

Features

Pearl Jam, Goldie deliver with two new releases

Review

By Andrew Pearson
Staff Writer

After two cryptic and sloppy albums, canceled tours, and a heavily publicized defeat at the hands of Ticketmaster, Seattle's only remaining supergroup Pearl Jam have returned to produce "Yield," the year's most anticipated release. Drum and bass monarch Goldie's latest

release "Saturnz Return," solidifies his status as a major player in the electronic music genre.

The album, like its predecessors, continues to spurn alternative rock fans frothing at the mouth for a sequel to the band's seminal album "Ten."

It is not to say that "Yield" fails to deliver the larger-than-life rock pieces that comprised the band's first three albums.

Radio friendly anthems "Faithful,"

"In Hiding," and the album's first single, "Given To Fly," should appease fans who bought "Ten" and "Vs." However, the rest of the album owes more to the quiet meditation begun on the band's 1996 experimental album, "No Code" than the band's period as grunge poster boys. "Wish List" finds lead singer Eddie Vedder rattling off one-line fantasies before guitarist Mike McCready unleashes a mesmerizing guitar solo to bring the track full circle.

Chaos ensues on "Push Me Pull Me," a sonic assault anchored by Jeff Ament's throbbing bass lines, that beg a universal question, "The oceans made me, but who made love?"

Despite his usual rants and commentaries on society ("Do the Evolution"), Vedder sounds unusually upbeat, and the band's guitar work on punky numbers like "Brain of J." show that the band has not sacrificed passion for maturity.

On "No Way," Vedder's voice leaps from his trademark mumbling to a desperate cry of resignation: "I'll stop trying to make a difference/ I'm not trying to make a difference."

Like the late Kurt Cobain, Vedder manages to exhume a wide gamut of emotions from indistinguishable mumbles and makes whispers ring out as intense pleas for help.

As the Beatlesque closing track "All Those Yesterdays" fades out, the band promises that "It's no crime to escape."

Until the bands press shyness ends and rumors of a long-awaited tour become reality, Pearl Jam fans have the band's best album yet to help weigh the validity of that statement.

Although "Saturnz Return" will not surpass 1997's Chemical Brothers "Dig Your Own Hole," or Prodigy's "Fat of the Land" in sales, the new double album proves to be brilliant. Disc one of "Saturnz Return" begins with an hour-long opus entitled "Mother."

Conceived as a tribute to his mother, who put him in foster care at age three, Goldie combines a 30-piece string section, ethereal vocals, and resounding beats to convey his love and subsequent loss.

Given the simple fact that "Mother" comprises the entire first disc, it's tempting to label the art piece self-indulgent at best.

However, like Radiohead's "OK Computer," the tiny nuances and unearthly noises noticed on each listen keep "Mother" from becoming a pretentious bore.

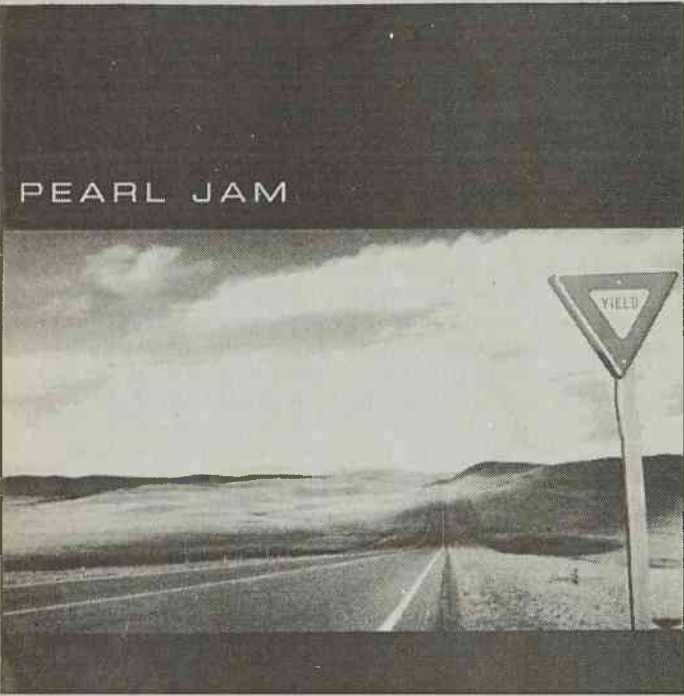
Disc two, "Saturn," exemplifies the energetic, furious jungle beats that have made Goldie one of England's most successful DJs and record producers.

In addition to his own skills, Goldie employs an all-star cast to round out the album.

Oasis's Noel Gallagher's reverberating guitar playing on "Temper, Temper" recalls the feedback theat-



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rics of Jimi Hendrix.

Along with Goldie's nasal, vitriolic delivery, Gallagher's abusive fretwork creates an evil twin to Prodigy's wildly successful 1997 hit, "Firestarter."

Rapper KRS-One weighs in on "Digital," the album's standout track. Matching one of hip-hop's best MCs with Goldie's thumping beats, "Digital" begs the question: where has pure hip-hop like this gone in an era dominated by slick, sample-dependent artists?

Timeless' singer Diane Charlemagne's smooth vocals augment tracks such as "I Believe" and give the listener a refreshing break from Goldie's angry outbursts.

"I'll Be There For You" showcases Goldie's knack for weaving sophisticated rhythm tracks out of clouds of synthesized sound.

Thoughtful and complex from beginning to end, "Saturnz Return" provides all the evidence needed to proclaim Goldie one of music's best.

"Yield is now available from Sony Music Entertainment, and "Saturnz Return" from Polygram Records.

1997 Academy Award Nominees

The 70th Annual Academy Awards will air on March 23.

Best Actor:

- Peter Fonda ("Ulee's Gold")
- Robert Duvall ("The Apostle")
- Matt Damon ("Good Will Hunting")
- Jack Nicholson ("As Good As It Gets")
- Dustin Hoffman ("Wag the Dog")

Best Actress:

- Helena Bonham Carter ("The Wings of the Dove")
- Julie Christie ("Afterglow")
- Judi Dench ("Mrs. Brown")
- Kate Winslet ("Titanic")
- Helen Hunt ("As Good As It Gets")

Best Supporting Actor:

- Burt Reynolds ("Boogie Nights")
- Robin Williams ("Good Will Hunting")
- Anthony Hopkins ("Amistad")
- Greg Kinnear ("As Good As It Gets")
- Robert Forster ("Jackie Brown")

Best Supporting Actress:

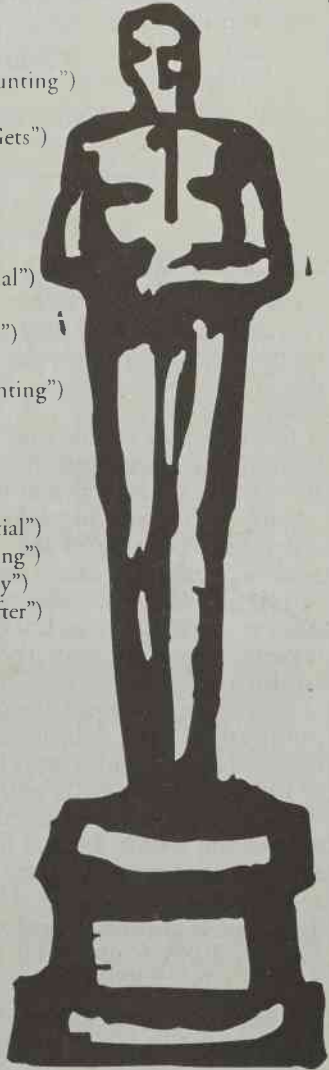
- Kim Basinger ("L.A. Confidential")
- Gloria Stuart ("Titanic")
- Julianne Moore ("Boogie Nights")
- Joan Cusack ("In & Out")
- Minnie Driver ("Good Will Hunting")

Best Director:

- James Cameron ("Titanic")
- Curtis Hanson ("L.A. Confidential")
- Gus Van Sant ("Good Will Hunting")
- Peter Cattaneo ("The Full Monty")
- Atom Egoyan ("The Sweet Hereafter")

Best Picture:

- "Titanic"
- "L.A. Confidential"
- "Good Will Hunting"
- "As Good As It Gets"
- "The Full Monty"



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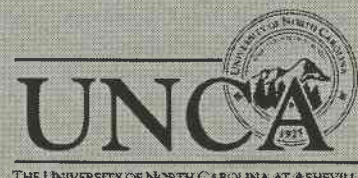
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