria Loring and Canadian entertainer Alan Thicke (whom you might recognize from *Growing Pains*), and since a young age has shown an interest in music. He has said that classic soul singers like Marvin Gaye and Stevie Wonder have been some of his biggest influences of his soft-romantic style.

Not receiving as much success with his second album, *A Beautiful World*, released in 2003, he still got positive attention with music critics comparing him to Jamiroquai and Lenny Kravitz. In 2005, he guest appeared on the remix of Will Smith's international hit *Switch* and then scored himself a contract with the Neptune's Star Track label. For the first single off of his sophomore album *Wanna Love You Girl* he cut his signature long hair for the music video. In 2006, he then teamed up with Busta Rhymes to record a remix.

You may recognize Thicke's second single, *Lost Without U* from MTV's *Big Ten* video rotation where he is also a Discover and Download artist. Watch out for the next single with Thicke's preference rumored to be the track *Can You Believe*.

sdm4827@sjfc.edu

MOVIE REVIEW

The Reeking?

STAFF WRITER
CASEY VANDERWALL

A small town in Louisiana is suffering the 10 biblical plagues, and no one knows why, in *The Reaping*.

Hilary Swank stars as Katherine Winter, a professor at Louisiana State University who has lost her faith in God. Now Winter spends most of her time disproving what others consider to be miracles. But the occurrences in the small town of Haven might be a little more than she bargained for.

At first, Winter is convinced that there is a scientific explanation for what is going on. After a while, she is not so sure. Soon she finds herself questioning her faith yet again.

I thought the story was pretty good. I liked the idea of placing the 10 plagues in a more modern setting. While there were obvious religious undertones, they were not overdone.

While the story was fairly good there were definitely some things that should have been left out. Swank's character is constantly having visions and flashbacks. Instead of them being just visions, the creators decided to make the audience wonder if Winter is actually experiencing them at the time or not. There is also one very unnecessary sex scene.

Aside from Swank, there are not really any big names in this movie. In fact I think the only other two people that people may recognize are AnnaSophia Robb and Stephen Rea. While I have not seen him in anything before, one of the actors that really stood

out was Idris Elba, who played Ben. To be honest, I enjoyed his performance far more than I did Swank's.

The Reaping is a movie that not everyone is going to like. I thought it was fairly good, but a couple of the other people I saw it with hated it. I was just glad to have a break from all of the hack and slash, gore for the sake of gore movies that have come out lately.

All in all, *The Reaping* was okay. The concept of it was good, but it failed to live up to its potential. It's not really worth spending much money on, so if you have to see this movie it would be best to rent it.

cev7732@sjfc.edu

STAFF WRITER
SARAH JONES

The Reaping, starring Hilary Swank, is perplexing in every sense, except that if you are looking for a horror film, it is not recommended. It makes an okay thriller, if you can keep up with the fast-paced plot full of flashbacks and plagues. In 96 minutes, the film makers managed to throw in a lot of stuff - not to say that *The Reaping* is one of those "thoughtful" films that have to be paused and discussed every five seconds, but my friends and I left

the theatre with more than a few questions. It took us a while to get the story straight.

The Reaping is definitely worth a look, but don't expect anything too great. The best part about the movie was the little girl, Loren McConnell, played by AnnaSophia Robb. She was an integral part of the film, exuded a sense of power, portrayed her part perfectly, and showed she could be quite the opposite from her role as Violet Beauregarde in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. The adult actors, however, were good, but not excellent. David Morrissey did a convincing job as Doug, the charming southern science school teacher, but Swank was not a *Million Dollar Baby* in this one (pun definitely intended). In her defense, the script was very typical - even Robb's character was cliché.

The special effects weren't as great as I thought they would be either. The end scene was the best scene in the whole movie, with an apocalyptic look, a surprise and great acting. It was like the rest of the movie was simply a mediocre build-up to the last few scenes. The ending might not be able to save the whole movie from falling into the depths of the Wal-Mart discount bin, but it definitely wasn't disappointing. Watch out for the "could there be a sequel?" moment at the very end, though - it angered me.

I definitely have mixed feelings about *The Reaping* - it wasn't better or worse than many movies of that genre, and the amount of enjoyment depends on the perspective of the viewer.



Warner Brothers

Not even Academy Award-winning actress Hilary Swank can help overcome a disastrous plot, in *The Reaping*.

slj06863@sjfc.edu

Cheers to Custom BrewCrafters

STAFF WRITER
LINDSAY CAMPBELL

Located off a narrow dead end road in Honeoye Falls is a local brewery which has been up and running since 1995. The award winning Custom BrewCrafters is Rochester's very own brewery that supplies many local bars and events with their own unique brews.

Once you walk in the brewery, a stale smell welcomes you and reminds you that you are on brewing grounds. You can start the visit with a taste test or look around their small, yet well stocked shop. In the shop you can buy anything from t-shirts, sweatshirts, growler holders, cozies, or the very intriguing, *The Beer Diet Book*.

From the day that the brewing first began, Jeremiah's Frog Grog and Hogan's Park Ave. Ale were born. Today, these two beers are still the favorites of the brewery staff and their clients.

To this day, there are around 50 different custom beers brewed with six ready to try in their tasting room. There is a seasonal selection hand picked by the brewers themselves. Among these beers, you may find the famous CB's English Pale Ale or the 19th Hole Ale. Proudly displayed on tap six is the famous Iron Fireman Root Beer for those tasters who have not yet reached that golden age.

**LOST
IN
ROCHESTER**

Each edition, Lindsay Campbell will leave the confines of Fisher and find someplace new and exciting to go. She will show just how much fun it is to get lost in Rochester.

All of these beers are brewed right on the grounds, including the root beer.

If any of these beers sound familiar, it may be because Custom BrewCrafters supplies many local bars with their finest brews. Just a few on the list are The Bug Jar, Johnny's Irish Pub and Jeremiah's Tavern.

Once you find your favorite beer, you can take it home in a growler or order it in a keg. Growlers are one of the highlights of the brewery and can hold up to a half a gallon of your favorite beer. After the purchase of your first growler, you can take it back at anytime to refill it for a reasonable price.

Custom BrewCrafters workers give free tours on Saturday and Sunday afternoons at 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00 pm. If these times don't work for you, just call to



Heather Wordelmann

Campbell really enjoyed her visit to Custom BrewCrafters in Honeoye Falls. She especially like the brewing machines ... a lot.

make an appointment and they will do their best to accommodate to your schedule.

Tours take you around the small one room brewing area explaining the different ingredients of beer and how they make each beer. The basic ingredients of beer are water, malt, hops and yeast. In the back room, you can see malts that have been imported from all-over the world from countries such as Ireland, Germany and Great Britain.

Your own personal guide will walk you through each step and

answer any questions you may have. Also on the tour, you can see a large refrigerated room which contains numerous kegs waiting to be shipped out. By the end of the tour, you will know the process of beer making from start to finish.

Custom BrewCrafters is a great place to learn how beer is made and to taste a few of Rochester's own brews. Satisfy your thirst with BrewCrafters and you won't go wrong.

ljc05647@sjfc.edu