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Is Lifetime Television for Women too tough on men?
Jamie Foxx, dazzles listeners on 'Unpredictable'

ENTERTAINMENT

'Their Eyes Were Watching God' a timeless story of love

By Lauren Boyce
ARGUS REPORTER

Written in 1931, "Their Eyes Were Watching God" is a novel with a message that still resonates more than 70 years later.

The story line centers around the life of Janie Crawford as she searches for true love and inner peace. Her struggles, triumphs, dreams and pain are still a reality for many women in today's society. The book's

author, Zora Neale Hurston, was a literary pioneer for African-American women.

The book opens with Janie returning to her hometown of Eatonville, Florida one and a half years after she left on a quest to find real love and self actualization. Her best friend Phoeby is ecstatic to see her safe return and invites herself over to Janie's place to catch up on lost time. Phoeby's curiosity entices Janie to reveal her

life's journey, beginning with her recollection of her childhood experiences that would change her life.

Readers learn that at age 15 Janie married Logan Killicks, a man twice her age, upon the request of her grandmother. Janie an optimist is determined to find love within her marriage regardless of how hard it was. As the story continues on, Janie's marriage has ended. Later, she meets a

stylish city slicker, who resurrects her dream of finding love.

One week after meeting Joe Sparks, Janie elopes with him to go with him to fulfill his dream of becoming a Mayor in a small town that would be known as Eatonville, Florida. But once again, the marriage doesn't work out. After 23 years of marriage to Sparks, Janie came to the same conclusion as before — marriage and

love are two different things. Sparks dies and Janie is "free."

Not long after the death of her husband, Janie meets a young man named Tea Cakes. Tea Cakes is an adventurous and fun man who sweeps Janie off her feet. Janie and Tea Cakes leave Eatonville to start a new life together. During their time together, Janie is finally able to see and feel what true love is.

Janie has finally realized her dreams in Tea Cakes, but he dies of rabies after saving Janie's life. With Tea Cakes gone, Janie now finds herself alone once again with only memories of love and inner peace.

I truly recommend this book as well as any other literature penned by Hurston, a master storyteller whose universal themes of love, freedom and independence transcend time.

Mary J. Blige touches on variety of subjects on latest CD, shows fans and critics how much she has grown vocally

By Lauren Boyce
ARGUS REPORTER

Mary J. Blige began her reign as the hip hop/R&B queen of soul in the early 1990s with her platinum selling album, "What's the 411." Fifteen years later, Mary J. has seven platinum albums, securing her place in R&B history as one of the top-selling female artists.

Mary J. Blige latest album "The Breakthrough" debuted as No. 1 on

the charts in December 2005. The first single "Be Without You" became an instant hit and helped spread the buzz about the album. Throughout the 16-track album, the listener will enjoy a variety of songs and topics. Mary J. touches on sensitive yet important themes, such as a fatherless daughter in the song titled, "Father in You." A collaboration with Jay-Z on "Can't Hide From Luv" helps Blige secure an official club banger. From track one to

the very last song on the album, Blige invites us to share her personal thoughts and experiences and touches on issues that we all can relate to.

Mary J. Blige shows her fans and even her critics how much she has grown vocally, spiritually and emotionally. I believe that this album is her greatest album thus far. I recommend this album to those who enjoy soulful, positive and meaningful music.

Lifetime needs to leave the male-bashing behind and focus on other issues

By Steven J. Gaither
ARGUS REPORTER

Happily married Nicole discovers that Evan, the dream man she married, is actually a globetrotting bigamist involved in a platinum embezzling scheme. A cheating husband murders his wife and dumps her body into a river. No, these aren't grizzly police files, just a Sunday afternoon with Lifetime Television Network.

The stories listed above are just a sample of the negative images of men that seem to be prevalent on this cable television network, which bills itself as "Television for Women." The network serves more than 88 million households nationwide and apparently is wildly popular among women of all ages and backgrounds. But does this success come at the expense of men?

I recently sat down with my mother to watch some of the programs on the station. There are innocuous shows such as *Designing Women* and *Golden Girls*. However, other programs and movies on the network depict men as moronic or evil. I began to think to myself, "Is this what women really think about men? Do they all think we're cheaters and rapists who will do whatever we can to get away with something?"

In my opinion, Lifetime should spend more time coming up with programs that focus on real issues, such as the continuing struggle for women's equal rights and equal pay. Male bashing is easy and mindless. Serious programming requires not only creativity but balance, and it seems to me that balance is sadly lacking on this network.

Hong Kong King Buffet falls short on service

By Dreama Williams
ARGUS REPORTER

Hong Kong King Buffet is one of the latest in a plethora of Chinese eateries in the Triad.

Located on Silas Creek Parkway, it is open Sunday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Prices are reasonable: The weekday lunch buffet is \$6.99 for adults, \$4.99 for children ages 6-10 and \$2.99 for children ages 3-5. Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

The dinner buffet costs two dollars

more for everyone, and if you order crab legs, an extra \$4.67 is added to the buffet price. Sunday and holiday prices are a little different. Weekday dinners are \$7.99 for adults and \$9.99 on weekends.

The restaurant boasts that it serves 180 selections, everything from dim sum and sushi to crab and frog legs. My favorite is the sweet and sour chicken. There's also a variety of soups, rice, noodles and fresh fruit.

Despite the reasonable price and large selection, Hong Kong King Buffet disappoints. The wait staff is so

busy that you'd better order your drink when asked the first time because you might not see one again.

Although there was plenty of food, it appeared to fall way short of the advertised 180 offerings, and the staff was slow to refill trays when the food got low.

The restaurant is less than 1-year-old and perhaps it still has some kinks to work out. But Hong Kong King Buffet will do well to remember this saying: You only get one chance to make a good first impression.

Jamie Foxx dazzles young and old fans on latest CD, 'Unpredictable'

By Patricia Commander
ARGUS REPORTER

"Unpredictable" is just that, unpredictable. Jamie Foxx, a Renaissance man in the truest sense of the word, dazzles listeners on this CD. The album dedicates a song to his grandmother called "Wish U Were Here" and also one to his daughter titled "Heaven." For listeners who want to cuddle up with his or her lover, there

are plenty slow jams to help set a romantic tone. He even gains women fans with "U Still Got It" — a ballad that reaffirms the worth of new mothers struggling with new weight. This CD is versatile and will appeal to anyone who enjoys good music. Foxx — comedian, actor, pianist, singer and song writer — shows off his multiple gifts in "Unpredictable."

More African-American actors being recognized for their work

By Erin Perkins
ARGUS REPORTER

The 78th annual Academy Awards will broadcast to audiences around the globe on March 5, and African-American actor Terrence Howard, has been nominated for an Oscar for his role in the movie "Hustle and Flow."

If he wins the award for Best Actor in a Leading Role, he will join a small cadre of African-American winners.

In 1939, Hattie McDaniel was the first African American to win an academy award for her performance as "Mammy" in "Gone With the Wind."

It took the Academy another 24 years before it awarded an Oscar to another

African-American. That time it went to Sydney Poitier, who won a Best Actor Oscar for his performance in *Lilies of the Field* (1963).

Another 19 years passed before the Academy awarded a third one to an African American.

During the 1980s and 1990s, several black actors and one black actress won Oscars for supporting roles. However, no one won for a leading role until 2002 when Halle Berry became the first African American to win Best Actress for her role in *Monster Ball*. In a tearful acceptance speech, Berry told the audience: "It's for every nameless, faceless, woman of color who now has a chance

because this door tonight has been opened."

Denzel Washington also took home an Oscar for his role as the corrupt cop in *Training Day* after two previous nominations for leading roles. Sydney Poitier has also won a Honorary Lifetime Oscar.

In its 78-year history, the Academy has honored only 18 African Americans with Oscars. One of the 18 was Jamie Foxx won a Best Actor Oscar for "Ray" in 2004, and Morgan Freeman won an Oscar for his supporting role in "Million Dollar Baby."

Good luck to Howard. The groundwork, however hard, has been laid.

'Content Under Pressure' several cuts above most urban-themed games

By Billy O'Keefe
KRT WIRE SERVICE

Reviews of recent video games

MARC ECKO'S GETTING UP: CONTENTS UNDER PRESSURE

For: Xbox and PS2 (limited editions available for both)

From: The Collective/Ecko Unltd./Atari/ Last year's spree of stereotypically embarrassing and plain ol' broken urban-themed games set a shaky stage for "Marc Ecko's Getting Up: Contents Under Pressure," which faces an unfairly steep uphill battle for respectability in the face of gamer prejudices. So here's what you need to know about "Getting Up." It's not only not a cheap cash-in on or an affront to the subject matter that inspired it, but it's actually several cuts above most games, period, in terms of storytelling, character development and overall presentation.

Most importantly, it plays great. As fledgling graffiti artist TRANE, you need to establish and defend yourself at the same time in a neighborhood teeming with rival taggers and indiscriminate authorities, so you need to be quick with the paint and quick on your feet. "Getting Up" tackles the platformer and brawler genres with refreshing and full-fa-

tured competence — no small feat when you consider how many developers struggle with getting even one of those right. TRANE is a breeze to control, and the platforming challenges don't feel contrived. The fighting controls seem bit clumsy at first, but some practice and a few moves learned takes care of this. Even with some camera problems, you always feel in control.

The tagging portions of "Getting Up" aren't quite as exciting, especially since you can't design or upload your own designs, but they're carried off similarly well and are unique in that they require you to put up your piece not only quickly, but also neatly. Tagging feels tedious at first, but it grows on you — much like the rest of the game, which, again surprisingly, gets better as it goes on.

DRILL DOZER

For: Game Boy Advance

From: Game Freak/Nintendo

Sometimes you want to shake game publishers and ask them why they put out something as unique, smart and fun as "Drill Dozer" and act almost as if they're embarrassed to do so. You may not have heard it from the horse's mouth — or any-

where else — but "Dozer" really does exist. Not only that, but it comes courtesy of "Pokemon" cultivators Game Freak and is one of the best original platformers in years to fly Nintendo's flag.

Basically, "Dozer" is what a 2D "Super Mario Bros." game would be if Mario got around inside a giant drill bit contraption instead of on foot. And Game Freak leaves no stone unturned when it comes to employing said drill: When you're not busy protecting yourself and attacking bad guys with it, you're burrowing through walls or using it in any number of ways to get around the game's levels. Sounds pretty one-dimensional and bland on paper, but "Dozer" litters the playground with a host of widgets, doodads and whatchamacallits that allow you to use the drill in all manner of fashion.

"Dozer's" story sets the stage for levels that have alternate paths, a la "Metroid," that you can traverse only after certain conditions are met. That doesn't turn the game into an epic beast — it's still a 2D sidescroller, after all — but it helps "Dozer" further belie whatever assumptions one might have simply by seeing the box on the shelf.

TRUE SWING GOLF

For: Nintendo DS

From: T&E Soft/Nintendo

Of all the sports that should appear on the stylus-centric Nintendo DS, none is more perfect than golf. EA Sports tried and failed with the ridiculously cumbersome "Tiger Woods PGA Tour Golf 2005," so now it's on the shoulders of T&E Soft, which has been designing golf games almost exclusively since the Super Nintendo days.

As its somewhat dull name suggests, "True Swing Golf's" primary mission is to make a good, solid stylus-based golf game. To that end, it succeeds, and it does so by not overthinking the problem the way EA did. Swinging your club in "TSG" is as simple as pulling back on the stylus and flicking it forward toward the ball. As in life, if you do this quickly and precisely, you get the distance and accuracy you so desire. Weak, wobbly or off-center "swings" will, again as in life, provide less desirable results. It's pretty straightforward stuff — and bravo for that. "TSG" is pretty dead-on in terms of reading your shot and rewarding or punishing you as needed. If you bork your shot, you'll know it before the ball even hits the air. It's about as close to real golf as a handheld stylus game can get.