

'Lenin' given lighthearted lift

BY PHILIP MCFEE

ASSISTANT ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
Consider this: Vladimir Lenin led a bloody revolution that paved the way for a genocidal regime.

East Germany in 1989 was a troubled land marked by frequent violent protests and widespread dissent.

So, when one refers to the new film "Good bye, Lenin!" as "charming," it's all relative.

The rewarding picture, directed by Wolfgang Becker, is another in a recent line of international imports that balance comedy and commentary.

In the vein of "The Dreamers" and "Y Tu Mamá, También," the German comedy splices scenes of political strife into its quirky plotline. The result is a movie with both heart and a sense of cultural relevance.

But that doesn't always equate to substance. "Good bye, Lenin!" won't tear down any walls, but it will win over viewers.

The ingenious story concerns the devoted Alex Kerner (a convincing, finicky Daniel Brühl), whose participation in a pro-capitalist rally causes his nationalistic mother, Christiane, played by the earnest Katrin Saß, to suffer a coma-inducing heart attack.

Days after her collapse at Alex's march, the Berlin Wall falls. But she remains under. Her dotting son and Lara (Chulpan Khamatova), his plucky girlfriend, remain by her side until she comes to, eight months later.

Suspension of disbelief is an international affair.

Christiane's weakened heart cannot take another blow, so Alex and company embark on a laugh-filled endeavor to recreate the non-offensive pre-Western days of yore.

Becker employs a rich bag of "Amélie"-style import flick tricks, including fast-motion transitions, close calls and side characters galore.

Of special note is Alex's coworker, the wily satellite repairman Denis (Florian Lukas). His tech-savvy hijinks help stifle the wave of post-Wall commercial media.

The mile-a-minute pacing of the film gives theatergoers a visual workout, but Alex's compassion for both Lara and his mother is nonetheless poignant.

Although the connection to the main plotline remains strong throughout, subplots and bit parts sometimes become lost in transla-

MOVIE REVIEW

"GOOD BYE, LENIN!"

★★★★

tion.

At one point, a character mentions that Germany, before its unification, was a country that sometimes lost sight of its goals, but always regained its footing.

The film follows suit. "Good bye, Lenin!" is charming in the best sense of the word. The movie mixes the social, the satirical and the romantic to positive effect.

In Becker's world, socialism's greatest enemy isn't capitalism; love is. Be it that between young activists or between a faithful son and his mother, the film is both romantic and funny, without being a romantic comedy.

It's driven by a clever premise, staying sweet, but smart. A truly worthwhile import.

Thank you, commercialism.

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



COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

The devoted Alex (Daniel Brühl) and Lara (Chulpan Khamatova), snicker at socialists in the oddly upbeat Cold War comedy "Good bye, Lenin!"

Bublé charming with rich, revisited classics

BY LEAH KONEN
STAFF WRITER

With his new album, *Come Fly With Me*, Michael Bublé delivers a set of songs so charming that the listener surely will accept his entreaty.

With this live collection, Bublé sticks to the classics, performing such hits as "My Funny Valentine," "Mack the Knife" and "Moondance," proving there is nothing wrong with sticking to tradition.

Bublé does his best to recreate the fervor and emotion of the original songs. While the album doesn't flourish with creativity — Bublé is clearly a traditionalist — it is well done.

Bublé's voice is strong, able to mimic the same richness found in the voice of the original performers. His tonal quality is amazing.

But he doesn't just present the listener with a well-trained voice.

Bublé delights his audience with a captivating mood and style that he puts into every word. Flawlessly adapting his tone to that of the song, he adds his own flair to each number without butchering the tried-and-true.

But the album's primary success is due to its band. Loaded with brass, the band showcases its trumpets and trombones without losing the balance necessary for the numbers.

"My Funny Valentine" is particularly strong. The song begins with a lounge-like quality, with Bublé's voice adding to this effect. Subtle use of piano helps draw the listener in, eventually leading to a stunning trumpet solo. Powerful and gripping, trumpet player Justin Ray truly pours his heart into the music.

"Fever" is also an impressive track. Dark and mysterious, yet quiet, the band builds drama with a suspenseful backbeat. Subtle guitar and drums also add to the



MUSIC REVIEW

MICHAEL BUBLÉ COME FLY WITH ME

★★★★

song's eerie feeling.

It doesn't stop there — the chorus is dramatic, Bublé's voice shines with excitement and enthusiasm. The electric guitar use is excellent, adding modern panache without detracting from the traditional brass.

But sometimes you just can't beat the original. "Can't Help Falling in Love" is well-composed and delivered, but no match to the famous Elvis Presley recording.

Similarly, "For Once in My Life" follows the same style of the previous songs but is tedious and slow.

But Bublé recovers with his extravagant finish, "Moondance." He maintains the feeling conveyed in Van Morrison's original song, but adds his own elements, creating a foot-tapping, head-bobbing experience for the listener. Bublé throws himself into the finish, snapping and adding feeling and thrill.

Reminiscent of the 1920s and '30s, Bublé invites the listener into his world of night clubs and dancing, perfecting the illusion with his electrifying album.

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

THE Daily Crossword

By Arlan & Linda Bushman

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ACROSS

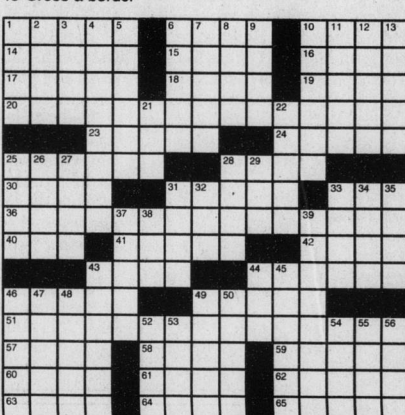
- 1 Springs
- 6 Fit
- 10 "___, poor Yorick"
- 14 Lace cap
- 15 Litarod ride
- 16 Brass band member
- 17 "Truly ___ Deeply"
- 18 Dye
- 19 Spoken
- 20 Start of an Evan Esar quip
- 23 Office notes
- 24 Made further remarks
- 25 Manage to get by
- 28 Gear teeth
- 30 Track shape
- 31 Fido's warning
- 33 Goddess of the harvest
- 36 Part 2 of quip
- 40 Sheepish she
- 41 Cast a ballot
- 42 Move like The Blob
- 43 Effervescence
- 44 Con artist's mark
- 46 Desert spring
- 49 Entity
- 51 End of quip
- 57 All afflutter
- 58 Ring signal
- 59 Zodiac sign
- 60 Toy with a tail
- 61 Largest Aleutian Island
- 62 Downward measurement
- 63 Part of P.A.

DOWN

- 1 Tibetan monk
- 2 Yikes!
- 3 Ray of "Battle Cry"
- 4 Full tilt
- 5 Fashioned
- 6 Jetsons' dog
- 7 Total delight
- 8 Olin of "Alias"
- 9 1999 Ron Howard satire
- 10 In conflict
- 11 Gruesome
- 12 Humiliate
- 13 Three-bean or Waldorf
- 21 Latin primer word
- 22 Front half of a griffin
- 25 Manner
- 26 Declare openly
- 27 Crinkly cabbage

ACROSS

- 28 Firewood unit
- 29 Acknowledge
- 31 Saxophonist Stan
- 32 "Norma ___"
- 33 Shawm's descendant
- 34 Author of "The Godfather"
- 35 Anna of "Nana"
- 37 Dispatch boat
- 38 Peri on "Frasier"
- 39 Greeting-card verse
- 43 Squirm
- 44 Slapstick missile
- 45 Cross a border



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AREA SWEPT LANA
DEARHUNTER OSTE
AORTA GRAYWAIL
ERATO PUPILS
SPINACH OSLO
ALS SMEWS KELP
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- 17 SA LESS THAN JAKE w/ The Early November and Academy** (\$15)
- 18 SU Brand New / Plebald / Denali (sold out)
- 19 MO Ben Kweller / Death Cab for Cutie / Pedro the Lion** (sold out)
- 20 TU Edw in McCain (Acoustic)** (\$16)
- 21 WE Stereolab w/ Mice Parade** (\$14)
- 23 FR KRS-ONE ** w/ K-Hill and Forge and Amen
- 24 SA Hi Mom! Films Festival (Performing: Bad Checks)
- 25 SU Tortoise w/ Beans and Ex Models** (\$14/\$16)
- 27 TU Mason Jennings w/ Garrison Starr and David Berkeley** (\$10)
- 28 WE PEACHES w/ Young Heart Attack** (\$10)
- 29 TH Gillian Welch & David Rawlings w/ Old Crow Medicine Show** (sold out)
- 30 FR Patton Oswalt (from King of Queens), Brian Posehn (from Mr. Show) and Jon Wurster** (\$10)

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- 6 TH Los Amigos Invisibles
- 8 SA Dirtbombs w/ Forty Fives and Jimmy And The Teasers
- 11 TU Todd Rundgren**
- 13 TH Destroyer, Kingsbury Marx, FrogEyes SLOAN**
- 15 SA (Mike Watt has cancelled)
- 16 SU Q and Not U, Engine Down, Cub Country, Cheers To No Tomorrow
- 18 TU Neko Case w/ Mendoza Line (\$12)
- 21 FR Two Dollar Pistol** (\$8)
- 30 SU MIDDTOWN, Armor For Sleep, Your Enemies' Friends, The Working Title** (\$10/\$12)
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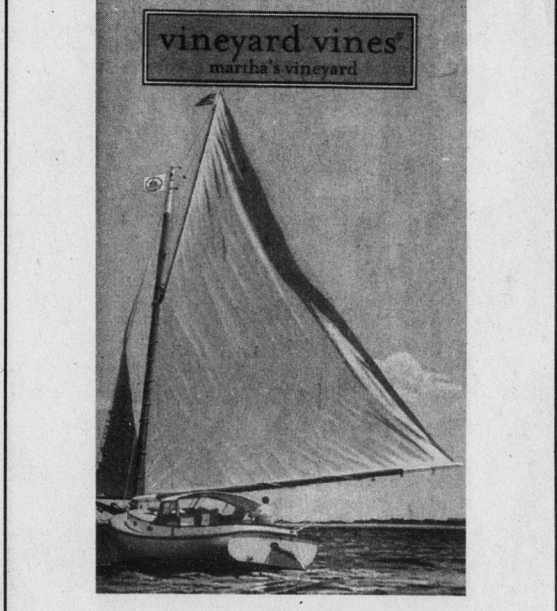
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