

MUSIC REVIEW

Reel Big Fish in the growing ska pond



reel-big-fish.com

STAFF WRITER
JIM ERNST

Some bands and genres can be overlooked by outlets such as MTV and various radio stations. I want to persuade you to check out one of these genres that isn't regularly on the radio. I'm talking about 3rd wave ska, specifically Reel Big Fish.

Reel Big Fish is a bigger band in this genre than others. This band consists of Aaron Barnett, Scott Klopfenstein, Matt Wang, Dan Reagan and two other members that have changed many times throughout the band's history.

Reel Big Fish got their start when they became friends with another local band at the time: No Doubt. Due to the relationship between No Doubt lead singer Gwen Stefani and Barnett, Reel Big Fish was able to get associated with the local music scene.

Their music even resembles No Doubt's earlier albums, such as *Tragic Kingdom*.

After hitting the local scene, they entered the ska picture with tracks such as "Sell Out" and "Dateless Losers."

They also were thrust into the public view with a track that wound up as the theme song to *BASEketball* (which is written and directed by the creators of *South Park*).

The track, "Beer," is alive with the full-throttle sound of ska. The lyrics perfectly embody a song about drinking and the tune serves as a fitting anthem for college age students and for fans of the *South Park* brand of humor.

If you haven't checked out ska music, I would suggest starting out with Reel Big Fish and worker your way to other bands within the genre.

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MOVIE REVIEW

All-Star cast yields mixed results in 'Smokin' Aces'

STAFF WRITER
CASEY VANDERWALL

Mob bosses, mercenaries and FBI agents these are the main ingredients that make up the new film *Smokin' Aces*.

Smokin' Aces tells the story of Bobby "Aces" Israel. Israel is under FBI protection because he plans on giving them information about his mob ties in exchange for immunity and a new life. The problem is that mob boss Primo Sparazza wants him dead. The FBI then finds themselves protecting Israel against a large variety of hit-men and mercenaries.

One of the main interest points of *Smokin' Aces* is that it has a star-studded cast. The film stars Ben Affleck, Ryan Reynolds, Ray Liotta, and in her first movie role, Alicia Keyes. Unfortunately, a cast full of big names does not always make for a good movie.

There are quite a lot of colorful characters in this film. From neo-Nazis, to a karate kid wannabe with ADHD, *Smokin' Aces* has it all.

That being said, there are very few characters I actually cared about. There were so many characters that there was little room for character development. So when someone died in the movie I really didn't care.

The biggest problem I had with this movie was that there was way too much going on. There was a subplot for just about every character in the film, which made it a little hard to follow. If they had stuck to the main plot and maybe a couple subplots it would have been better.

There is also a "twist" at the end of the movie. However, the twist comes as completely unshocking. The producers just tried too hard to be complex when they should

have stuck with the simple.

Even though there was so much going on, the plot was mildly interesting. I often found myself wanting to know what was going to happen next. At the same time, I also found myself guessing exactly what was going to happen next before it did.

Fans of mindless violence and death will probably like this movie. There is quite a lot of blood and really big guns. My guess is that the biggest fans of this movie are going to be teenage boys.

All in all I would say this movie is just okay. It's not very good, but it's not horrible either. It's just average.

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C+

STAFF WRITER
JOHN PETERS

Mobster movies are naturally violent, but movies like *Smokin' Aces* are in a class of their own. The amount of blood spilled in this film is usually reserved for bad horror flicks.

Right from the get-go, this movie, directed by Joe Carnahan, wastes no time with introductions and handshakes. It takes a dive head first into the thick of the plot, which is an absolute gemstone because it's a completely original concept.

Jeremy Piven plays Buddy 'Aces' Israel. Once a magician extraordi-

B+



Universal Pictures

Jeremy Piven is a wanted man in *Smokin' Aces*. He is the target of multiple assassins who want to collect the bounty on his head.

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Artisan Works a world of fun and art

STAFF WRITER
LINDSAY CAMPBELL

Found just a few minutes from school is a small piece of what seems to be a bit of Greenwich Village. On Blossom Street, a bright turquoise building stands out among the rest. This old warehouse is now a bright new and exciting place known as Artisan Works.

Artisan Works allows its audience to plunge into the walls of art and become a part of it. The wide variety of displays that hide in the nooks make this one of the most interesting spots in Rochester.

As I walked into the converted warehouse, I was immediately welcomed by massive amounts of art. There are tables in the center of the room if you want to sit down and have a drink or quick bite to eat. This creates a mellow atmosphere that many people would enjoy.

I found an eclectic mix of art in the building. Items such as baseball cards, old cars and paintings make this museum unlike any other. Even the dustiest corners have a beautiful piece of art to

look at.

As I wandered throughout the building you find so much more than lofty ceilings and cement floors. Rooms branch off of the main hallways containing exciting and different exhibits. One room is the Photo Exhibit which makes me feel like I was in the middle of a live photo shoot. Pictures of Marilyn Monroe hang on the walls and they take any on-looker back into time.

My favorite part of the gallery was Boulevard Geribaldi. This section was a walkway of artist studios where you could actually watch artists create beautiful new pieces of art. The most interesting part of this is that it was entirely inspired by a street located in Paris, France. The artwork covers almost every inch of the walls, floor to ceiling. At the beginning of the 'street' is a 1940 Cadillac LaSalle which sits in front of a painted skyline of Paris and includes the Eiffel Tower and trademark street lamps.

Another interesting room is full of old Kodak cameras and a replicated dark room. Any person interested in photography would

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.

immediately grow fond of this particular room.

As I glided through the cluttered pathways, I accidentally stumbled upon some of the best parts of the museum. Found in a back corner is an old room that holds hundreds of books. It resembles an old study with its winding stairway that curls up to a second, open floor. On the second floor more books reside on dusty shelves.

A highlight of the museum was a feature not even in the building. For this, I had to wind through rooms upstairs and out a door leading you to a rooftop garden.



Jaclyn Hughes

Lindsay relaxes on a couch in the colorful world of Artisan Works.

You can walk around well lit gazebos and in the spring and summertime look at the actual garden of flowers.

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