

# the main stage



## Lisa Loeb opens for The Goo Goo Dolls at House of Blues

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STAFF WRITER

The Goo Goo Dolls and opening act Lisa Loeb played for a sold-out crowd Nov. 29 at the House of Blues in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

The freezing temperatures that night did nothing to curb the excitement, as an overwhelmingly exhilarated audience packed into the club.

At 8:15 p.m., Lisa Loeb took the stage with nothing but her acoustic guitar and a Hello Kitty doll (the mascot for her new album *Hello Lisa*). Lisa looked a tough crowd head on and accepted the challenge by playing her heart out.

She opened her set with a few of her older songs and followed them up with tunes off her new album. Lisa sounded great and brought the audience to life when she played her hit "Stay." Although the crowd came ready to rock, Lisa Loeb played beautifully, and no doubt picked up a few new fans that night.

About 9:30 p.m. a gauzy curtain was dropped in front of the stage, the lights were dimmed and the crowd went wild with anticipation. Amid a flurry of flashing lights and an incredible drum solo, The Goo Goo Dolls blasted on stage with enough enthusiasm and energy to fill an entire stadium. An incredible mix of songs followed, from the new *Gutterflower*

album as well as all of their classic hits.

After jumpstarting the concert with the unabashed rock of "Naked" and "Long Way Down," they launched into an amazing version of one of their biggest hits, "Slide." Unlike other concerts, The Goo Goo Dolls showed a real loyalty to their audience by playing the songs the fans wanted to hear. "Name," "Black Balloon," "Here is Gone" and "Iris" all made the set list.

The crowd was even invited by front man John Rzeznik to sing the opening lines of "Broadway." By the end of the show, Rzeznik, bass player Robby Takac and drummer Mike Malinin had the audience fired up and begging for more. After a brief

break the boys returned to stage for an encore featuring the Takac staple "January Friend," as well as an extraordinary cover of Tom Petty's "American Girl."

Almost as incredible as the music itself was the relationship The Goo Goo Dolls had with their audience. Rzeznik joked with the audience about his plans to combat terrorism, accepted gifts from his fans and even took a drag off an audience member's cigarette. John, Robby and Mike showed a respect for their fans that many musicians don't have, and the closeness made the concert more amazing.

Loeb and The Goo Goo Dolls offered a truly original concert -- both amazing and fun -- that the audience will never forget.

## Review: Santa Clause coming '2' town

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The winter holiday movie season has officially begun and the first holiday movie to hit the screens is "The Santa Clause 2."

This movie is a family comedy and is the sequel to the 1994 critically acclaimed box office hit, "The Santa Clause." Starring Tim Allen, Eric Lloyd, David Krumholtz, Spencer Breslin and Elizabeth Mitchell, the film is the feature film directorial debut of Emmy award-winning director Michael Lembeck.

Scott Calvin (Tim Allen) has been Santa Claus for the past eight years, and his elves feel he has done a remarkable job. However, he is stunned to learn some bad news. First, his son Charlie (Eric Lloyd) is on this year's naughty list, and

second, if he doesn't get married by Christmas Eve, he will stop being Santa forever.

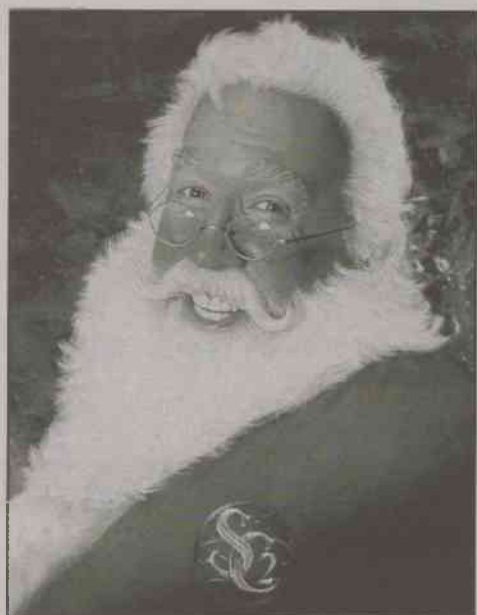
Scott is faced with the dilemma of being a father in his son's time of need, finding a wife and keeping the North Pole running.

He decides to leave the North Pole to take care of his son and find a wife, but he doesn't want to disappoint and worry his elves about the success of Christmas. Therefore, his two top elves (David Krumholtz and Spencer Breslin) build a substitute Santa to watch over the North Pole during his absence.

When Scott returns home he realizes that he is mysteriously losing his Santa traits. It is difficult for him to return to the dating scene knowing that he has to find someone to marry in a short period of time. A twist develops when Scott begins

dating Charlie's high school principal (Elizabeth Mitchell). Back at the North Pole, the substitute Santa has an unusual interpretation of "being naughty" and puts Christmas in jeopardy. Now Santa not only has to worry about staying Santa, but he also has to save Christmas.

This movie was not made just to make a sequel; it is well constructed and highly entertaining. Also, the cast did an extraordinary job, especially Tim Allen. This movie is upbeat, heartwarming, funny, puts you in the Christmas spirit and reminds you of what Christmas is really about. The "Santa Clause 2" is rated G and is definitely a must-see for all ages.



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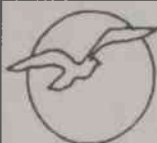
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