

# Obscene Offspring ages without grace

BY NICK PARKER  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

At this point, it's getting a little old.

The Offspring has been making drummed-up punk rock for more than 19 years now.

Most people who make it to the age of 19 have moved away from silly irreverence and potty-mouth appeal. Most bands that have been around for 19 years have grown up a bit, or at least tried something new.

The Rolling Stones diverged from raw garage rock when they experimented with strange psychedelia. Beck stopped rapping to don the smoky singer/songwriter hat. Bob Dylan shifted his focus from political postulating to personal proclamations.

But The Offspring still is pouring out the same pop-punk of "Pretty Fly (For a White Guy)" and "Come Out and Play."

It used to be funny. It used to be cute. It used to be great.

Of course, that was in the early '90s, when Nirvana and Green Day made flannel shirts and teen angst hip.

The Offspring sounds hard-core and cusses a lot — so it must be cool, right?

But after 19 years and seven full-length releases, The Offspring just can't cut it anymore.

It's hard to believe in teen angst when vocalist Dexter Holland is approaching the crest of the hill. It's hard to giggle at lines written about baby daddies on the album's first single, "Hit That," when Noodle's infamous hair is going gray at the temples.

After all those albums and all those goofy pop ditties, The Offspring has lost all its hip, rough-around-the-edges appeal.

Instead of being a cool older brother who smokes and isn't afraid to cuss in front of kids, Holland has turned into a sad, aging hipster.

He still drinks too much and cusses too much and makes jokes that would fit better in a middle school lunchroom.



## MUSICREVIEW THE OFFSPRING SPLINTER

★★

Die-hard fans will love this album because it is more of the same crunchy, heavily produced pop-punk that won the band attention in the late '80s and carried it through the early '90s, and the mid-'90s — and the late '90s.

See a trend emerging?

The Offspring does know what works for it, at least. The alcohol-inspired "The Worst Hangover Ever" is the frat boy mentality poured over power chords, singing "It hurts so bad/I'm never going to drink again/... At least not till next weekend."

In the same vein, Holland offers advice on how to dodge anal marauders in the slammer on "When You're in Prison." It might not be the best songwriting. In fact, the songwriting is awful.

But The Offspring has managed to turn up the volume and intensity of its work once again, proved on tracks such as "Da Hui," "Lightning Rod" and "The Noose."

Apparently, growing up for The Offspring isn't about maturing but about picking out louder, faster, stronger riffs. It's a California thing.

If the shoe fits, wear it. Just don't expect all the same old fans to join the mosh pit. Or maybe we're just getting too old for this.

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

# Moore left 'Chasing' classic

BY KATE LORD  
STAFF WRITER

"Chasing Liberty" should be named more aptly: "Chasing Familiarity."

Movies often are remade successfully with a modern twist. Garry Marshall's 1990 classic, "Pretty Woman," kept the spirit of 1964's "My Fair Lady" but remained its own entity, becoming popular in its own right.

"Chasing Liberty" is a blatant remake of another Audrey Hepburn film, "Roman Holiday."

This film, unlike "Pretty Woman," has negligible staying power. In the 1953 classic, Anya is a princess who escapes her humdrum life and travels around an Italian city with a charming foreign stranger who sticks with her for reasons other than romance.

Even though neither is being entirely truthful about his or her identity, they find love during their short stint together.

In "Chasing Liberty," Anna (Mandy Moore) is the president's daughter, who also escapes her overly scheduled life and travels around an Italian city with a charming foreign stranger who sticks with her for reasons other than romance. What happens next is hardly a surprise.

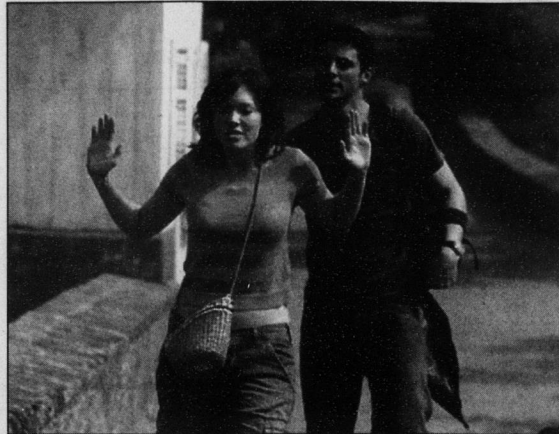
Anna meets Ben Calder (Matthew Goode) outside a club during an escape from the Secret Service. He whisks her away on his Vespa, and their whirlwind trip through Europe begins. While Anna thinks that she cunningly has escaped her bodyguards, she doesn't know that Ben also is associated with the Secret Service. Therein lies the ultimate conflict of the film: Ben has to choose between his new love for Anna and his duty to the president. For what it is, "Chasing Liberty" is a decent teen romance. The cheesy lines are kept to a minimum, but the musical score can be overwhelming. Moore is believable as an 18-year-old searching for herself, and Goode is a solid leading man whose fall for Anna is plausible.

## MOVIE REVIEW "CHASING LIBERTY"

★★

For her performance in "Roman Holiday," Hepburn won an Academy Award for best actress. The only award in Mandy Moore's sights is a Teen Choice Award.

A subplot involving Anna's main Secret Service agents (Jeremy Piven and Annabella Sciorra) is moderately amusing, but the film could have survived without it. Some of the most humorous points in the film revolve around McGruff (Martin Hancock), a hug-



COURTESY OF DAUGHTER PICTURES

Mandy Moore is a freedom-seeking first daughter on a European romp with a hunky undercover agent (Matthew Goode) in "Chasing Liberty."

loving, "Six Million Dollar Man" sticker-toting hippie who meets the couple on a train to Venice.

His brand of physical comedy makes up for the picture's somewhat ponderous beginning.

Director Andy Cadiff might have been trying to liberate himself from the teen movie pattern by placing Anna and Ben in a foreign setting as opposed to a local high school, but the model still fits the mold. It will be adored by the 14-

year-old set toward whom the film is geared, but anyone who can drive could take it or leave it.

"Chasing Liberty" is by no means horrible. It's a nice way to spend a Saturday afternoon, but that's about it.

Given the choice between the two, "Roman Holiday" is the hands-down winner.

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

# Phantom roams darker realms

BY JACKIE RANDELL  
STAFF WRITER

Phantom Planet's self-titled third album is a marked divergence from its sophomore album, "The Guest."

Conspicuously missing is Jason Schwartzman, the band's former celebrity drummer, most recognized for his part in "Rushmore."

Perhaps his absence is part of the band's makeover — an attempt to avoid the disdain afforded most "celebrity bands" like Keanu Reeves' Dogstar.

And with Phantom Planet's new drummer, Jeff Conrad, emerges the band's new, "harder" sound.

The first single on "The Guest" banked on a poppy appeal, which was mildly successful. "California" made it to prime time as the theme

## MUSICREVIEW PHANTOM PLANET PHANTOM PLANET

★★★

song for Fox's wildly popular teen soap opera "The OC," but the band's second release wasn't a critical success. This time around, the band's first release, "Big Brat," is more rock than pop — which isn't to say it's not catchy. The refrain of "Stand back/Stand back" is addictive.

"The Meantime" is reminiscent of the Clash's "London Calling." With tracks such as "The Happy Ending," the band jumps on the synth-pop bandwagon headed up by bands such as The Postal Service and combines it with the

garage sound revamped by The White Stripes in recent years.

Vocalist Alex Greenwald is a blend of Elvis Costello and Blur frontman Damon Albarn.

On previous albums, the vocals have been Phantom Planet's strong point, and the band wisely caters more to Greenwald's vocal style on this album than it has in the past, though his clarity in speech decreases with the band's descent into darker thematic explorations.

Lyricaly, the album explores love, breakups, heartbreak and the ensuing disillusionment. On the aptly titled track "You're Not Welcome Here," Greenwald belts, "You're not welcome here anymore," and his pain and confusion are distinguishable undertones.

Rounding out the band's attempt at validity in the rock genre is producer Dave Fridmann,

who has produced albums for the Flaming Lips, among others.

Though the album centers more on the band members' instrumental prowess than on appealing to the masses, it doesn't make a lasting impression.

"Phantom Planet" marks an important progression in the band's career as it fiddles with its identity and attempts to fine tune its strong points.

And all in all, Phantom Planet's third album is solid, but its collective identity is still spectral.

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

**RED HOT & BLUE RESTAURANT**  
Great RIBS and More!

Now Hiring Dining Room Team Members  
Apply at 115 S. Elliott Road  
Applications accepted Monday-Saturday  
2:00-4:30pm: Allow time for 1st interview

**CARPE CONDO!**  
Spread the word to your friends, classmates, that cute girl or guy in your class and SELL A CONDO before they're all rented.

**Mill House properties**  
For more information call 968-7226, or go to [www.millhouseproperties.com](http://www.millhouseproperties.com)!

**DIRECT FROM BROADWAY!**  
'The Sopranos' Lorraine Bracco is Mrs. Robinson.

**SPECIAL STUDENT TICKET \$20**

**Lorraine Bracco**  
**The Graduate**  
Broadway's #1 Comedy

January 20 - 25  
Raleigh Memorial Auditorium  
BTI Center Box Office 9am - 5:30pm  
All Ticketmaster Outlets  
presented by Broadway Series South  
\*some restrictions apply

**Zero to terror in record time!**

**NEVERMORE** film fest

**NEVERMORE Horror, Gothic and Fantasy Film Festival**

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 23, 24 and 25

2009 Lost Memories  
The American Astronaut  
At Night With No Curtains  
Ghost of the Needle  
The Ghosts of Edendale  
The Human BEEing  
I'll Bury You Tomorrow  
Lethal Dose  
Monster Man  
My Little Eye  
Octane  
Suspended Animation  
Ultrachrist!

**BUBBA HO-TEP**  
Starring Bruce Campbell  
("Evil Dead" series)

Tickets \$7.50 Individual • \$32 Five-Pack  
for details go to [www.carolinatheatre.org/nevermore](http://www.carolinatheatre.org/nevermore)

**THE CAROLINA THEATRE. NEVER ORDINARY.**  
(919) 560-3030 • 309 West Morgan St. Downtown Durham  
Five-Pack Discount available until 1/22/04

**The Lumina** 620 Market St. Chapel Hill 932-9000

Take 15/501 South towards Pittsboro  
Exit Main St./Southern Village

**TWILIGHT SHOW** Bargain Daily \$3.75 for all shows  
SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE REG \$13 1:30-4:15/7:00-9:40

**LORD OF THE RINGS: RETURN OF THE KING** REG \$12 12:00-4:00/8:00

**CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN** REG \$12 12:30-2:45/5:00/7:15-9:30

**PETER PAN** REG \$12 12:15-2:30/4:45/7:10-9:35

\$5.50 for college students with ID

Bargain Matinees \$5.00  
DOLBY DIGITAL  
STADIUM SEATING

**EASTERN FEDERAL**  
easternfederal.com  
Online Ticketing Available @ [www.EASTERNFEDERAL.com](http://www.EASTERNFEDERAL.com)

**MOVIES AT TIMBERLYNE**  
Weaver Dairy at Airport Rd. 933-8600

CHASING LIBERTY\*\* REG Daily 2:40, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50  
LORD OF THE RINGS: RETURN OF THE KING REG Daily 3:45, 7:30

COLD MOUNTAIN III Daily 2:00, 5:00, 8:00  
SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE REG Daily 2:20, 4:50, 7:15, 9:45  
PETER PAN REG Daily 2:25, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40  
PAYCHECK REG Daily 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:50

SHOWTIMES FOR TODAY ONLY!  
MATINEE, CHILD & SENIOR DISCOUNT  
ADVANCE TICKETING AVAILABLE  
NO PASSES OR DISCOUNTS

**CAROLINA** Columbia at Franklin St. 933-8464

**COLD MOUNTAIN**  
6:45, 9:35, SAT-SUN 1:10, 4:00

**VARSITY** Best Picture  
"ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR"

**CALENDAR GIRLS**  
7:10, 9:20, SAT-SUN 2:10, 4:20

**Chelsea** "BEST FILM OF THE YEAR!"  
"ONE OF THE TOP TEN FILMS OF THE YEAR!"  
7:15, 9:30, SAT-SUN 2:15, 4:40

**To Be and To Have**  
7:00, SAT-SUN 2:00, 4:30

**IN AMERICA**  
7:10, 9:20, SAT-SUN 2:10, 4:20

21 GRAMS nightly 9:25

**STARSYSTEM**

★ POOR  
★★ FAIR  
★★★ GOOD  
★★★★ EXCELLENT  
★★★★★ CLASSIC

**CAT'S CRADLE**  
919-967-9053  
300 E. Main Street • Carrboro

**JANUARY**

16 FR Reggae Party: DIBIASI, SONJA, RAS MELLOU  
17 SA Acoustic Syndicate\*\* (\$12/\$14)  
21 WE MY MORNING JACKET w/ Dr. Dog\*\* (\$10/\$12)  
22 TH Planned Parenthood Benefit: Shannon O'Connor, Regina Hexaphone  
24 SA WEEKEND EXCURSION  
25 SU BELOVED, Comeback Kid, Evergreen Terrace, Boxbomb\*\* (\$8/\$10)  
30 FR PIETASTERS w/ Murphy's Law & the Antagonizers  
31 SA Thad Cockerell w/ Roman Candle

**FEBRUARY**

2 MO TAJ MAHAL TRIO w/ Corey Harris\*\*  
4 WE GAVIN DeGRAW w/ Virginia Coalition\*\* (\$10/\$12)  
7 SA Bob Marley Birthday Celebration: Mickey Mills and Steel, Dub Addis, Jam Rock, DSF  
11 WE Sage Francis (\$12)  
12 TH ROBERT EARL KEEN  
13 FR SUPER FURRY ANIMALS w/ Papa M  
14 SA Neil Diamond All Stars w/ David Spencer  
19 TH Seven Nations\*\*  
20 FR LAMBCHOP\*\* (\$12/\$14)  
21 SA MATES OF STATE\*\* (\$10/\$12)  
22 SU HANK WILLIAMS III\*\* (\$13/\$15)  
23 MO SAMPLES  
27 FR ABBEY ROAD LIVE! Performing the Beatles' Abbey Road LIVE in its entirety George Thorogood & the Destroyers\*\* (\$28/\$30)

**MARCH**

4 TU DIRTY DOZEN BRASS BAND  
8 MO Grant Lee Phillips\*\*  
12 FR Tooth & Nail Tour (Further Seems Forever, Anberlin, Emery, Me Without You, Watashi Wa)\*\* \$10/\$13  
17 WE GET UP KIDS w/Recover\*\* (\$15)  
23 TU MELISSA FERRICK\*\*  
24 WE ZOSO (Led Zeppelin Tribute)

**SHOWS @ GO! Room 4**  
(100F Brewer Ln., Carrboro • 919-969-1400)

1/17: Rosebuds, Bellefleur, Schooner, Cohoats; 1/21: Nod Craft Hip Hop show; 1/22: AUDUBON PARK, RAZZLE, NEW DAWN FADES; 1/23: COLD SIDES, SORRY ABOUT DRESDEN w/ DJ NASTY BOOTS; 1/24: Two Dollar Pistols w/ Randy Whitt; 1/25: MakeShift; 1/28: Drugmoney; 1/29: PERMANENT DARLING; HURRY UP OFFENSE, OH MY GOD, ARMY OF ME; 1/30: Unicorns, The Straglers; 2/1: Senses Fall, Moneen, The Beautiful Mistake, Boys Night Out; 2/3: Him w. Mice Parade; 2/4: Engine Down, Statistics; 2/16: Mountain Goats; 3/12: Motro; 3/27: The Sleepy Jackson

@Carrboro ArtsCenter  
3/15 Richard Thompson

The BEST live music - 18 & over admitted  
\*\*Advance ticket sales at SchoolKids in Chapel Hill and Raleigh and Radio Free Records in Durham.  
For Credit Card orders CALL 919-967-9053

[www.catscradle.com](http://www.catscradle.com)