

'Films of R/Swift' gives life to electronic music

BY BRYAN REED
DIVERSIONS EDITOR

The very name, Instruments of Science and Technology, carries the perfect mix of enigmatic sci-fi nerdery to act as the moniker for popsmith Richard Swift's eerily propulsive electronic project.

The title carries an evocation of distance and coldness, almost stereotypical of electronic music.

But with *Music from the Films of R/Swift*, Swift's music is given room to breathe, becoming something akin to human, despite the notable absence of truly human elements in the arrangements.

Swift declares his intentions boldly with the pulsing, dance-ready "INST," in which a robotic voice declares again and again, "We are the instruments of science and technology," as a metronomic, four-on-the-floor snare beat buttresses the song against a whirring onslaught of electronic tones and insistent waves of bass.

The rest of the album, however, takes a decidedly more atmo-



MUSICREVIEW
INSTRUMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
MUSIC FROM THE FILMS OF R/SWIFT
ELECTRONIC

★★★★☆

spheric approach, layering tones and alternating driving rhythms with stretches of glassy calm to create unsettling harmonic dissonances that would sound at home as the score to some apocalyptic thriller.

And like a good thriller ought

to, the album raises questions about what exactly it means to be human.

Man can create a synthetic artifact of himself, but at what point does this creation begin to take on a life of its own?

As the music swells and recedes into dissonance and melody, into rhythmic pulses or extended metallic tones, it begins to become something apart from Instruments of Science and Technology, as if the band has not created music, but given birth to it.

The music claims its own life — its own kind-of-human existence in the realm of speakers and headphones.

It's a life complete with moments of harshness, confusion and sublime clarity, all playing against each other to create a collection of sounds, that when taken as a whole, becomes an affecting entity.

Contact the Diversions Editor at dive@unc.edu

'Savages' saved by acting, not plot

BY RACHEL BRODY
STAFF WRITER

"The Savages" has raw acting and ironic, brutal humor, but its plot loses power and ultimately proves too tame.

Writer and director Tamara Jenkins tries to present a story that avoids melodramatic breakthroughs and instead functions in the subtle neuroses of her characters.

Unfortunately, this refusal to dwell in the past hurts the film, making it hard to understand the motivation for much of the characters' dysfunction.

When their aging father Lenny (Philip Bosco) begins to suffer from dementia and is kicked out of his comfortable assisted-living condo, the brother-sister team of Jon and Wendy (Philip Seymour Hoffman and Laura Linney) are called upon

MOVIE REVIEW
THE SAVAGES

★★★★☆

as caregivers.

But neither sibling is anxious to abandon their lives in order to help their father, who they haven't spoken with in years.

It is clear that both Savage children have an estranged relationship with their father, but the audience is left wondering why that is.

Any details of their father's abandonment and/or abuse are barely implied.

Wendy, a struggling playwright, wonders if her semi-autobiographical work is mere middle-class whining, and with little rationale for the characters' behavior, the film encroaches on being just

that. But the sometimes brilliant nuances are not lost on Hoffman and Linney.

Both actors own their characters and bring forward the incredible depth that the plot lacks.

Linney's neurotic outbursts paired with Hoffman's egotistical detachment allow for the film's dark humor, as well as powerful dialogues.

Much of the first half thrives in bitterly ironic moments, such as the scene of a stoic Hoffman carrying an "I Love You" balloon awkwardly around his father's hospital room.

Linney and Hoffman powerfully deliver their empty, narcissistic characters until the end.

But the end for "The Savages" is a clumsy meditation on family and loss.

Contact the Diversions Editor at dive@unc.edu

Resolving to shake my booty

A couple of weeks ago when I went to cover a show by Chapel Hill garage-blues duo The Moaners at the Local 506, I got a different experience than I bargained for.

I expected it to be a fairly low-key event where I could just stand there, hands in pockets, soaking in the music.

However, Robosapien, the infectious dance-happy party-rap group that hit the stage first, had different plans.

The group turned the 506 into a regular dance club, rapping something apart from Instruments of Science and Technology and demanding that the audience get up and shake it.

And the audience failed to disappoint them, shaking, gyrating and cavorting with fervor.

As I stood there, hands firmly in pockets, observing the affair, I couldn't help wishing I was having as much fun as the ones dancing.

I've never been one to dance. In fact, I typically avoid it as though it is an incurable disease.

And when I think about it now, I'm not sure why.

Perhaps it's because I grew up with the hard-rock machismo idea that dancing somehow makes a man more feminine being drilled in my head.

Perhaps it's because my friends can't seem to stop laughing when-



JORDAN LAWRENCE
IT'S ELECTRICAL BOOGIE WOOGIE WOOGIE!

ever I find the courage (or, more correctly, the desire to make a fool of myself) and start moving to the music.

Whatever the reason, it doesn't really matter to me now.

When I look back on all the proms, all the nights out with friends and all the fun I've let slip through my fingers, all I can do is wish I had danced.

Every time I actually let all my insecurities go and do it, I feel alive in way I can find through no other vehicle.

And whenever I find myself in a place where people are dancing, I envy those who have enough confidence to join in.

I know it's a bit late at this point to declare a New Year's resolution, but I'm going to go ahead and make this one anyway:

When I get the opportunity to let go, have fun and just let the music take me over, I'm going to go ahead and dance. No matter how bad I might be.

So, if you see me at a show where everyone else is dancing, please pull my awkward, protesting figure out of the corner and shove me onto the dance floor.

I might fight you at first. But I promise I'll thank you later.

Contact Jordan Lawrence at ljordan@email.unc.edu

DIVERECOMMENDS.....

Album From the Vaults
Ozzy Osbourne — *Blizzard of Ozz*: The 1980 LP solidified Ozzy's status as heavy metal's figurehead but, more importantly, served as a stunning swan song for guitar god Randy Rhoads (1956-1982).

Movie Rental Pick:
"10 Things I Hate About You": Julia Stiles is OK as the film's "shrew," but the real star here is Heath Ledger (1979-2008) at his heart-throbbing-est (save, of course, for "A Knight's Tale").

Something Random:
Chess: Play the game of kings as a loving tribute to Bobby Fischer (1943-2008).

apartment fire recovery. With Dirty5Thirty. Time TBA. Price TBA.

Saturday
Caltrop/Fin Fang Foom

The Cave | Volume will not be in short supply, and Caltrop's lead-heavy low end meets Fin Fang Foom's brooding crescendoes. 10:30 p.m. 21 and up. Red Collar/IWTDI/Megafaun

Local 506 | A triple bill with unending awesomeness, this show features some of the best jams Durham (or any city, really) has to offer. Expect an epiphany. 10 p.m. \$6. Ill Eagle/Bells

Nightlight | Ill Eagle is the solo project of Milemarker's Al Burian. Bells is the ambient-leaning laptop-guitar project of Sweater Weather's Jon Mackey. 9:30 p.m.

Sunday
Ships/The Nothing Noise

Local 506 | Two promising and exciting young indie-rock bands hone their homemade sounds down at 506 W. Franklin St. 9:30 p.m. FREE!

Kimya Dawson/Midtown Dickens
BCHQ, Durham | If you liked the music from "Juno," then you'll love this show, since Kimya Dawson, like, made the music from "Juno" mostly all by herself. 7 p.m.

Movies in the Union:

"The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford" topped quite a few critics' lists at the end of '07. Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 p.m.

"Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?" I have no idea. But the movie stars Janet Jackson. Friday, 10 p.m.; Saturday, 7 p.m.

Contact the Diversions Editor at dive@unc.edu

Players

Thursdays
College Night
Everything half off!

Fridays
Discount at Door
with UNC Student ID

Saturdays
\$2 Coors Light Bottles
\$6 Holy Grail

Must be 18 to hang out and 21 to drink

<http://www.myspace.com/playerschapelhill>
Always available for private parties - 929.0101

NEW movie listings sent to your phone every Friday!

txt
QuickFlix
to
63278

Available on all wireless carriers except US Cellular and Virgin Mobile. \$0.45 per search. Carrier SMS rates apply.

the BICYCLE Chain

We Know Bikes

www.thebicyclechain.com

- Sales, Service, Rentals
- Certified Mechanics
- Lifetime Free Service
- Trade In Program
- Price Match Guarantee

CHAPEL HILL: 210 W. Franklin St.
919-929-0213
Open 7 days a week

SPECIALIZED TREK

Your Ticket to China

Teach English & Study Mandarin in Shenzhen

Spend a year teaching English and learning Chinese in Shenzhen. This large, well-established, government-sponsored program is now in its 11th year. Shenzhen is a Mandarin-speaking city. It is the only program of its kind.

Preparatory training in China includes the TEFL in China Certificate. Teach English September-June 15 in Shenzhen public school or college, and study Mandarin (4 levels available) in our own courses, taught by Shenzhen University faculty.

- Salary, housing, and contract bonus
- Housing & tours during the training
 - On-Site Coordinators
 - Airline tickets reimbursed
 - Paid 3-week vacation Jan/Feb

Requirements:
College degree (by July 2008) and native speaker of English
Teaching experience is not required. All majors are welcome.
Prior study of Chinese is not required.

For information and an application:
www.chinaprogram.org
E-mail: china.program@gmail.com

Center for Teaching & Learning in China,
7592 W Farmington, Ste. 145, Germantown, TN 38138

Hot Deals

...from Domino's®

Call Us!

UNC CAMPUS & CARRBORO
919-929-0246
412 E. Main St., Carrboro

Delivery charges may apply.

Home Alone
1 Small 1-Topping & a 20oz. Bottle of Coca-Cola®
\$7.99

1 Medium 1-Topping Pizza & 2 - 20oz. Bottles of Coca-Cola®
\$9.99

Deep Dish Extra. Limited Time Offer.

ANY WAY YOU WANT IT
Medium Pizza with up to 4 of your favorite toppings
\$9.99 medium
\$11.99 large **\$14.99** XL

Deep Dish Extra. Limited Time Offer.

2 or more Medium 1-Topping Pizzas
\$6.50 each

OR

2 or more Large 1-Topping Pizzas
\$8.00 each

Deep Dish Extra. Limited Time Offer.

Lunch or Late Night Special
One 1-Topping Pizza & 2 Liter Coca-Cola®
\$9.99 Medium **\$11.99** Large

\$12.99 X-Large

Deep Dish Extra. Limited Time Offer.

100% LOVE

Indulge your Valentine — Feel the Aveda Difference

For Her & Him: "A Day At The Spa" \$100 / value \$174

For Her & Him: "Spa Experience" \$75 / value \$104

For Her: "Long Lunch Date" \$75 / value \$104

For Him: "Ultimate Relaxation" \$75 / value \$124

For Yourself: "Date Night" \$50 / value \$72-73

Call today for more details!
919.960.4769

*Specials are not valid with other discounts and offers. No refunds. Valid until 2/16/08