

# TOP 10 *albums of the week*

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1. Dismemberment Plan - "Change"
2. Radio Head (live) - "I Might Be Wrong"
3. Lenny Kravitz - "Lenny"
4. Garbage - "Beautiful"
5. Jimmy Eat World - "Bleed American"
6. Lookout! Freakout compilation, episode 2
7. Bush - "Golden State"
8. Tinstar - "Dirty Bird"
9. Incubus - "Morning View"
10. Charlatans UK - "Wonderland"

## Industry NEWS

DreamWorks' animated hit "Shrek" shattered the DVD sales record over the weekend, selling 2.5 million copies and topping both "The Mummy Returns" and "Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace." The film was released on video and DVD Friday, the same time Disney released Monsters, Inc.

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Lucasfilm announced that owners of the DVD for "Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace" will have exclusive access to an Internet preview for the next installment, "Episode II—Attack of the Clones." The DVD will allow fans to unlock the preview via DVD-ROM link.

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ABC has promised not to edit out portions of "Saving Private Ryan" when the movie airs on Veteran's Day, November 11. The network will, however, air advisories warning viewers about the graphic violence.

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Tom Cruise has signed on to narrate the first-ever IMAX 3D space film, "Space Station," which documents NASA's construction of the International Space Station. The film lands in theaters in spring, 2002.

(Top 10 provided by 89.3 FM, WSOE. Industry News is a collection of stories from E! Entertainment and E!Online.com, that are compiled by Jason Chick, A&E Editor)

# Movies should offer comfort and joy, but Oscar pickings are slim

Jack Mathews  
New York Daily News

The answer to your future "Jeopardy" question is: "What is 'Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone'?"

The question is: The most popular children's movie of all time.

That's what it's guaranteed to become this holiday movie season.

Harry Potter. Harry Potter. You may be sick of the name before the first ticket is purchased on Nov. 16. Then again, maybe you won't.

Maybe you're one of the millions of parents who rush out to buy each new installment of J.K. Rowling's seven-in-the-making series of books about witches and wizards for their children, only to make them threaten you with spitballs before so, you'll be there on opening day, or soon after, for a film that some industry insiders believe could challenge "Titanic's" No. 1 spot on the list of box-office moneymakers.

Certainly, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" is one of the most anticipated pictures ever. The first four books have sold 107 million copies, which just hints at the potential audience for the first filmed adaptation. (Work already has begun on the first sequel, and if the "Sorcerer's Stone" does as well as expected, Warner Bros. is poised to commit to two more.)

The studio has been almost pathologically restrained in its promotion, keeping the cast - especially the children - at a distance from eager reporters. But they do so knowing that Coca-Cola, which won the tie-in franchise, is about to launch a \$150 million campaign.

The overriding issue, of course, is whether the film will live up to the hopes for it. A director's vision can destroy a great book faster than you can say "Bonfire of the Vanities." And, frankly, Christopher ("Home Alone") Columbus is not the first guy we would have given the job to.

Steven Spielberg turned it down, something for which Potterphiles should be eternally grateful, as did Terry Gilliam, whose imagination

is, if anything, riper than Rowling's. Stories about the project say that Columbus sold himself to the producers and Rowlings herself with visual concepts that would enhance the book without changing a dot of it.

We can hope. Like everyone else, I'm dying to be swept away for a game of aerial soccer called quidditch.

"Harry Potter" will get some competition in the family movie category from the first leg of Peter Jackson's "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy and "Jimmy Neutron," a computer-animated yarn about a boy genius who leads an attempt by youngsters in the 'hood to rescue their parents from aliens.

Late fall and the holidays, of course, is rutting season for Oscar hopefuls, and the pickings - as we seem to say at this time each year - are slimmer than ever. In the accompanying story, we've highlighted 10 films other than "Harry Potter" that at least look good on paper, and among which are most of the eventual Academy Award contenders.

Conspicuous by its absence is Martin Scorsese's "Gangs of New York," which Miramax pulled from its December release date, with the dubious public explanation that it was merely being sensitive to post-9/11 trauma. More credible rumors suggest that Miramax boss Harvey Weinstein and Scorsese are at loggerheads over the length, now said to be about three hours.

Most of us Scorsese fans would like to see a three-hour version of a movie about the ethnic gangs that dominated the streets of Manhattan during the Civil War. The sub-

ject warrants an epic. Shortening it for audience turnover seems a ridiculous idea, and opening it without the Oscar hoo-ha of the earlier release is downright self-destructive.

It's possible the movie just isn't any good, but what are the odds?

In any case, an early favorite for the Academy Award for Best Picture seems to be Ron Howard's "A Beautiful Mind," a biographical drama starring Russell Crowe as a math genius who fought through schizophrenia en route to a Nobel Prize.

Without Scorsese in the mix, the year-end directors' roll is highlighted by such recently reliable names as Michael Mann ("Ali"), Cameron Crowe ("Vanilla Sky") and Lasse Hallstrom ("The Shipping News"). There's also the latest from Robert Altman, whose "Gosford Park" is said to be in a league with his great ensemble films "Nashville" and "Short Cuts."

Unforgettable?

Frank Darabont's brand of molasses satisfied the sentimental tastes of many who saw "The Shawshank Redemption" and "The Green Mile." He's back with "The Majestic," starring Jim Carrey as a blacklisted writer suffering from amnesia in a small, post-World War II California town.

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