

# ! the main stage

## “Chicago” is a go: Broadway meets big screen

TRAVIS AUSTIN

STAFF WRITER

The film “Chicago” is a remake of the original Broadway musical. It stars Renee Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Richard Gere.

The story is primarily about Roxie Hart (Renee Zellweger), a married chorus girl who dreams of being a star singer. Roxie is sent to Cook County Jail for killing her lover when she discovered he lied about being able to make her a star.

Velma Kelly (Catherine Zeta-Jones), a woman also in jail for murder, is jealous of Roxie because she believes Roxie is stealing her publicity and her lawyer.

The lawyer, Billy Flynn (Richard Gere), is Chicago’s most successful criminal attorney.

Velma and Roxie fight for media exposure and the attention of Billy Flynn. They also hope to be found not guilty of murder.

The story is set to take place in Chicago, 1929.

Flynn gets his clients media exposure to gain public sympathy, but Roxie and Velma can never seem to get enough publicity.

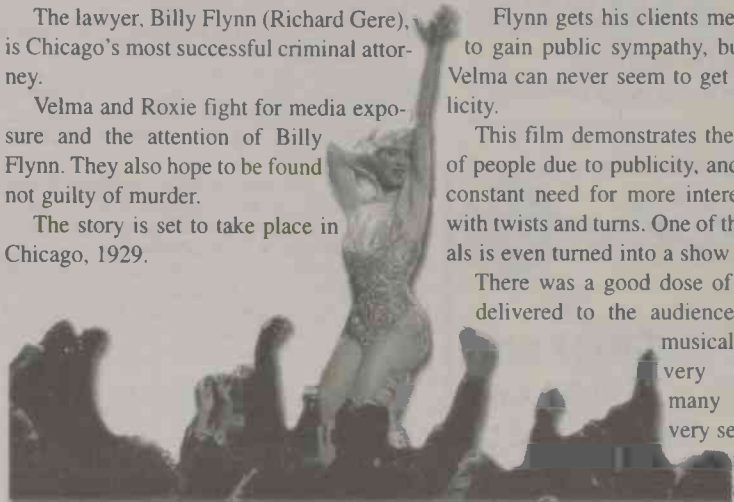
This film demonstrates the rise and fall of people due to publicity, and the media’s constant need for more interesting stories with twists and turns. One of the murder trials is even turned into a show business act.

There was a good dose of comic relief delivered to the audience. All of the musical numbers are very good, and many of them are very sexy. The final number was a grand

finale and there could not have been a better finish.

This is a good film that is very entertaining. Director Rob Marshall has been a choreographer for a long time with a great deal of experience in theater. He does a good job in his feature film directorial debut. The cast did an outstanding job as well.

However this film should not be classified as a movie. Potential audiences should be aware that this is a musical on the big screen. There is a musical number every five minutes. If viewers want to see a movie, “Chicago” is not recommended, but if audiences are in the mood for a good musical, go for it!



## Rhett Miller’s solo album is a success

LINNIE SARAH HELPERN

STAFF WRITER

In a musical culture full of pop stars and American Idols, many talented singer-songwriters sometimes get lost in the shuffle. One such artist who is high on talent and low on exposure is Rhett Miller.

Miller began his career as the front man for the alt-country group Old 97’s. The group released three highly acclaimed albums as well as touring relentlessly and performing to packed houses.

In September Rhett released his first solo album, *The Instigator*, which was met with critical success.

Rather than rely on the original Old 97’s

sound, Miller used *The Instigator* as a means of exploring new musical horizons. Many of the songs featured on his solo album straddle the line between folk and rock, with a little bit of pop sensibility thrown in.

The first track on Miller’s CD, “Our Love,” has the beat of classic rock, and the lyrics of a truly intelligent songwriter.

In the beautiful song, “Come Around,” Miller asks “Am I gonna be lonely for the rest of my life?” The listener can’t help but identify with the sadness he expresses.


Songs like “Your Nervous Heart,” “There Is A World Inside the World,” and “I Want to Live” are heart-wrenching ballads which offset Miller’s rock songs perfectly.

*The Instigator*, which was featured on numerous Top Ten lists, is an eclectic and satisfying mix of music. Miller is an amaz-

ing artist, whether he follows the traditional alt-country path set by his previous band or explores new ideas in

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