

Pink Flag defy girl band notions

BY JAMIE WILLIAMS
DIVERSIONS EDITOR

Betsy Shane of Durham's Pink Flag admits that talking about female musicians has gotten her into trouble before. But her brazen attitude toward the subject suggests that she doesn't really care about bruising anyone's feelings.

"I think we're kind of in this third wave for girl bands that are just these b-----es that just say, 'I've got a guitar, and I'm going to get up there and play.'"

And so it goes for Pink Flag, a trio determined to break down "girl-band" stereotypes by refusing to take a backseat to the boys.

"We just want to upstage everyone," Shane says with the sort of sly

smile that manifests itself musically each time Pink Flag plugs in its instruments and begins to create the spunky punk gems that have garnered the band plenty of attention since it formed in January when Shane answered a Craig's List ad posted by the group's bassist Princess Ojiaku.

Even Shane seems taken aback by the band's quick rise within the Triangle music community.

"It's just been a short, rocket-like like thing," she said.

"We've just been slammed with good luck. We got to play Franklin on Halloween, a great house party the night after; we're doing Troika and releasing our record pretty soon after that."

And in advance of all of those shows, and in all of the reviews of the group's upcoming record, the gender of the three members will undoubtedly be mentioned. That fact doesn't bother Shane; she just wants the band's music to be considered fairly.

"It bothers me when people are surprised when we can play our instruments because we are girls or when people blame the fact that we can't play our instruments on the fact that we are girls."

After a few songs at any of their shows though, the band quickly shifts from a "girl band" into, quite simply, a very good band providing three minutes of sonic jabs with each of its high-energy jams.

"It's as weird as people let it be. If you don't stick your vagina in everyone's face, people will just let it go."

And even with the insistence on not being pigeon-holed, Shane said she is still considering hanging a big "No Boys Allowed" sign on Pink Flag's proverbial clubhouse.

"I sort of have this thing where I don't think that I would want a boy in this band," she said before bassist Ojiaku chimed in.

"I just think it's easier this way," Ojiaku said. "I'm more comfortable with this as someone who has never been a professional musician before this."

That comfort is an important part of a band that Shane compared to some sort of "really obnoxious polygamous group."

"With us, it's never me going to a show; it's all of us going to a show. If two of us go out to dinner, the other is always like, 'Hey, why didn't you guys invite me?'"

That type of bond is evident from the stage, as the girls play with the singular goal of ripping your preconceived notions to shreds.

Contact the Dive Editor at dive@unc.edu

Recommended Troika shows

Thursday:

Durham Central Park, Foster Street
5:30 p.m. Angelo Spencer
6:15 p.m. All Your Science
7:00 p.m. Paleface
7:45 p.m. Lost in the Trees
8:30 p.m. Future Kings of Nowhere

Duke Coffeehouse, Crowell Building, East Campus, Duke University
8:00 p.m. Pink Flag
8:45 p.m. Sequoia
9:30 p.m. Le Weekend
10:15 p.m. Sorry About Dresden
11:15 p.m. Red Collar

Friday:

Carolina Theatre, 309 West Morgan Street
5:45 p.m. Girls Rock NC Program
7:30 p.m. Bellafae
8:30 p.m. The Old Ceremony
9:30 p.m. Kimya Dawson
10:45 p.m. The Rosebuds

Saturday:

Broad Street Café, 1116 Broad Street
10:00 p.m. Death to the Details
10:45 p.m. The Scott Waite Debacle
11:30 p.m. The Dry Heathers
12:15 a.m. Hammer No More The Fingers
Duke Coffeehouse, Crowell Building, East Campus, Duke University
8:00 p.m. Clawform
8:35 p.m. The Gates of Beauty
9:15 p.m. Cantwell, Gomez, and Jordan
10:00 p.m. The Curtains of Night
10:45 p.m. Midtown Dickens
11:35 p.m. Tooth

MOVIESHORTS

APPALOOSA



Ed Harris didn't need much help crafting "Appaloosa" into a spectacular Western success.

He co-wrote, directed, produced, starred, and helped edit the film. Hell, he even sang a song for the soundtrack.

And his hard work paid off. "Appaloosa" does everything a great Western drama should — it glorifies nothing, creates strong characters without wasting a line and it tells a subtle and tight story.

Harris plays Virgil Cole, the lawman of a small Western town. His deputy, Everett Hitch, is portrayed masterfully by Viggo Mortensen.

Their efforts to stop a ruthless gang of criminals are complicated when damsel Allison French, played by Renée Zellweger, moves into town and sets her sights on Cole.

Everett and Virgil are superbly crafted characters, and the careful pace never feels slow.

The moments of tension could make a cactus sweat, and yet a smart vein of humor runs through the script that releases characters' and the audience's stress.

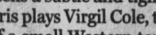
The best thing about Westerns, and often the worst, is the inability to hide plot deficiencies with a glitzy backdrop.

Harris embraces this minimalism with "Appaloosa."

He creates an Oscar-worthy classic by trusting a rock solid script to stand on its own, and in the process executes a clinic on careful and efficient filmmaking which allows "Appaloosa" to shine.

-David Berngartt

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED



Anne Hathaway fits her role perfectly in "Rachel Getting Married," exuding the tragic beauty of a fashion model at every turn.

Her character Kym, the troubled younger sister of bride-to-be Rachel, is a former model and drug addict whose return to her upper-class Connecticut home for the wedding is a disaster waiting to happen.

The result is drama of the first order: always tense, never trite, and executed by a slew of great actors who understand family dynamics, particularly Bill Irwin as the sisters' well-meaning father. Watching Irwin's face twist up in the pain of a family tragedy remembered will move anyone with a heart.

Shot in an almost documentary style, with roving cameras tracking

-Jonathan Pattishall

characters through houses and dinner conversations, 'Rachel' combines shots of wedding toasts, family stories and rehab support groups into a prolonged familial confession.

The film also boasts a great soundtrack that lends the film a visceral immediacy.

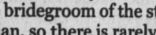
The bridegroom of the story is a musician, so there is rarely a quiet moment. Jazz, gospel, rock and even Indian music can all be heard floating through the celebration.

Director Jonathan Demme is therefore not obliged to bring in much of an outside soundtrack, letting the music that is already a part of the story take center stage.

With 'Rachel,' Demme is giving us a cinematic interview with a dysfunctional family, and he clearly has his finger on the pulse of his subject. Conveying the relationships between sisters and parents in perfectly chosen words and mannerisms, the family on the screen could easily belong to anyone.

In these, and many other respects, the film is both pleasantly realistic and touchingly human.

ZACK AND MIRI MAKE A PORNO



At first, the title seems to say it all.

Zack (Seth Rogen) and Miriam (Elizabeth Banks) are two friends living together in Monroeville, PA. And in a desperate attempt to pay off their mounting utility bills, they assemble a crew and make a porno.

As said porno is being made, these two roommates who swear their relationship is entirely platonic realize they have feelings for each other.

At this point, most people would write "Zack and Miri" off as a sophomore sex comedy made for years of reruns on Comedy Central.

But they'd be wrong. This one actually has some heart.

For one thing, Director Kevin Smith is well established in his ability to make a funny movie ("Clerks" is a cult classic). For another, he can write memorable and quotable jokes. Think Judd Apatow with more vulgarities and far more nudity.

But what makes "Zack and Miri" really pop is the cast.

Everyone who's seen "Superbad" or "Knocked Up" knows that Seth Rogen is the best man in Hollywood for the lovable slob role, and Elizabeth Banks does a fine job keeping up with him as his equally slovenly roommate.

Banks and Rogen have a goofy

-Mark Niegelsky

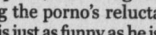
chemistry together, and a few of their scenes are actually pretty touching, in an awkward, first-date kiss-at-the-door sort of way.

Jason Mewes plays Lester, the lead role in Zack and Miri's low budget masterpiece, and Craig Robinson, playing the porno's reluctant producer, is just as funny as he is playing Darryl in NBC's "The Office."

Smith even got two actual adult film stars, Traci Lords and Katie Morgan, to help shore up the cast, a move that gives his film an odd sense of legitimacy.

"Zack and Miri" proves that you can't judge a book by its cover. Which is good when your movie is about people taking their clothes off.

THE HAUNTING OF MOLLY HARTLEY



"Jump scenes" are staples of lackluster horror films, typically used when the screenwriters can't write something that's actually scary.

So, naturally "The Haunting of Molly Hartley" is chock full of them, often in incredibly unnecessary situations; even innocuous characters frequently enter the frame accompanied by a sudden, loud noise and an abrupt camera movement.

The movie stars Haley Bennett as Molly Hartley, a 17-year-old girl who begins to hear voices and to have hallucinations about her mother attempting to kill her.

As her eighteenth birthday approaches, it becomes clear that there is something far more sinister about Molly's visions and that she may in fact be a spawn of Satan.

And all of this occurs while she's trying to win the affections of the hot jock at her new school!

That's one of the problems with "The Haunting of Molly Hartley;" it can't decide whether it wants to be a teen movie or a tale of terror, and the result is a misguided fusion of both.

One moment the film is set to an ominous score, and then suddenly upbeat pop music accompanies scenes of a cool weekend partying.

A PG-13 rating should always be a cautionary sign for a horror film, and "The Haunting of Molly Hartley" is no exception to the rule.

All in all, with humdrum attempts at fright and its unsettling mood shifts, "Haunting" has more in common with an episode of "Charmed" than it does with "The Shining"

-Evan Hughes

DIVERECOMMENDS

Album from the Vaults:

Be Your Own Pet, *Be Your Own Pet*, The rise and fall of these teenage Nashville punks was fast and sharp, but this 2006 debut is classic teenage rock. Packing loud and fast licks with frontwoman Jemina Pearl's frantic yelps, this is what the teenage years should sound like.

Movie from the Vaults:

"Dave": After all the politicking leading up to the election, what better than a comedy about the president? Kevin Kline stars in this hilarious 1993 film about an everyday man who looks like the president and takes up the office when the real commander suffers a stroke.

Events:

THURSDAY

Phosphorescent
Local 506 | The introspective bedroom folk of Phosphorescent should make for a calming start to the weekend. Virgin Forest opens. 9:30 p.m., \$8

FRIDAY

The Explorers Club
Duke Coffeehouse | This group of South Carolinians recall the Beach Boys with their sweet harmonies and tales of summer sun. Seems a bit odd for November, but it should be fun anyway. The Never and The Huguenots open. 9 p.m., \$5

TUESDAY

The Rosewood Thieves
Local 506 | Rosewood Thieves come through town again with its sweet brand of classic pop. Expect big guitar hooks and even bigger choruses. Chapel Hill trio Embarrassing Fruits will play powerful, guitar-driven indie rock, while Dive Party vets Max Indian shoot a beer-buzzed gaze back toward The Beatles. 9:30 p.m., FREE

Carolina Sports Menu

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