



"I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it." - Voltaire

Make Way For The Black Parade e2

By Liv Perrino

My Chemical Romance (MCR) arrived on the music scene in 2004 with their second album *Three Cheers For Sweet Revenge*. Three amazing hits - "Helena", "I'm Not Ok, I Promise" and "The Ghost of You", were released from this album, getting MCR out of the underground and into the black light of punk stardom. The band has now released a new chart topping album, *The Black Parade*, which has two hit singles; "Welcome to the Black Parade" and "Famous Last Words".

The band members Gerard Way, Mikey Way, Ray Toro and Frank Iero are all from New Jersey with drummer Bob Bryar is from Chicago. In fact the members that are from NJ say that this is their home so much so that the rhythm guitarist Frank Iero had "NJ" tattooed inside his lip and another tattoo on his arm also has those letters incorporated into the design. Lead singer Gerard Way and bassist Mikey Way (yes they are brothers) along with the lead guitarist Ray Toro. The only person in the band that is not from NJ is the drummer Bob Byre, who replaced Jersey native Matt Pelissier. This band is very close knit group and if something happens with one of the members it affects the entire band. These two songs are heartfelt and go much deeper than many of the songs on *Three Cheers For Sweet Revenge*. This album goes in a different musical direction than the last album, but it works. This album still follows the life on the murder scene, how vampires are coming to get you and that death is all around you. This band certainly has a death obsession, so once again there are songs about the afterlife and dying. But this album also has songs about love and how hard split ups can be, such as "I Don't Love You" ("would you have the guts to say I don't love you like I did yesterday"). Or you are with someone and want to say something but are keeping it quiet, ("I see you lying next to me with words I thought I'd never speak" Way sings in "Famous Last Word"). This album, however, has something that the previous album did not have. There are ballads "Cancer" (that will most likely become a single) and "Disenchanted" to name two.

As far as the new album goes, it's hard hitting from start to finish - a solid album with driving

rhythms and classic MCR vocals. And despite the fact that the lead singer still insist on smoking (the only addiction he still has), his vocals are amazing.

This latest effort includes ideas explored in the earlier *Three Cheers For Sweet Revenge* and *I Brought you Bullets, You Brought Me Your Love*. *The Black Parade* takes on some of the issues that were addressed in these earlier albums, like depression. "When you look in the mirror and don't like what you see/you can find out first hand what it's like to be me" the band relates to this in the song The End. And fair warning: if you have a fear of cussing, death and hell related themes, then this is not the album for you. This album has a PARENTAL ADVISORY for a reason. My Chemical Romance started out on the underground scene in and around New Jersey and now is headlining tours around the globe. However, their success didn't come easily. Lead singer Gerard Way battled with alcoholism and was on anti-depressants for many years. His battle with chemical dependency was won with the help of the band and to this day he is still sober.

During the recording of *The Black Parade*, Mikey Way had a mental breakdown and had to leave the recording sessions, and the band. With a lot of therapy and through his realizing that the band was there for him, he was able to get his life straightened out and is now back.

But for a while the band feared that he was not coming back. This put a lot of stress on the band members, who didn't know whether they should wait for Mikey to return or get someone to replace him. Their patience paid off, and they were relieved when he did return. Today you can see him rocking on his bass with a new look and lots of confidence.

This band has the power to save lives and not just the lives of the members but of the people who listen to their music. The band hears on several occasions from fans that the band's music pulled them out of a really low time in their life or actually saved their life. However, they are really just geeky guys from NJ who made it. The band saved the lives of all the members in it, and they say that it has the power to save your life - if you believe in it. Album rating Five skulls out of five!!

Moviemaking Trends - *The Illusionist*

Reid Mosher

The Illusionist is a decent period romance mystery. What's interesting though is that there are two other films out right now that have something to do with the same topics: stage magic and mystery. It's like Hollywood is peeking at one-another's quiz papers and turning up all the same answers.

Remember when *Deep Impact* (1998), *Contact* (1997), and *Armageddon* (1998) all came out within a year of each other? Let us not forget *The Fifth Element* (1997) and *Independence Day* (1996) that were also larger than life depictions of great danger and alien threat.

Western civilization was quickly approaching the daunting millennium turnover and while all the Y2K fanatics and computer persons were running in circles, Hollywood was preparing itself to cash in. The trend was established. There was a popular theme. Movie-goers were hungry for it.

The Illusionist is one of three as Hollywood is any indicator) 2006 films which revolve around not so much with those things the topic of stage magic and feature that we cannot possibly ignore, magicians as main characters. The (Cue meteorite, tidal wave, alien other two are *The Prestige* and invasion), but with investigating *Scoop*, which share two actors: deeper into that which we do Hugh Jackman and Scarlett not see or can not explain. Cue Johansson. *The Prestige* and *The Illusionist* are both set in the past; Penrose and James Freedman, *Scoop* is set in modern times. Edward Norton's trainers for *The Illusionist*, who were among the

mystery and is a testament to magic consultants for the movie. But are we really interested in the power of forbidden love. It also borrows concepts from *The Sword and the Stone*, *Romeo and Juliet*. But trust our eyes; to be reminded that's ok, it is Hollywood.

The question is: What are the even when we are looking execs thinking about now? What directly at it? The important do they have in mind? Might part is that we are looking.

On a broad scale, this trend says they be performing a "sleight of hand" with our movie dollars? that we are no longer running

Almost a decade after our from the events around us, obsession with global devastation, rather we are looking deeper into them trying to find the strings.

I give it 4 stars out of 5.

We seem to be interested (as far

Demetri Martin, These Are Jokes

Emily Threlkold

If you combined Dane Cook's self-confidence, Zach Galifianakis' pointless musical accompaniment, Mitch Hedberg's complete lack of segue skills, and Steven Wright's observational one-liners, you'd get something closely resembling Demetri Martin.

"Every fight is a food fight when you're a cannibal."

Demetri dropped out of NYU's School of Law to pursue stand-up comedy, and it shows. He has his own style, and his own way of looking at things. His comedy is intelligent and silly all at once.

"The show starts right...now! Dating is difficult, black people and white people are different, also airplane food is unacceptable... Yes! That's three jokes in five seconds. This is awesome."

These Are Jokes was recorded at the Paramount Theater in Austin, and is about an hour long. Most of the CD - tracks with names like "The Start" and "Some Jokes" - are straight forward stand-up. But Demetri also brings his musical ability into several tracks. In "The Remix," he tells different versions of some of his old jokes while playing a glockenspiel and a keyboard. On "One Story," he plays acoustic guitar and tells how he spent one of his summer days. "Sames and Opposites," the only song that Demetri actually sings, revolves around odd connections between completely different things. "A musical is like a burlap sack; I wouldn't

American Idol 2007

Thomas Martin

For the past 6 years "American Idol" has crowned the most popular new singer in the country. This season is just starting out and already has 24 young hopefuls. Out of the 24, you have Paul Kim, Gina Glocksen, Melinda Doolittle, Antonella Barba, Blake Lewis, and Lakisha Young. They are my top "idols". The past weeks we have seen the amusing and brilliant auditions from seven cities. Only 125 make it to Hollywood. This week we get to see the beginning to the 24 contestants that have made it to the last round of "Hollywood Week". Paul Kim, 23 years old, California native, and former pool boy wowed the judges with his fantastic voice. Gina Glocksen, 22 years old, an Illinois native and former dental assistant sang "Black Velvet" and got her "golden" ticket to Hollywood. Melinda Doolittle, 28 years old, and former backup singer sang "For Once in My Life" and earned her golden ticket. Antonella Barba, 20 years old, and New Jersey native auditioned with her best friend and sang "Higher Ground" and got the green light from the judges. Blake Lewis, 23 years old, and former beat boxing champion from Washington State, sang "Crazy" and beat boxed himself right into Hollywood. The final contestant that I believe will make it to the top 12 is Lakisha Young. She's 27 years old, an Alabama native who sang an Aretha Franklin song, got some "respect" from the judges and got a place in the top 24 on season 6. American Idol comes on every Tuesday at 8, and Wednesday at 9. Don't forget to vote for your favorite contestant. Be there-or be square!

want to be in either." "Personal Information Waltz," probably the best track on the CD, centers on Demetri's personal opinions. It's told over music, and Will Forte, of *Saturday Night Live* fame, makes an appearance so hilarious that even Demetri can't stop himself from laughing.

The CD closes with three songs that feature Demetri's mother and grandmother giving advice and telling stories. They're interesting, but not exactly funny. You'll probably only want to listen to them once.

The DVD, unlike a lot of comedy DVDs, is packed with content. It comes with his 2004 Comedy Central Presents special, as well as a commentary track he recorded with his mother and grandmother. The special showcases aspects of Demetri's humor that his CD couldn't, namely his "material enhancers," which are basically illustrated punch lines. It also includes some of Demetri's animation, footage of some of his older stand-up gigs, as well as several of his drawings, photographs, and songs.

Considering all you get for the asking price, the CD/DVD set is well worth it. It even comes with a poster featuring some of Demetri's drawings which is perfect for covering up at least a part of your boring white walls. If you'd rather get a taste of Demetri before shelling out fifteen bucks, iTunes has his Comedy Central Presents special for only \$1.99, and he offers several video clips at his official website. (www.demetrimartin.com)