

COMMENTARY

In the Zone
(A Zone of its Own)

By: Forgét Carter

At first she wanted us to hit her "one more time" and now Ms. Britney Spears wants us to follow her *In the Zone* and it's quite the trip to take.

Hooking up with the likes of R. Kelly, Bloodshy, Avant, Guy Sigsworth, Madonna, and the Ying Yang Twins, Britney set out to re-invent herself as the reigning Queen of Pop.

The first song, "Me Against the Music", featuring Madonna, is a great song to dance to and it was the perfect choice for Britney.

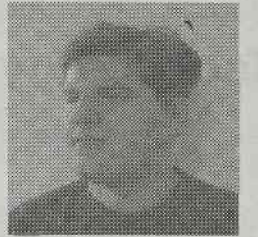
But there are songs like "Early Mornin'" written and produced by Moby and "The Hook Up" (which shows that Britney isn't ready to be the next big thing on the reggae charts) that make her sound a little...well lets just say she's not the best singer. These songs show just how immature her voice truly is.

The best songs are:

1. "Toxic" – I must say that I listen to this song everyday. The beat and her voice are so perfect together.
2. "(I Got That) Boom Boom" f/ Ying Yang Twins – this has to be one of the best booty-poppin' songs that Britney will ever make. The Ying Yang Twins and their southern beats will make you shake all over the Dirty South.
3. "Outrageous" – this is the R. Kelly produced track... 'nuff said.
4. "Me Against the Music" f/ Madonna – again Madonna and Britney shock me... much like the kiss.
5. "Touch of My Hand" – while many may not like it...it is funny because it is an ode to masturbation.

Overall I give this album an 8

While songs like this are excellent, Britney should have saved "Slave 4 U" and "Boys" (from her previous album, *Britney*) for this album.

Matthew on Movies

By: Matthew Esterline

In Theaters Now

Monster - This movie is based on Aileen Wuornos, a highway prostitute who was also one of the first female serial killers. She killed seven men in Florida during the 1980's and was convicted and later executed for her crimes. The movie has been honored because of the transformation made by Charlize Theron to resemble Wuornos. Besides looking like Wuornos, Theron also gives an incredible performance along with Christina Ricci, who plays Wuornos's lesbian lover. This is one of the few serial killer movies that have actually been interesting, and Theron gives the performance of her career.

Grade: 9 out of 10

50 First Dates - When Henry Roth (Adam Sandler) meets Lucy Whitmore (Drew Barrymore), a woman who has lost her short-term memory, he falls head over heels and tries to win her heart... every single day. The concept is good, but the product is tired and eventually falls flat on its face. This movie tries exceptionally hard to be a romantic movie instead of just being a comedy. With the non-stop boring romantic scenes, the jokes that are not funny, and the endless amount of cameos, finding the really funny gross-out parts of this film becomes a challenge. In the end, the movie was slightly romantic, slightly funny, and slightly boring, which adds up to slightly nothing.

Grade: 4 out of 10

Barbershop 2: Back in Business - I really enjoyed the first *Barbershop*. It was original, the writing was solid, and best of all, it was funny. The movie had a great cast and worked very well as a stand alone picture. Then, they made the sequel. This movie, of course, has none of the qualities that made the original movie good. What possible good did MGM do making this sequel? Nothing, except to make more money and introduce the *Beauty Shop*, a soon to be released film from the makers of *Barbershop*. This movie was nothing but an advertisement. If you liked *Barbershop* at all, do yourself a favor and avoid the sequel.

Grade: 3 out of 10

The Passion of the Christ - I thought I'd read some material on this film before I saw it. The only thing I could find was material for or against the film's existence. People are actually treating a MOVIE as if it was some kind of religious experience. Have people forgotten that it is simply a movie? Not one person has mentioned the poor acting, the choppy editing, and the terrible directing by Mel Gibson that makes up this film. The film has almost no cutaway shots and, after looking at the same terrible actor (James Caviezel) for fifty minutes straight, you're looking at your watch and wondering when the movie's going to end. And worst of all, there were subtitles. The fact that I had to read subtitles for an American made movie was ridiculous. I love watching *Braveheart*, which was also directed by Gibson, but this movie sucks.

Grade: 2 out of 10

Against the Ropes - This movie tells the story of Jackie Kallen (Meg Ryan), a female boxing manager who tries to get into the male dominated sport by promoting a raw fighter (Omar Epps). The movie is based on a true story and was directed by Charles S. Dutton, who also stars in the film. Surprisingly, this movie wasn't that bad. It was funny and dramatic and had a good cast. It's not worth watching in the theater, but it's a pretty good rental.

Grade: 5 out of 10

Also in Theaters

The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King - Very good ending to a solid trilogy. Worth experiencing in the theater. (6 out of 10)

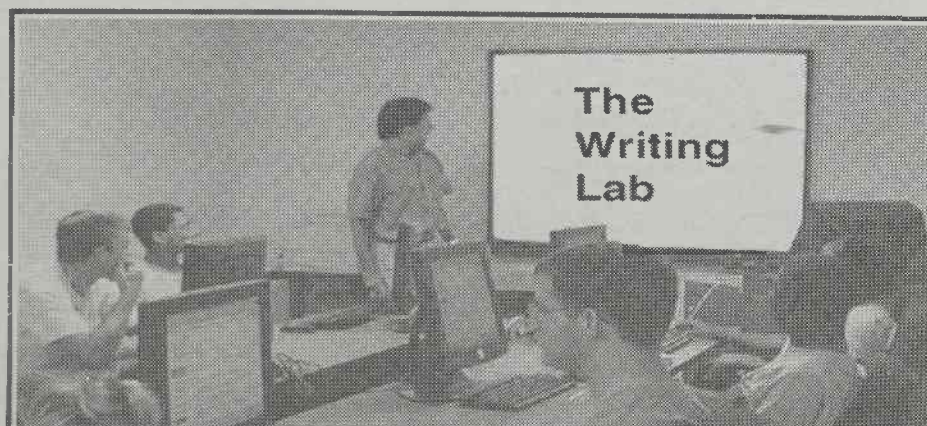
Twisted - A truly awful thriller starring Ashley Judd as a detective looking for a killer. (3 out of 10)

Miracle - A decent history lesson about the 1980 U.S. Hockey Olympic Gold Medalists, but nothing memorable as a film. (4 out of 10)

Eurotrip - A pitiful comedy with too many cameos. There were some funny moments, but nothing that can hold a candle to *Old School* or even *Road Trip*. (3 out of 10)

Good Rentals Out Now

American Splendor
Dummy
Intolerable Cruelty
Lost in Translation
Matchstick Men
The Missing
Pieces of April
Thirteen
Wonderland

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