

'Quantum of Solace' carries on Bond legacy

BY MARK NIEGELSKY
STAFF WRITER

"Casino Royale" rewrote the James Bond we all knew, creating a much darker super-spy in the form of Daniel Craig, and leaving the series slightly more grounded in reality. Thankfully, "Quantum of Solace" continues the trend; there are no watch-lasers or invisible cars and no femme fatales with names like Pussy Galore and Xenia Onatopp.

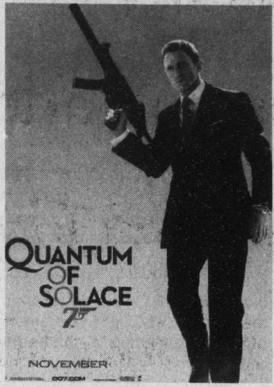
"Quantum of Solace" picks up right where "Casino" left off, with the captured Mr. White being driven to an MI6 safe house for questioning regarding a shadowy organization called Quantum, only to escape with the help of another Quantum member. The ensuing MI6 investigation sends Bond to Haiti and eventually Bolivia, where Quantum seeks to monopolize the country's water supply with the help of the villainous businessman Dominic Greene (Mathieu Amalric).

Daniel Craig is again excellent as Bond, and after only two entries in the franchise, he is certainly poised to become one of the greatest actors to depict the spy. He can be brutal, but he is not without the mannerisms and one-liners that have always defined the series. Craig's performance is akin to Sean Connery's, with little in common with the more lighthearted, almost caricatured, iterations of the character that Roger Moore and Pierce Brosnan brought to the screen.

Bond is hardly afraid to get his hands dirty in the film; there is an excellent foot chase through the streets and across the roofs on an Italian village at the beginning of the film, and later there is an extremely brutal close-quarters brawl in a Haitian hotel room.

Following the latter, as Bond stares at his adversary bleeding to death on the ground, one must consider whether his actions are motivated out of a sense of duty or perhaps more from the desire to get revenge for the loss of Vesper Lynd, his love from "Casino Royale." Craig really is able to bring surprising depth to his character.

Unfortunately, the weak plot



MOVIEREVIEW
QUANTUM OF SOLACE



harm the movie. Too often the story serves as just a way to get to the next shootout or fist fight. Plot points are frequently left undeveloped or entirely unexplained. Because the film begins just after "Casino Royale" left off, it is almost impossible for viewers who have not seen it to understand what is going on, as there is no explanation of the events in the earlier film.

Event continuity, a rarity in the Bond films, allows for the development of supporting characters in "Quantum of Solace." Jeffrey Wright's Felix Leiter, Bond's CIA ally, is a treat to watch, and one can only hope he continues to appear in future films. The reappearance of the character René Mathis, another of Bond's "friends" from "Casino Royale," also leads to a surprisingly touching moment in the movie.

"Quantum of Solace" is not as good as its predecessor, which is unfortunate but not unexpected. "Casino Royale" breathed new life into what was formerly a dying franchise, and it's a tough act to follow.

With Craig as the leading man, the movie is able to overcome poor writing and remain enjoyable, a feat even James Bond himself would consider impressive.

Contact the Diversions Editor at dive@unc.edu

Huevos parties in spite of all life's ills

BY JORDAN LAWRENCE
ASSISTANT DIVERSIONS EDITOR

Jon Gregory knows life sucks. Every song the Chapel Hill rapper makes under the moniker Juan Huevos seethes with the notion that there is something wrong in the world.

Whether he's pointing out how silly it is for you to respect him just because he can rap, telling you how scared he is to start another monotonous work week or just declaring his distaste for the acting of John Travolta, Huevos' songs are rife with sarcastic disappointment.

But, as little as he sees it, it's nothing a fast partying can't fix.

"If you really listen to what I'm saying, I'm whining about something, but I put it to this really fun party music," Gregory said. "I'm trying to party. I'm trying to dance. I don't want to sit home and be sad."

It might come off as unusual for a rapper to pay more attention to whether audiences are dancing

to his beats than whether they are listening to his rhymes, but then again, Juan Huevos is not a typical rapper.

"It's hard at shows because people aren't dancing. I think they're listening to what I'm saying," he said, adding that this is not the atmosphere he prefers. "I want to see hair flailing and people getting hit in the face because people are going so crazy."

Perhaps it's just that the people who attend his shows aren't the type to dance, but it certainly has nothing to do with the music.

Layered under Gregory's hilarious and caustic mocking, the music splices rock and dance parts with inventive sample choices to create a sound that pops with quirky excitement.

And it's been enough to get the notice of some connected people.

Gregory recently returned from a visit to France where he met with rapper Subtitle. The two

were meeting to discuss making a Huevos record for Subtitle's new label.

Gregory said it was interesting to finally meet the man he had previously only communicated with via enigmatic e-mails.

"To him, with his record label, he's like Professor Xavier," he said. "And he's scouting mutants with super powers and assembling this team. He's weird like that."

Despite his new friend's quirks, Gregory thought it was a successful trip. He was able to make connections with many people in the European music scene and make progress towards a release with a wider scope than he's used to.

And for a person to whom making music is vital, an opportunity to make it a more major breadwinner is serious stuff.

"There's some pretty depressing shit, I feel like, in my music," he said. "It really is the demons. I'm sitting there, it's Sunday."

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I'm by myself. I'm hung over. I don't know what to do, so I go into the studio and make a song. And then I feel better."

And when it comes right down to it, that's what he's trying to do for the listener too.

"My problems aren't any different than anybody else's for the most part," he said. "So I want people to hear what I'm saying and be like 'I felt that way too, and I want to dance too, and I want to forget my problems.'"

"It's like, sure, your life sucks, but it might suck less if you drank another beer and shook it."

Contact the Diversions Editor at dive@unc.edu

Coffeehouse bridges gap at Duke

BY JAMIE WILLIAMS
DIVERSIONS EDITOR

DURHAM — It's a cloudy Monday afternoon, and the Duke Coffeehouse is empty except for the three students who make up the backbone of the place — Jen Fuh, booking manager; Babylonia Aivaz, who handles marketing; and Staff Manager Andrea Marston.

Fuh and Marston are lounging on an oversized bean bag chair as Aivaz sits on a nearby couch, checking her watch, calculating the exact moment she has to leave for class.

The environment is immediately casual, but pretty soon the conversation shifts from inside jokes amongst friends to the vision for the place that each calls an incredibly important part of their lives.

Marston says the ultimate goal is to "change the culture at Duke," shifting the coffeehouse from a tree house — Aivaz's word — for a tight knit group of friends to Marston's ultimate vision of the place as a "gateway drug," connecting Duke students with Durham.

They've obviously had this talk before.

Part of that plan was the \$60,000 worth of renovations completed in October. Since the face-lift, Marston said the crowds have increased, both during the day and at the concert events on weekend nights, something they all agree is good thing.

"We're on the side of campus where it's just all freshmen, so we really want to get them in here."

That goal is part of a larger mission to connect Duke students with the surrounding community, said Fuh, who is wearing a pink shirt, emblazoned with "Durham" in block letters.

"This is such an important space so that people don't feel like their only option on the weekends is to just walk down to the next frat party," Aivaz said.

Even though it's housed on Duke's East Campus, in the past the coffeehouse has been more visible to Durham residents than students.

"It's kind of existed as a coffeehouse for Duke students and a music venue for Durham people," Marston said.

That's been fine, and all the girls agree that they like its place in the town — evidenced by the amount of local shows they book, including two CD release parties this weekend — but Marston wants to make sure students know what is happening here is different than anywhere else on campus.

"We're looking for an underground cultural revolution. This is no place for the 'preppers,'" she said with only a slight hint of tongue poking at her cheek.

The goal, they all agree, is to draw in first-years living off East Campus, introducing them to Durham's cul-

tural community in the hope that they will remain involved.

"Some people come in for the coffee and just stay for the music, some people just follow the noise over here and some people are in here every time we have something going on," Aivaz said.

"We're definitely trying to build a community."

Contact the Diversions Editor at dive@unc.edu

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Events:

FRIDAY

Schooner

Armadillo Grill, Duke | First up is the solid rock style of Embarassing Fruits, then the bruised romanticism of Southern-fried punks the Dry Heathens. And finally the dreamy pop of Schooner. 5:30 p.m., FREE

Physics of Meaning and Butterflies

Duke Coffeehouse | The Physics of Meaning integrates '80s popular music into chamber pop and Butterflies weave common sense songwriting with hypnotic folk-pop. 9:30 p.m., \$5

SATURDAY

Pink Flag and the Homewreckers

Duke Coffeehouse | Get ready for some great Durham punk rock. Pink Flag make fist-pumping anthems about the guys that did them wrong while the Homewreckers mix hard edged garage rock with psychedelia. Together they will celebrate their new split album. 9:30 p.m. \$8 with CD

Caltrop and Curtains of Night

The Reservoir | It will be a night of blissful heaviness as Orange County's premiere metal acts take the stage. The lumbering assault of Caltrop and the Curtains of Night strip black metal down to its most intense parts. 10 p.m., FREE

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23 SU METHOD MAN & REDMAN w/ Termanology** (\$30)

24 MOAUGUSTANA w/ The War (\$15)

25 TU GANG GANG DANCE w/ Rainbow Arabia

26 WEPRE TURKEY DAY JAM: jon shain, Mark Simonsen, Django Haskins, Greg Humphreys (songwriter set), Piedmont Sheiks, Young Neil And The Damage Done.

28 FR MANCHESTER ORCHESTRA, Dead Confederate, Kevin Devine, All Get Out** (\$10/\$12)

29 SA THE BACKBEAT & HEGE V (\$9)

30 SU FASTBALL w/ Jule Brown** (\$12/\$15)

DECEMBER

6 SA YO MAMA'S BIG FAT BOOTY BAND** (\$10)

8 MO Green Label Sound & WKNC 88.1 Presents: Matt and Kim: The Cool Kids** (\$5)

9 TU OHGR from SKINNY PUPPY** (\$17/\$20)

12 FR TAB BENOIT** (\$18/\$20)

13 SA SOUTHERN CULTURE ON THE SKIDS w/ The Hall Monitors** (\$12/\$14)

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27 SA Winter Reggae Jam w/ Dub Addis & more

31 WE ABBEY ROAD LIVE! .. Ring in the New Year with John, Paul, George and Ringo!** (\$17.50 adv/\$20 @ door)

DECEMBER

1 MO Spotted Dog Anniversary show w/ Velvet, Roxcetera, SNMNMNM, Jeggheffo (\$7/\$10)

2 TU HIGH & MIGHTIES w/ Tim Smith Band** (\$7/\$10) Proceeds benefit North Carolina Children's Promise

3 WE JAY CLIFFORD** (\$10/\$13)

5 FR STEEP CANYON RANGERS w/ Shannon Whitworth (\$10)

JANUARY

9 FR North Elementary CD Release w/ Kingsbury Manx, Erie Choir, Popular Kids

10 SA COSMIC CHARLIE (2 Sets of Grateful Dead!)

15 TH VIRGINIA COALITION** (\$10/\$12)

17 SA WHO'S BAD?

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