

Come away with her

Norah Jones dazzles listeners with enchanting, jazzy tunes

This Grammy-winning artist expresses herself through various styles of music including jazz and country on her most recent album, "Come Away With Me."

By Emma Williams
Staff Writer

The full, resonant voice and relaxing piano melodies flowing from Norah Jones in her debut CD, "Come Away With Me" provide for a soothing CD listen.

The 22 year-old New York City native emerges from her premiere recording as a mature and sophisticated young artist, free from all inhibitions. Jones tells her stories through her deep, raspy voice, fluctuating from a powerful cry to a soft whisper.

The lyrics, which explore love, loss, and loneliness, instill themselves in the mind, leaving a profound effect. They echo through the acoustic guitar and soft beat of the drums

Norah Jones can not be catego-

rized into one group of music. In every song, a new genre introduces itself to the listener. Throughout the CD, various elements of jazz, soul, folk, and even some country contribute to its unique nature.

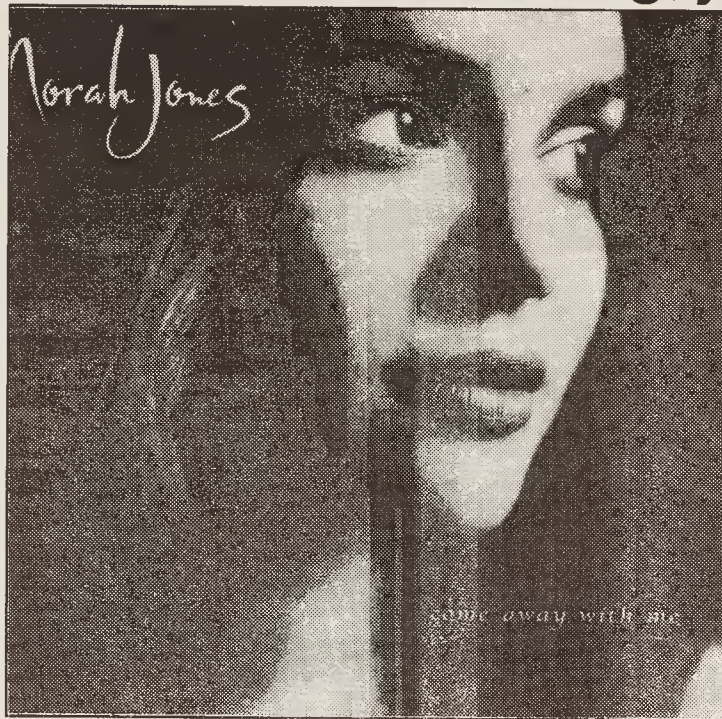
Jazz, blues, and soul, however, are at the core of the album. They dominate with help from piano accompaniment, Jones's voice, and a thick accordion flow.

Influenced by timeless jazz and blues artists like Billie Holiday, and Nina Simone, Norah Jones freely expresses herself by emulating their passion and love for soul.

Jones performs her own renditions of classic tunes by other artists, such as her cover song of Hank Williams's "Cold, Cold Heart."

She does justice to J.D. Loudermilk's "Turn me on" with her soulful power aided by a distant organ's soulful rhythm. Jones's efforts to cover Hoagy Carmichael's "The Nearness of You" are not in vain.

She adds her own touch of sadness and longing to the song, providing it the real soul that



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Norah Jones's "Come Away With Me" features her Grammy-winning "Don't Know Why" and other original songs. Jones is a 23 year-old New York City native, who recently won numerous awards including Best New Artist and Album of the Year.

defines blues and jazz music. Instrumentation is not overshadowed by the beautiful and resounding voice of Jones.

The piano plays a crucial role in the CD, setting the mood for many songs.

The soft, subtle beat of the drums runs consistently throughout the whole CD, along with the strum of an acoustic guitar. The organ also deserves acclaim for providing true, passionate soul.

Nothing is more profound than the truth and power evoked in the lyrics.

Throughout the verse, both the singer and listener walk upon an emotional common ground. Many of the tunes provide a genuine understanding of the actual lyric through the beautifully developed metaphors.

In "Don't Know Why," Jones expresses personal feelings of loneliness and emptiness as she lulls, "I feel as empty as a drum," and "But I'll be a bag of bones, driving down the road alone."

Norah Jones makes a stunning debut in "Come Away With Me" through her smoky voice and smooth piano skills, which accents the soft mellow sound in which her music depicts.

Daredevil disappoints, risking nothing, losing everything

"Daredevil", starring Ben Affleck, Colin Farrell, Jennifer Garner, and Michael Clarke Duncan, fails in doing its original comic characters justice. Max Turner critiques this sadly formulaic studio release.

By Max Turner
Features Editor

What comic book movies need is someone who is fearless. Someone who will defy convention, risk it all, and really push the limits of the genre. Sounds like just the job for Daredevil, a Marvel hero who, blinded in a childhood accident, loses all inhibitions and develops super senses.

Unfortunately, the makers of "Daredevil" failed to take a lesson from their hero, and the end result is just one more link in the seemingly endless chain of mindlessly mediocre comic book movies recently inundating theaters.

"Daredevil" is, ironically, a film that somehow risks nothing and loses everything.

"Daredevil" himself is a classic comic character. As a child, he suffers bullying and has a father who is a fallen boxing champ turned mob henchman.

One day, when he witnesses his father loan-sharking, the young daredevil runs aimlessly away from the situation and ends up running into a truck carrying bio-hazardous materials that blind him.

The blindness, rather than hindering him, allows him to develop his other senses to a superhuman level. His father quits crime and becomes a champion boxer again. When his father refuses to take a fall for his old mob boss, he is killed, and the young daredevil begins his life of taking justice into his own hands.

The rest of the film basically just goes through the motions. Daredevil (Ben Affleck)

saves some innocent people, gets newspaper coverage, takes no credit, meets a girl (Jennifer Garner) who can fight pretty well herself, and ends up in a final battle for revenge against Kingpin (Michael Clarke Duncan) and his cliché-spewing grunt worker, Bullseye (Colin Farrell).

You have seen it all before, and, believe me, you do not need to see it again.

Every move the film makes seems calculated, as though it has been predetermined by a super-efficient calculator designed to target men ages 15-24.

Rather than risking anything on a script, the makers of "Daredevil" seem to have put all their money on this super calmodel that keeps on spitting out films like "My Big Fat Greek Wedding."

Daredevil is less a movie character than a statistically-determined composite of what every man wants to be. He is half superhero, half successful lawyer. He has a sidekick who is not ugly enough to deter anyone, but a good ten pounds heavier and a little less suave, just

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enough to make Daredevil always look good in comparison.

He has a girlfriend who could beat just about anyone, except, of course, him. Oh yeah, and he is Ben Affleck.

The film itself is similarly calculated. It is dark, but not too dark so as to have something happy and romantic for the couples crowd. It is action-packed, but not too violent, because it has to be PG-13 to ensure a big opening.



There is a rousing victory for the good guy at the end, but evil is not completely gone, because, there's always room for a sequel.

There are certain weaknesses for which one can forgive a comic book movie.

These films are not high art and should

not try to be.

"Daredevil," however, does not achieve what a good action hero movie can. It's just annoyingly derivative drivel, too afraid to accept the dare to do anything more than its countless predecessors.

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