

New movie features vintage artists

Beck influences unique project

By Paul Ginder
Contributing Reviewer

The *Big Lebowski* is the soon to be released movie by Joel and Ethan Coen.

Following up on the success of their last film *Fargo*, *The Big Lebowski* is another dark comedy centering around bowling as an entry point into a seedier subtext of mistaken identity, greed and murder.

Although *Lebowski* will not make it to theaters until sometime around March, the soundtrack is already available to tide hungry fans over until then.

According to press releases, the soundtrack is the first of the Coen Brothers' films to feature a specific set of songs as a central theme to the movie itself.

Functioning somewhat along the lines of a Tarantino opus, the music serves in this case to enhance and preserve the characters' fascination with the '60s and '70s.

Produced by T Bone Burnett along with the Coen brothers, the album features songs by Bob Dylan, Captain Beefheart, Townes Van Zandt and Elvis Costello, all of whom contribute to capturing this feel.



The Big Lebowski Soundtrack
Advance Music

"The Man in Me" by Dylan is a beautiful, rambling tune from his 1970 album, *New Morning*. Elvis Costello's "My Mood Swings" is a

rocking number that bounces along with a late sixties AM radio feel, complete with a surf rock progression following the chorus.

My favorite song on the album is Kenny Rogers and The First Edition's "Just dropped in (to see what condition my condition was in)" which was featured in the movie trailer.

Its groovy, bizarre psychedelic seventies sound is sure to stick in your head.

The album does a nice job of mixing songs by popular artists with relevant, but obscure tracks. Operatic pieces by Yma Sumac and "Glück das mir Verlieb" from the opera *Die Tote Stadt* give the album cinematic breadth and also a very eclectic sound.

The Gipsy King's cover of "Hotel California" is a nice addition along with the surprising inclusion of Henry Mancini's "Lujon." "Hotel California" is a fast paced latin version with Spanish lyrics, which replaces the laconic irony of the original with desperation.

The soundtrack to *The Big Lebowski* is an eclectic, but obviously carefully selected, mix of songs which gives insight into the creative minds of its originators. Ranging from operatic overture, to grooved out psychedelia, the soundtrack is an interesting mix of musical influences.

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Forest for the Trees is the solo project by Carl Stephenson, who collaborated with Beck back in the days before the so called "manchild" was a pop culture icon.

Although recently released, the album was actually recorded approximately four years ago. Probably in large part due to the major success of Beck, multimedia conglomerate Dreamworks picked up the album.

The album contains a unique blend of sitar, programming, keyboards and even some bagpipes. The warped genius of Stephenson is readily apparent on this album, as it was on Beck's schizoid *Mellow Gold* album.

"Dream" starts the album out bumping, with a funky drum sample and an odd vocal musing about the relativism of dreams and reality. Soon the bagpipes and tabla come in, culminating in a chorus which ponders, "When I get up, I don't know if I'm truly awake, or if I'm still dreaming."

"Fall" features Beck on the harmonica and a messy, pawnshop beat which is characteristic of the album in general.

Songs like "Planet Unknown" and "Wet Paint" combine funky beats with bizarre, almost mystical lyrics.

Forest for the Trees is a unique and strange amalgam of sounds which is initially difficult to access, but is ultimately satisfying.

The songs blend together surprisingly well considering the use of a diverse mix of drum programming, found sounds, chanting, violin and other sonic devices. If you are a fan of Beck's older work and groups such as Land of the Loops and Sukpatch, this album would probably appeal to you.

Similar to these other groups, Stephenson combines mutated pop songs with junked up beats, while at the same time uniquely adding bagpipes, flamenco guitar and a mystical lyrical sensibility, which is both surprising and enjoyable.

Non Sequitur

By Wiley



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Whaleboy

By Matthew Nimcheck and Ken Perkins



CALENDAR

To have your event listed, send e-mail to arts@ogb.wfu.edu, fax to 336-758-4561 or write to P.O. Box 7569.

ON CAMPUS

Exhibits

Divine Inspiration: Religious Prints from the Wake Forest University Collection. The prints shown in this collection put together by the students of the History of Prints class range from the mid-15th to the late 20th centuries.
When: Jan. 12 to Feb. 3, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 1-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.
Where: Upstairs at the Fine Arts Gallery in the Scales Fine Arts Center
Cost and info: Free. Ext. 5585

Theatre

The Caretaker. Two men fight over whether an old man living in their attic

should stay or go.
When: 8 p.m. today and Jan. 22, 2 p.m. Jan. 23.
Where: Ring Theatre
Cost and info: \$5. Ext. 5296

Movies

Chasing Amy. A comic strip artist falls in love with a lesbian and tries to make her straight.
When: 7 p.m. and 10 p.m., Jan. 23, 24, 25.
Where: Pugh Auditorium, Benson University Center
Cost: \$2

Music

Carillon Recital. Freshman Matthew Phillips plays the carillon in Wait Chapel that can be heard all over from anywhere on campus.

When: Every Tues. and Thurs., 5 p.m.
Where: Wait Chapel Tower

ELSEWHERE

Concerts

Feature of the Week: Pie Tasters: This Washington, D.C., ska band opened last year for the Mighty Mighty Bosstones and are now headlining their own show.
Where: Ziggy's, 433 Baity St.
When: 10 p.m. Sat.
Info: 748-1064

Ziggy's. Jan. 22: Hipbone. **Jan. 23:** Cowboy Mouth and Shades of Grey **Jan. 24:** Pie Tasters and The Smooths **Jan. 27:** Dirty Dogs **Jan. 28:** Doug Clark and the Hot Nuts.
Where: 433 Baity St.

Info: 748-1064

Cat's Cradle. Jan. 22: Pat McGee **Jan. 23:** Gibb Droll **Jan. 24:** Everything **Jan. 25:** Rex, Those Bastard Souls, Cole. \$6 **Jan. 28:** Jazz Mandolin Project. \$8.
Where: 300 E. Main St., Carrboro
Info: (919) 967-9053

Lizard and Snake Cafe. Jan. 24: The Bouncing Souls, Blanks 77, Jon Cougar, Concentration Camp.
Where: 110 N. Columbia St., Chapel Hill
Info: (919) 929-2828

Exhibits

Evicted Sentiments. This exhibit features photographers from the South with documentary-style pictures of a vanishing way of life.
When: Until March 29
Where: Main Gallery, Southeastern

Center for Contemporary Art. 750 Marguerite Dr.
Info: (910) 725-1904

Music

Mozart's Requiem. The Piedmont Triad Symphony Orchestra performs Mozart's final symphony with the Winston-Symphony Chorale, as well as other pieces.
When: 8 p.m. Feb. 7 and Feb. 10, 3 p.m. Feb. 8.
Where: Stevens Center for Performing Arts, 405 W. Fourth St.
Cost and info: \$11-\$23. 725-1035.

A Spiritual Celebration: Choral Society of Greensboro and Greensboro Youth Chorus perform *A Sermon from the Mountain, Martin Luther King.*
When: 3 p.m. Feb. 15
Where: Shiloh Baptist Church, 1210 S. Eugene St., Greensboro

Cost and info: Free, 373-2549.

The Vienna Boys Choir: The famous chorale group of young boys is one of Europe's finest. The original group was started almost 500 years ago. They will be performing works from various classical composers.
When: 8 p.m. Jan. 31.
Where: Carolina Theatre, 310 S. Greene Street, Greensboro.
Cost and Info: \$18 for students, \$20 for adults, 333-2605

Movies

NCSA Student Film Screening: Dirt Rodeo Etching, Shot, Our Lady of Grace and Man and Dog
When: Jan. 28, 8 p.m.
Where: Horse's Mouth Coffeehouse, 424 W. Fourth St.
Cost and Info: Free. 773-1311