

Arts and Entertainment

CD REVIEW

Juliana Theory brings message of love

This is the latest cover of The Juliana Theory's "love" album.

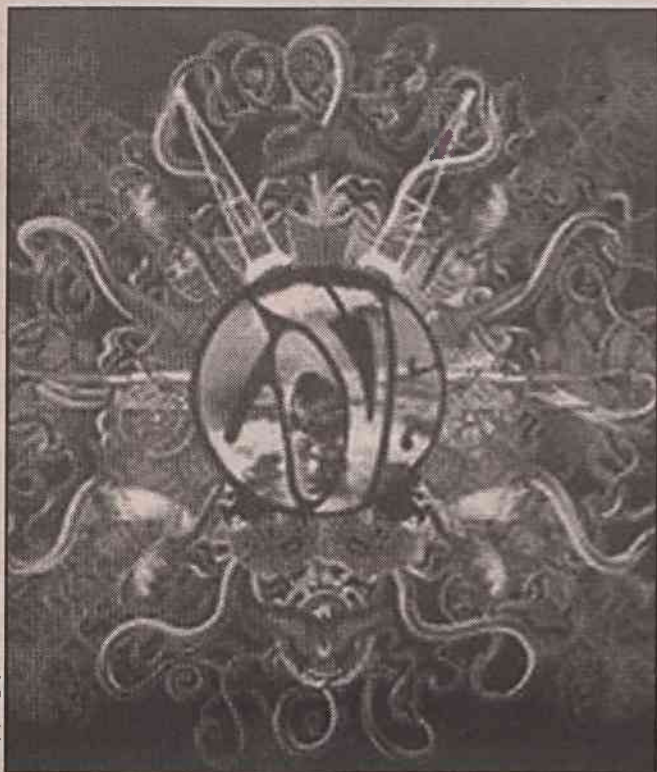


Photo courtesy of The Juliana Theory

Emily Killian
Pilot copy editor

The Juliana Theory's newest release, entitled "Love" is a happy marriage of emo rock and hard metal. Not just superficial rockers, the band shows both lyrical and musical depth coupled with a strong message of love.

In "Bring it Low," the band asks the listener to open his/her mind and consider that they are more than they seem. This seems to go along perfectly with the band's gradual shift towards deeper, more meaningful music.

In "Shell of a Man," the band pits love against bitterness and hate, and shows that love is the answer to life's problems. The band asserts that "love is the answer" and encourages the

listener to love even though they are only "the shell of a man."

"Repeating, Repeating" shows how easy it is to get burned out when you focus on the wrong things in life. "Congratulations" is about being broken but still having hope. This track is one of my favorites on the album.

In "The Hardest Things," the band explores the relationship between having to make hard decisions and hurting other people. "In Conversation" is about the problems people have communicating with each other.

"Into the Dark," is a song that was released on a previous album, but with a new twist. This version of the song is much more rock oriented than the previous. Although I like the original version much better, this one

is still quite good.

The last song on the album, "Everything," sums up the overall message of the album—love is everything. They say that love is a reason for life and that "love is a bond without reason, a cry for connection, a light in your eyes."

Other themes explored by the band include trust, pain, the future, betrayal, loss and hope.

Thus far, the album, released by Epic (Sony) records, has reached 71 on the Billboard 200, and the track "Bring it Low" was part of "MTV Road Rules: Don't Make Me Pull This Thing Over."

For more information on the Juliana Theory, go to www.julianatheory.com or www.epicrecords.com.

Killigan Points: 4 out of 5.

MOVIE REVIEW

"Bulletproof Monk": Where's my gun?

Rachel Jones
Pilot staff

When I was a little girl, I was tormented by people who went around making those "martial arts" noises that Bruce Lee instituted into the American movie genre.

I never fully understood it until I watched one for myself last week. Needless to say I was torn between laughing my head off and shaking my head with shame at what I saw: Asian guy having to defend his ancestors' honor and giving out Chinese proverbs that belong on American-made fortune cookies. No wonder I was tormented.

Albeit, "Bullet Proof Monk" does not have any ancient ancestors' honor to defend, it is bound by the same cheesy "fortune cookie" wisdom that bound many other hokey martial arts movies during the 1970s and 1980s.

"Bulletproof Monk" has a nameless Tibetan monk (Chow Yun-Fat), who must protect a sacred scroll from a Nazi officer. The chase goes on for 60 years, during which the monk must choose his successor, who will be revealed by fulfilling the prophecies that choose the next protector of the scroll. During this time, the monk has not aged (thanks to the scroll's power) while the Nazi officer deteriorates.

While on the run, the monk finds his suc-

cessor, the streetwise, petty, yet caring, pick-pocket, Kar (Seann William Scott). At first, Kar is annoyed by the monk, but is drawn in by his "fortune cookie" wisdom and knowledge in the martial arts. When the scroll is taken, the monk and Kar, joined by a mysterious young woman nicknamed Bad Girl, must take back the scroll and defeat the Nazi officer and his followers.

I pity Chow Yun-Fat in his decision to film this movie, especially after watching his spectacular performance in "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" as Master Li Mu Bai. Seann William Scott, having a habit of appearing in dim teen movies such as "American Pie" and "American Pie 2," does his usual cute, make-the-girls-swoon smile, the dumb, confused looks and gets the girl.

The movie does have its positive scenes. The visual effects are impressive, as are the fight scenes. As a girl, I must say Scott does have his shining moment with his smile and line, "Because you're so — beautiful."

There's even a point in which an impatient Kar points out the entire foolishness of the movie, poking fun of the monk's wisdom, telling him that his proverbs can be read on fortune cookies.

Overall, "Bulletproof Monk" leaves the audience wondering how the monk got Kar to follow and trust him, and wishing that they had been warned that although the monk is bulletproof, the movie is not foolproof.

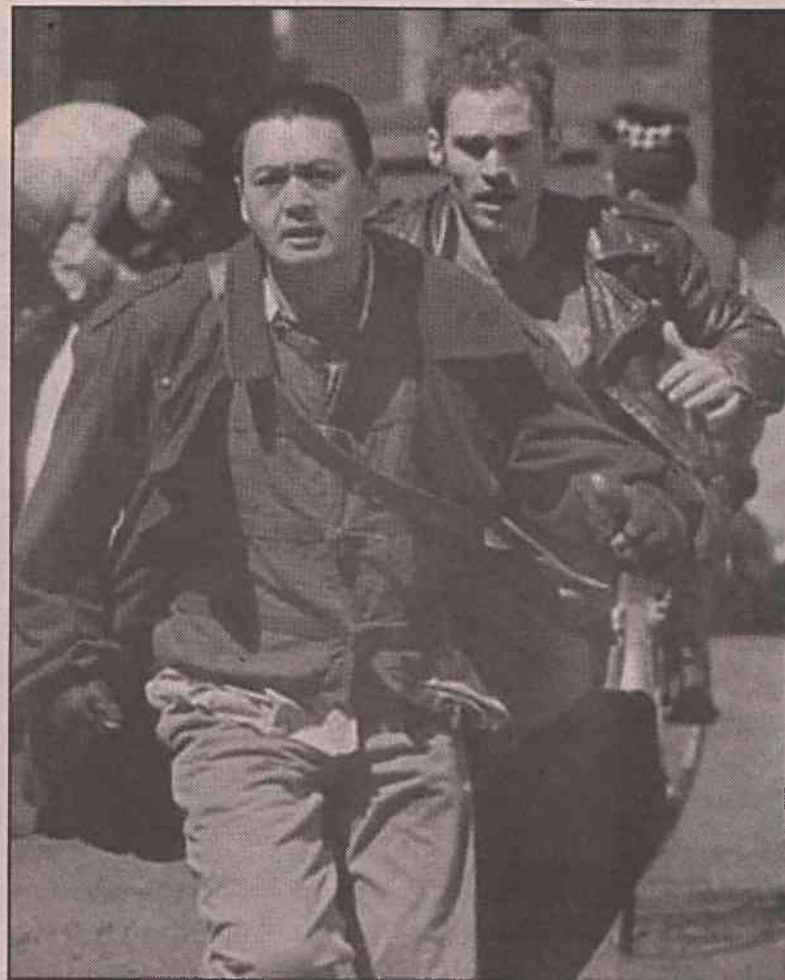


Photo courtesy of MGM

Chow Yun-Fat playing a Tibetan monk and Seann William Scott, who plays Kar, run through the street to protect a sacred scroll.