

Eclectic entries pervade year's finest media

BY PHILIP MCFEE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Well, as is so often the case, the times are a-doin' what they do best. As students clogged the Pit in August 2003, the dominant pop culture trend was markedly different. Think ruck.

Albans: The Folk Freak-Out Joanna Newsom, The Milk-Eyed Mender — Hey, remember when you were 12 and your parents took you to that stupid "concert in the park" crap? I mean, jeez, it was so hot outside and there was that orchestra. I mean, who really cares about a harpist?

maturity to appreciate, but it's so honest it's bound to make you milk-eyed. Whatever that means. Animal Collective, Sung Tongs — Who likes pandas? Do you like pandas? Of course you do! Who the hell don't? Well, get them while they're singing canons with this unique entry into the 2004 field.

But, for now, fans have Madvillainy, his throwback magnus opus tossed off with ace turntabler Madlib. It's a top-notch joint, with enough eclectic rhyming to have G-Unit quivering in their diamond-studded body armor.

and now idiosyncratic instrumentalist P.G. Six (with title track part ones and two) has given the music community — a community starved for yet another deuce-filled track list — a sizeable gift.

LPs in Brief

Devendra Banhart, Rejoicing in the Hands — Looks like Jesus, sounds like heaven. Comets on Fire, Blue Cathedral — Loud? Loud. Score. Charalambides, Joy Shapes — Free folkies get eerier, scarier, better. Texas oughtn't be messed with.

— Old folks can rock, too. Sonic Youth, Sonic Nurse — See above example.

The Films: Less is Moore

Last summer's varied batch of documentaries collectively out-flew, outspelled and outgrimed this summer's polemical political flicks, but 2004's batch of exposés deserve attention.

The leaders of the pack are the bloated, overhyped "Fahrenheit 9/11" and its bloated, overhyped director Michael Moore. The Bush-bashing film touts, among its numerous accomplishments, outgrossing the understated art-house hit "White Chicks."

directors make movies now. Spike Jonze has given us some of the best films of the past five years, and now lego-snapping visionary Michel Gondry has created one of the most intelligent, touching films to come out in quite some time.

Just wait until Chris Cunningham's acid-tinged adaptation of Shel Silverstein's "The Giving Tree," featuring music by Aphex Twin. Ouch. "Before Sunset" — Not to be confused with upcoming Pierce Brosnan vehicle "After the Sunset," this delicate, breathtaking tale uses minimalist camera work and heavy dialogue to flesh out the real-time tale of a pair of reunited lovers.

sions. But there's an unquestionable value to each word that makes this 80-minute film still weigh in as a grand accomplishment.

Movies In Brief

"Napoleon Dynamite" — Awkward teens, tetherball, '80s tunes and delicious, delicious bass (the fish, not the plucky thing). Some people don't like this celluloid coming-of-age story. Those are terrible, terrible people. "Spider-Man 2" — This slick action movie has all the trademarks of its legendary director Sam Raimi: Visual effects, one-liners and sticky situations.

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

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