

Sandler's new image leaves fans laughing

By Ryan Griffin
Contributing Reviewer

This past weekend saw the debut of an addition to movie theaters already crowded with Oscar nominees: *The Wedding Singer*, featuring Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore. This fun flick flashes back to 1985 and tells the story of a struggling musician harboring dreams of songwriting and finding his one true love. Sandler plays Robby Hart, a singer

whose career has been reduced to performing at weddings to make ends meet. This is a bit of a different role for your favorite comedian and mine, as it's Sandler's first stab at playing a romantic lead — a transition that he makes quite easily. Indeed, the Hart character is one that you could invite to dinner feeling fairly comfortable that he won't slurp his soup or chastise guests in gibberish. As a wedding singer, Hart is the ultimate master of ceremonies who shows all a good time. Shortly into the movie we meet the cute and endearing Julia (Drew Barrymore), who is a server at the weddings where Hart performs. At this point, all seems to be going reasonably

Fans of Sandler's work in *Billy Madison* or *Happy Gilmore* may be somewhat disappointed with this movie, as it is in quite a different mold.

well in Hart's life as his own wedding day with fiancé Linda (Angela Featherstone) finally arrives — that is, until he gets left at the altar. With his heart broken, Robby retreats to the darkness of his room in the basement of his sister's house. Enter Sammy (Allen Covert, who also played Otto, the homeless caddy in *Happy Gilmore*), who convinces Hart to return to work.

Back on stage at a local wedding, Robby allows his bitterness to seep into his performance, profusely angering the people who have paid him to entertain. With his "career" in ruin, Robby is asked by Julia to help her plan her own wedding, one that is rapidly approaching. In the next few weeks, the two spend a lot of time together, and it becomes clear (to everyone but Robby and Julia) that there is a special bond developing between them. By the time Robby finally recognizes his true feelings for Julia, she has scrapped plans for an elaborate wedding and is heading to Las Vegas to marry her two-timing fiancé

Glen (Matthew Glave). Ever the romantic, Hart begins a mad chase to catch Julia in hopes of getting a chance to tell her the way he really feels about her. The conclusion, albeit simple and predictable, is extremely satisfying to anyone with a semblance of a heart beating in his or her chest. Fans of Sandler's work in *Billy Madison* or *Happy Gilmore* may be somewhat disappointed with this movie, as it is in quite a different mold. There are three absolutely hilarious star appearances spaced throughout the movie (watch for them): an old lady rapping a Sugarhill Gang tune, a few classic Sandler outbursts, and the

comedian's biting sarcasm are evident throughout the flick. However, this movie is more than just a vehicle for talented performers to display their comedic skills. Now, I know I'm probably making too much of director Frank Coraci's simple work, but I do think there's a little something special about it. The bottom line: You will feel happy walking out of the theater after seeing this movie. It's definitely a must-see, feel-good flick, as Robby gives hope to all of us struggling in relationships or dealing with being alone that there is something worthwhile out there. Oh yeah — did I mention it's really, really funny too?

Pearl Jam yields to new CD with more puzzling lyrics

Eddie Vedder's throaty style combines with guitar and piano melodies

By Chris Grezlak
Old Gold and Black Reviewer

People often say that you can't judge a book by its cover. The cover of Pearl Jam's latest masterpiece *Yield* is simply beautiful and at the same time complex and mystical. Similarly, the music contained in *Yield*'s pretty packaging is straightforward and simple, while at the same time deep and insightful.

Leaning heavily on punk roots and simple chord progressions, Pearl Jam has finally managed to shake the bored grunge sound it helped to popularize. *Yield*'s music, while still cynical and somewhat dark, is filled with life and hope. The album kicks off with the hard-hitting "Brain of J," a combination of Eddie Vedder's energetic howl and heavy guitar work from Stone Gossard and Mike McCready. Also a heavy number, "Do the Evolution" is a brutally honest and deeply

cynical attack on humanity. Vedder sarcastically proclaims, "I am at peace with my lust, I can kill 'cause in God I trust." While concentrating on hard-hitting rock songs, Pearl Jam is still capable of producing a moving, soft song. "Low Light" features a lovely piano, over which Vedder sings, "I don't need the light, I'll find my way from wrong." "Wishlist" seems to be a more inspired version of the band's *No Code* song "Sometimes," and contains some of Vedder's best lyrics. Vedder comments on both love and humanity: "I wish I was a messenger and all the news was good, I wish I was the full moon shining off your Camaro's hood." The record's first single, "Given to Fly," is a slow, enchanting song, which narrates the story of "a human being who was given to fly." Guitarist Stone Gossard composed two of the album's best tracks, the mellow "All Those Yesterdays" and "No Way." The latter is another heavy number, on which Vedder confesses, "I stopped trying to make a difference."

While largely listener-friendly, *Yield* does contain a few enigmas which will surely go unsolved by most listeners — "Push Me, Pull Me" and a song only denoted by a red dot. However, much of the lure of Pearl Jam is that you can never completely figure out what the band is saying. Each time I listen to *Yield*, I stumble upon another wonderful lyric, another piece of the puzzle. For this reason, a couple of listens will never completely reward the listener. Each listen brings new enlightenment. Pearl Jam's thoughts and dreams may always remain enigmatic, but that just adds an additional element of mystery to its music. Pearl Jam's tendency to progress with each new record, and its deep, cynical lyrics, often alienate listeners. For example, its last record, *No Code*, was deemed as "too experimental" by critics, despite being one of the finest albums of 1996. Casual listeners can almost never grasp the meaning of Pearl Jam's music. At the same time, serious listeners may not either — but that's the joy of it all.



Pearl Jam
Yield
Sony Entertainment, Inc.

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

Lectures

Keeping Cultures: A Rite of Passage Among the Garifuna of Roatan Island. Guest curator Rebecca Benedum Maankowski will discuss her work with the Garifuna and their native religious customs.
When: 7 p.m. March 3
Where: Museum of Anthropology classroom.
Info: Free. Ext. 5827

Exhibits

A Common Thread: Digital Media and the Creative Process. This exhibit features sculpture, photography, video and interactive media by eight artists.
When: Feb. 13-March 29
Where: Fine Arts Gallery in Scale Fine Arts Center
Info: Free. Ext. 5585

Rhythm and Texture: Visual Expressions. This exhibit is hosted by the Babcock Graduate School of Management and features works by nine artists.
When: Feb. 9-May
Where: Worrell Professional Center
Info: Free. Ext. 4681

Keeping Cultures: A Rite of Passage Among the Garifuna of Roatan Island. This exhibit explores the religious observances of the Garifuna and how they deal with death.
When: March 3-April 9
Where: Museum of Anthropology
Info: Free

Movies

Addicted to Love. Meg Ryan and Matthew Broderick star as two people seeking revenge on their exes.
When: 8 p.m. Feb. 19
Where: Pugh Auditorium
Cost: Free

Boogie Nights. This movie is about an aspiring actor who gets sucked into the glamorous world of porn.
When: 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Feb. 20-22.
Where: Pugh Auditorium
Info: \$2

People vs. Larry Flint. This is the true

story of one pornographer's struggle for free speech.
When: 8 p.m. Feb. 24, 25, 26
Where: Pugh Auditorium
Info: Free

Theater

Six Degrees of Separation. A young con man convinces naive couples he is Sidney Poitier's son.
When: 8 p.m., Feb. 20, 21, 25-28; 2 p.m. March 1
Where: Mainstage Theater
Cost: Students \$5, Adults \$10

Music

Giles-Harris Competitions. Louis Goldstein and Kathryn Levy will direct these performances.
When: 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Feb. 21
Where: Brendle Recital Hall
Cost: Free

Wake Forest Orchestra. This concert will feature Schumann's Concerto for the Piano and two arias from "Faust."
When: 8 p.m. Feb. 26
Where: Brendle Recital Hall
Info: Free. Ext. 5026

NEXUS. In this Secret Artists series concert, the percussion quintet will perform international music with instruments from Tibet, Switzerland, New Guinea and other countries.
When: 8 p.m. Feb. 28
Where: Wait Chapel
Info: \$17.50 for adults, \$12.50 for non-Wake Forest students. Ext. 5295

ELSEWHERE

Concerts

Ziggy's. Feb. 19: Agents of Good Roots with Drifting Through. Feb. 20: Edwin McCain with Angie Aparo. Feb. 21: Alana Davis.
Where: 433 Baity St.
Info: 748-1064

Cat's Cradle. Feb. 19: WXYC 70's dance. Feb. 20: Link Wray with Flat Duo Jets. Feb. 21: Pietasters with the Woggles. Feb. 23: Mary Lou Lord. Feb. 25: Reel Big Fish with Pilfers and Supernova.
Where: 300 E. Main St., Carrboro
Info: (919) 967-9053

Lizard and Snake Cafe. Feb. 19: Todd

Dengler. Feb. 20: Gay with Straight Alliance Benefit. Feb. 21: Claire Holley. Feb. 22: Anna to the Infinite Power.
Where: 110 N. Columbia St., Chapel Hill
Info: (919) 929-2828

Exhibits

Evicted Sentiments. This exhibit features photographers from the South.
When: Jan. 17-March 29
Where: Main Gallery, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, 750 Marguerite Drive
Info: 725-1904

Stepped on a Tin. United Stage presents African American folk tales.
When: 7 p.m. Feb. 21
Where: Reynolda House Museum of American Art.
Info: 725-5325

Music

Winter Dance Concert. This evening of dance will have classic modern works and contemporary ballets.
When: 8 p.m. Feb. 19-21; 2 p.m. Feb. 22.
Where: Stevens Center, 405 W. 4th St.
Info: \$10 adults, \$8 students and seniors, 721-1945

The Diamonds. This hit group will perform favorites from the '50s.
When: 8 p.m. Feb. 20.
Where: Carolina Theater, 310 S. Greene St., Greensboro
Info: \$15 for adults, \$13 for students and seniors, 333-2605

Theater

Ain't Misbehavin'. The Community Theatre of Greensboro will present this Tony award-winning musical.
When: 8 p.m. Feb. 20-21; 2 p.m. Feb. 22.
Where: Weaver Education Center, 300 S. Spring St., Greensboro
Info: \$13 for adults, \$11 students and seniors, 333-7469

Golden Boy. This play by Clifford Odets is about a musician turned prize-fighter whose world turns sour.
When: 8 p.m. Feb. 19-21; 2 p.m. Feb. 21-22.
Where: Proscenium Thrust, Performance Place, 200 Waughtown St.
Info: \$7 adults, \$5 students and seniors, 333-2605

Schumann's Ward

By Ken Perkins and Matt Nimchek

