Diversions

Marty Casey LP |Nudie flick falls victim of own melod guilty of excesses

BY MORGAN ELLIS STAFF WRITER

Marty Casey is the Clay Aiken of CBS's "Rock Star: INXS."

After coming in a close second, Casey and his longtime band, Lovehammers, are still clinging to the reality-show 15 minutes of fame with a self-titled major-label debut, which is wrought with shortcom-

ings. First of all, Lovehammers? Are they kidding? Terrible band name

And then there's the other thing to discuss about Casey: his music. It ain't pretty.

Mostly all of the tracks sound as if they were written from the same formula: Cook up fast and unchanging drum beats and load them down with lots and lots of power chords. The monotony makes the tracks

hard to differentiate.

Unless you're sitting down and watching the track numbers change, you might never know that "Call of Distress" has gone into "Straight as an Arrow." On "Rock Star: INXS," Casey

was best known for his song "Trees," the first single from this album. Former Jane's Addiction guitarist Dave Navarro said it would be a hit.

Navarro is a good guitarist, but can you really take seriously any-

MUSICREVIEW **MARTY CASEY AND** LOVEHAMMERS MARTY CASEY AND LOVEHAMMERS **

one who does an MTV newlywed show?

"Trees" is one of the better tracks from the album, which has about as much depth as a kiddie pool.

Casey's recycled voice sounds fit for a Nickelback tribute band, and his self-titled LP does little more than emulate such terrible prede-

After listening to Marty Casey and Lovehammers, one has to wonder what INXS would have sounded like with this guy. Probably scary. There's no way Casey could have filled the shoes of the late INXS frontman Michael Hutchence.

Hutchence. Rock isn't getting anything new with this release. Marty Casey and Lovehammers just blend in with the rest of the bands being spun right now.

If you do pick up this album though, there's good news: You only have to listen to it for 38 minutes

STAFF WRITER Judi Dench's feisty, energetic portrayal of the widowed Mrs. Henderson in Stephen Frears' "Mrs. Henderson Presents," is almost good enough to clear the film of its narrative flaws. But despite the efforts of

BY ALEXANDRIA SHEALY

Frears' all-star cast (including Bob Hoskins, Christopher Guest and the Grand Dame herself), "Mrs. Henderson Presents" fails to provide enough comedic moments to water down the film's unnecessary melodrama.

Set in pre-World War II London, the film loosely follows the true story of Laura Henderson, a wealthy Briton who — after the death of her husband leaves her unsure of how to manage her time and wealth opens a theatre showcasing a nude usical review.

In Frears' version of the story, Henderson hires the experienced Vivian van Damm (Hoskins)

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the theatre opens its first show, "Revuedeville," a nonstop song and dance performance, it is so successful that before long, other London theatres are copying the Windmill's idea. Within only a week, the Windmill

heading toward a tragic end.

To save her theatre, Henderson suggests that some of the female performers appear nude. She uses her socialite charm to convince the snooty local censor, Lord Cromer (Guest), to allow the show to be performed, agreeing to his one condition – that the nude per-formers will remain completely still, like works of art in a museum.

It's disappointing to see such talented actors fall victim to an uneven script.

as managing producer of her new Windmill Theatre. When difficulty deciding on a consistent tone to the film. Audiences are constantly ripped from high-energy vaudeville num-bers, which are cleverly staged and

genuinely entertaining, to an overly sentimental Henderson attempting to set up one of her performers with a front-bound soldier or overdone computer-generated long shots of

reenwriter Martin Sherman had

the war-torn city. While Dench's character provides amusing diva-esque antics, struggling attempts to make a social statement in the film's final moments throw "Mrs. Henderson" on a soapbox.

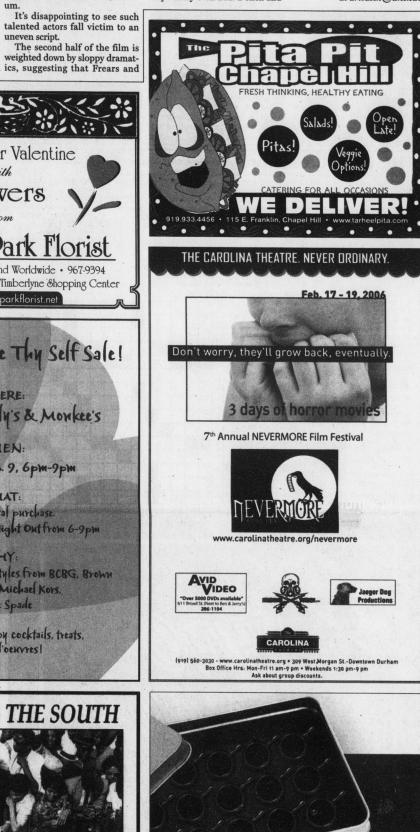
It's not a terrible movie; it's hon-estly hardly even bad. Dench and

MOVIEREVIEW 'MRS. HENDERSON PRESENTS' ***

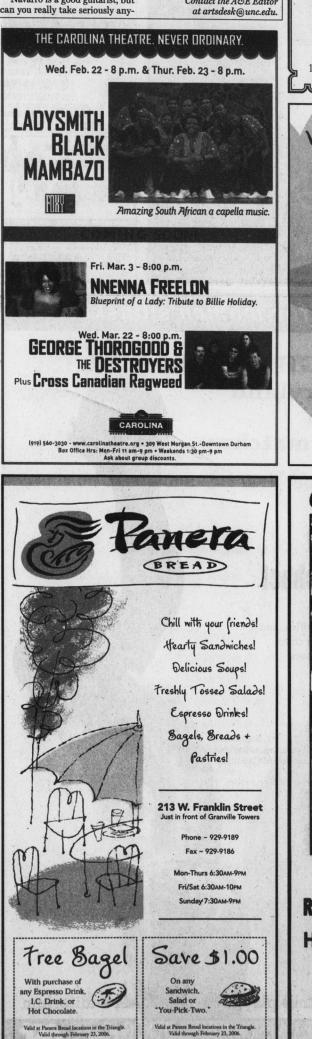
Hoskins retain such an effortless chemistry throughout the ups and downs of the film's disappointing script that it's impossible not to applaud them.

But despite the nonstop nudity and colorful parade of charm-ing vaudeville numbers, "Mrs. Henderson Presents" fails to be memorable at all, falling into a veritable windmill of melodrama and period-piece clichés.

Contact the ASE Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

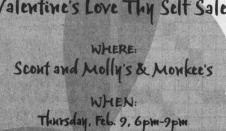






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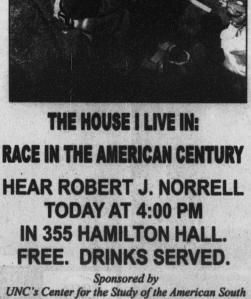
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