

yam

yetanothermagazine filmtvmusic

apr2009

hathaways @
mochileros bar

illinois' indie folk duo performs
in lima, peru.

tokyo!
interior design, merde
and shaking tokyo!

in this yam we review //
everlasting moments,
watchmen, u2, utada hikaru,
madeleine peyroux, the 1 word,
desperate housewives, ao akua
and more //

Tear to Freedom

more on "the milk
of sorrow" and
peruvian cinema//

Luckily, a Peruvian film won the Berlinale's top prize, and I thought I had my cover story. Throughout these two months, I doubted whether I could keep that as a cover or choose another one, which I almost did – twice - but Nate chickened out when having the opportunity to see Ayako Fujitani, and decided to watch “Tokyo!” some other day instead.

As you might notice, there is also a decrease in film content. Usual contributors like insidethegold.com have taken a backseat this time around as

blockbuster season begins, and perhaps a few smaller films begin making their round for the coming award season.

This may be our most international edition to date. Hoping that you are wishing us luck in the upcoming issues of the magazine~~

amywong //

p.s.: nate, you still suck. xD

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This is the first issue of **yam** after award season, and I found myself in the middle of nothing. I had no direction, no idea what to write about, and nothing to put on the cover.

from the editor //

index //

tokyo!



Generally speaking, the trilogy of stories that is the movie Tokyo! could have been much shorter and would have been more successful as 10 or 15 minute shorts than a single movie.

interior design

The first short by Michel Gondry was rather charming. It portrayed a girl (Ayako Fujitani) who felt useless and out of place in her first week in the big city. Initially, she seems to be a take charge woman carrying her artistic boyfriend (Ryo Kase). As her aspiring filmmaker boyfriend finds a menial job immediately to help make ends meet, she flounders in her efforts to find her niche.

As her alienation increases under the pressure of the burden she and her boyfriend place on their host, she undergoes a frightening transformation. Into a chair. Eventually she finds peace and purpose with her new life as a piece of furniture when a struggling musician finds and takes her home.

This was a pretty straightforward film that seemed to play in the vein of a children's tale, and could have been shorter had it not dwelt so long on the girl's drawn out transformation and her life as a chair.

merde

Merde was much more layered and topical; though it didn't necessarily add too much to today's social dialogue on terrorism or the state of society.

Of note is how the use of Akira Ikufube's music from the old 50s and 60s Godzilla movies, even the Godzilla roar itself, was integrated into this particular short. As a quick background, the Godzilla films were made as a veiled commentary of the use of atomic weapons on Japan. Of course, instead of the nuclear weapons wielding America, Godzilla the atomic fire breathing monster was substituted.

In the modern day usage of who this music now portrays, it is the horrendous sewer dwelling deformed man known as Merde. It is almost as if Merde is the manifestation of 21st century fears.

Three times terrorism is brought up by word or imagery. In Merde's supreme act of terrorism against Tokyo, he is dressed in an old Japanese army uniform lobbing a cache of old World War II grenades. At his subsequent trial, the Japanese prosecutor states, "even terrorists have the decency to blow themselves up with their victims".

During Merde's execution, someone is recording the event with their mobile camera the way Saddam Hussein's hanging was documented. Even hanging does not stop the menace as he becomes as intangible as air, escaping through an air duct. He is unkillable; more of an idea than a physical being.

shaking tokyo

The third piece covered a very basic fact of urbanism. A lot of people are lonely. Period.

On the surface the story revolves around a shut-in, someone who withdraws from society and lives as completely as they can with minimal contact with the outside world. His isolated world is perfect, quiet and ordered. Easy to maintain and to control.

Once he makes eye contact with a pizza delivery girl (Yu Aoi), all hell breaks loose and they experience an earthquake. The pizza delivery girl passes out in the shut-in's home and he's forced to take action. Not knowing how to revive her, he notices tattooed buttons on the girl's arms and leg. Pressing the reset button on her leg, she wakes up and goes off.

With this new outside factor and traumatic earthquake, this man's world is never the same and must seek the delivery girl for resolution. He wanders out into the world to find other shut-ins like himself. Eventually, he even finds the girl who is ready to become a shut-in herself. In beseeching her to come out, he presses a tattooed button that says "love", and the story ends on another earthquake.

What was most interesting about this film was that it seemed the earthquake was a sign of how difficult it was to seek change, love, or human contact and to maintain that. It is so much easier to live and maintain a predictable life without accommodation for a shared life. Even the girl herself had her own particular way of dealing with and controlling her life through her tattooed buttons which indicated which emotional state could be activated.

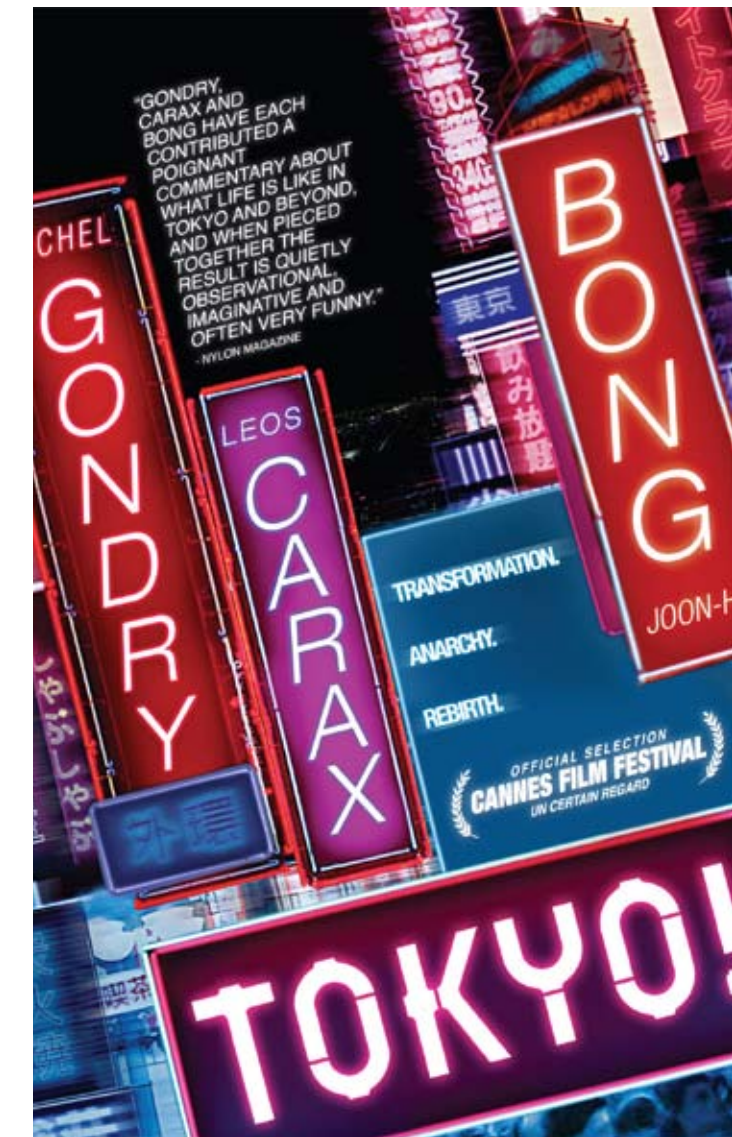
This film dwelt far too long on how sunlight traveled across a floor and other esoteric thoughts.

While urban alienation and adaptation is the common thread of this trilogy, each story unto itself explored themes so specific to those segments as to make each of them unrelated to the other. This made for a mentally taxing experience where one had to reset their mind for the next film.

Even as much work as that was, once one has deciphered the layered and metaphoric visuals, you're left a bit hungry. At first one is self congratulatory for having understood a foreign/independent film, but on hindsight, what did I walk away with? Did it spawn a conversation for at least a couple of hours after? This one didn't for me. I really had nothing to relate about it save a dissection of what each audio or visual metaphor meant.

Like eating celery. Negative calories.

★★★☆☆



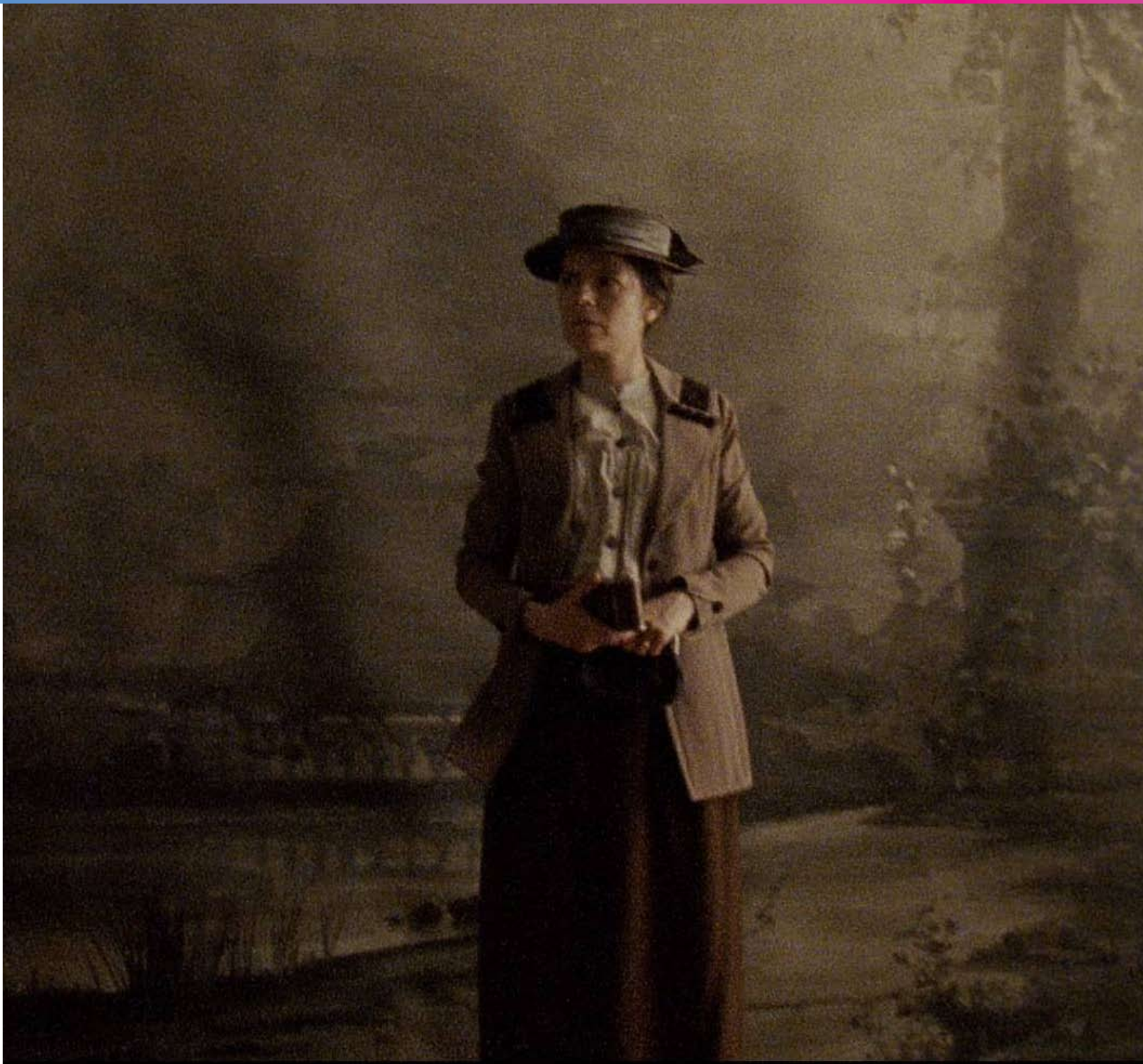
maria larssons eviga ögonblick

“Everlasting Moments” is based on the true story of Maria Larsson, a working class woman in the early 1900s Sweden, who wins a camera and then overcomes enormous obstacles to become a photographer. The film was also Sweden’s entry to the various awards, which raised my expectations of it, and I had to see it with Swedish subtitles only.

Despite all that, the film is quite remarkable with pretty outstanding performances especially Maria Heiskanen who played Larsson with a certain frailty and, at the same time, a certain fearlessness.

Moreover, the film is just a gorgeous old photograph through and through, but even that couldn’t get me to see another layer to her husband’s abuse, which resulted in the same thing over and over again. - amy

★★★½☆



watchmen

I was really excited about this movie and it lived up to my expectations and then some. I read the books a few years back and while I am a fan of Alan Moore, and it is certainly a thoughtful and complex work, the original graphic novel left me a little cold. I respect it and enjoyed it but it was more of a detached fascination than any real affection for the characters.

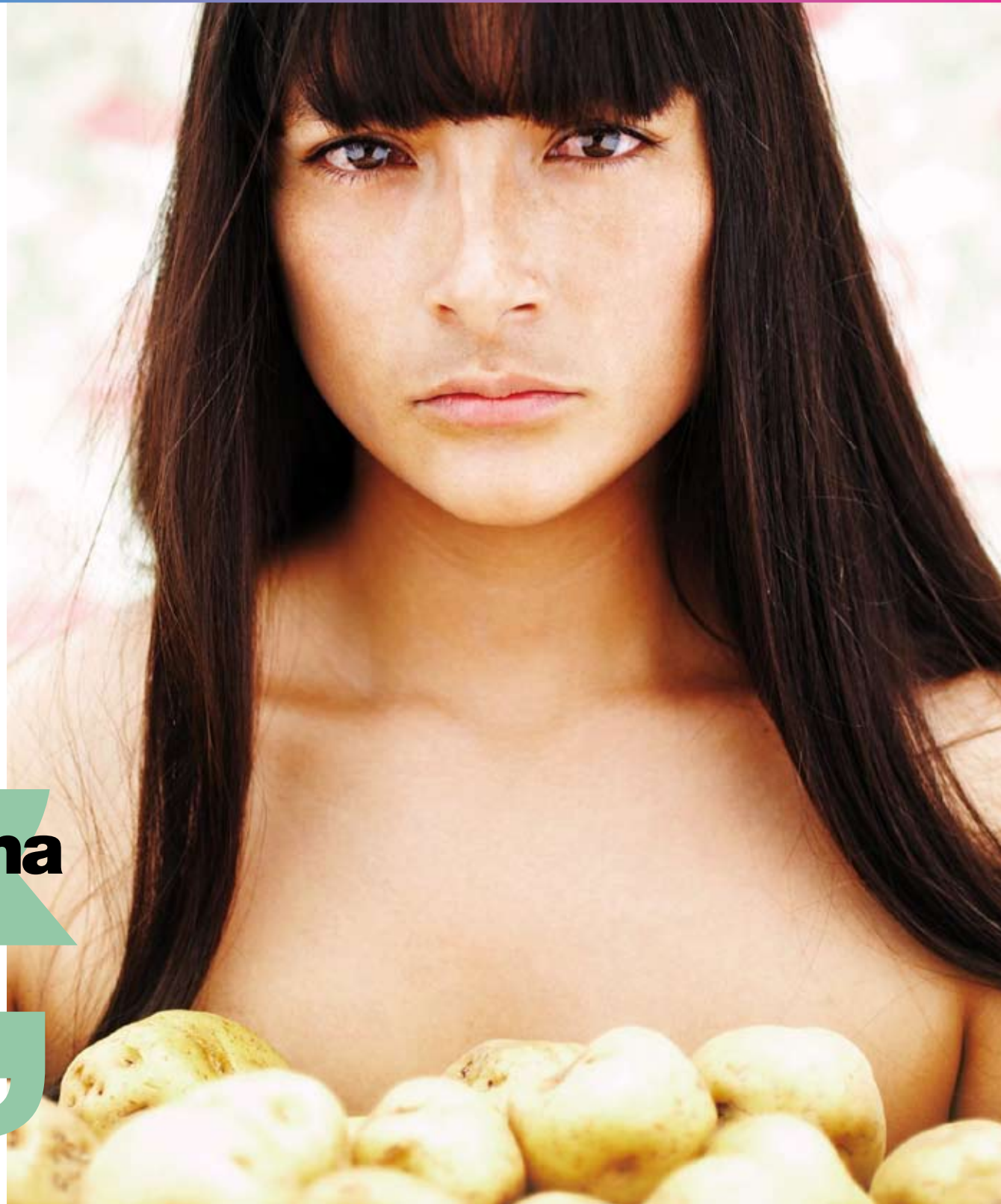
It’s basically a deconstruction of the very idea of superheroes. Those wacky characters that dress up in long underwear and put on silly masks, then proceed to go out in public and fight crime. It asks the question, what would have happened to our “real” world if these yahoos really existed and how might these heroes really go about saving the world. It takes a silly idea that has stood the test of time and plants it firmly under the microscope that is gritty slo-mo cinematic reality circa 1985 at a time where Nixon is still in office and the Cold War has escalated to the point where America is on the brink of all out nuclear war with Russia.

This movie is basically the book in motion. I think Zach Snyder did a superb job of translating the concept and themes of the book while picking a great assembled of lesser known actors to really bring it to life in a way I thought enhanced the experience of the book. There have been people that feel it even stayed too close to the book but if that is all people are complaining about, I think we lucked out, and who really cares if the squid got cut or not? (keep an eye out as it does make a kinda sorta cameo)

Good performances by all involved but standouts include Patrick Wilson as Night Owl, Jackie Earle Haley as Rorschach, Billy Crudup as Dr. Manhattan and Jeffrey Dean Morgan as the Comedian.

In my humble opinion a far superior movie to a certain pointy eared vigilantes recent gloomy escapades and well worth checking out. - kyle c. finnegan

★★★★★



the milk of sorrow peruvian cinema

Claudia Llosa's sophomore feature about Fausta, a young woman trying to find enough money to bury her mother, who after so many years of grieving has passed on. Some 25 years ago, Fausta's mother was raped by terrorists, and as a result has passed the traumatic experience to her now fearful daughter.



La Teta Asustada, or “the scared tit” as it’s literally translated, is a shift on the right direction for Peruvian cinema, which has experienced a recent newly-found popularity, and possible change in thematic – not all films fit into this, but many of them are certainly pointing towards this direction. This time around Llosa, along with Solier’s work present an almost – keyword, almost - poetic and subtle story that has not been seen in many Peruvian feature films.

Internationally, however, it falls short to my expectations. Is it the film’s fault? Not really, but this doesn’t stop me from stating my obvious thoughts - “what’s the fuzz about it?” - Yes, it was a pretty good film... but the best? I’ll leave that up to you once you get the chance to watch it. If you’re not Peruvian, you might find it oddly exotic – unless you’ve lived a few years in a developing-country. I even felt like a little foreigner during the seldom Quechua chants, but that’s as refreshing as it got with it’s Peruvian humor, socio-economic commentary, and drama.

What Peruvian cinema suffers from is, perhaps, on “The Tit” title itself. People I’ve discussed with are often quickly to point out their dislike of the film’s original name, which you can even perceive by the re-branding of the film as “The Milk of Sorrow” instead. Does the word “tit” bring into the theater the wrong kind of crowd? Would it push away people? Is the dislike of the word coming from the impossibility to name things for their original name?

Is Peruvian culture (Latin American and Spanish cultures, might as well include them) full of vulgarity?

Or are we just prudish?

Take for example a movie like Chicha tu Madre, which is a play on words for “concha tu madre”, an insult meaning “motherfucker” or literally translated as “pussy your mother”

- I know, doesn’t make any sense. However, does it make you laugh? Or do you think it’s disgusting? Choosing a name for a film might be just a marketing device, but what happens when the swear words form 85% of your dialog. Do we talk like that? It happens, but not as often as these films make it out to be. And that’s what takes away from all these projects.

Claudia Llosa, however, finds a certain balance to her dialog. Her characters sound less cartoonish, and less stereotypical yet remain familiar enough with its “criollismo” - Let’s face it, it’s impossible to escape the idea of stereotypical

representation, if you don’t want your characters to feel like aliens in their own world.

The film is a small step for Peruvian cinema, but a huge leap for Peruvian female directors whom, as cinencuentro.com points out, are simmering their ideas and pushing forward with what seems a future explosion of female-directed projects – in a medium dominated by men worldwide. - We’ll have to wait for those. - amy

★★★½☆





coming soon

in theaters

on dvd/blu-ray

maca's ratings

amy's ratings

- Gran Torino ★★★★★
- Doubt ★★★★½
- Confessions of a Shopaholic ★★★½
- He's not that into You ★★★★★
- Slumdog Millionaire ★★★★★
- Bride Wars ★★★★★
- Run, Fatboy Run ★★½

- Gake no ue no Ponyo (Ponyo on the Cliff by the Sea) ★★★½
- Un Secret (A Secret) ★★½
- Bi-mong (Dream) ★★★¾
- Dead Like Me: Life After Death ★★★★★¼
- The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas ★★¾
- Man in the Chair ★★¾
- Sangre de mi Sangre ★★★★★
- Synecdoche, New York ★★★★★¼
- Watchmen ★★★★★
- Dung Che Sai Duk Redux (Ashes of Time Redux) ★★½

- Two Lovers ★★★
- Shelter ★★★½
- PAKO to Maho no Ehon (Paco and the Magical Book) ★★½
- Winged Creatures ★★★★★
- Hunger ★★½
- Phoebe in Wonderland ★★½
- The Cake Eaters ★★★★★¼
- Kinamand (Chinaman) ★★★½
- Okuribito (Departures) ★★★★★

- April
- Lemon Tree (17th)
- Treeless Mountain (22nd)
- The Soloist (24th)

- May
- X-Men Origins: Wolverine (1st)
- Star Trek (8th)
- Angels & Demons (15th)
- Bruno
- The Brothers Bloom
- O' Horten

- Terminator Salvation (22nd)
- Up (29th)

- June
- Away We Go (5th)
- Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (26th)

- April
- The Reader (14th) [Single-disc Widescreen] [Blu-ray]
- The Pope's Toilet [Single-disc Widescreen] [Blu-ray]
- Frost/Nixon (21st) [Single-disc Widescreen] [Blu-ray]
- The Wrestler [Single-disc Widescreen] [Blu-ray]

- A Jihad for Love [Single-disc Widescreen] [Blu-ray]
- X-Men Trilogy [Blu-ray]
- May
- Last Chance Harvey (5th) [Single-disc Widescreen] [Blu-ray]
- The Curious Case of Benjamin Button [Single-disc Widescreen] [Two-disc Widescreen]

- [Blu-ray]
- Wendy and Lucy [Single-disc Widescreen] [Blu-ray]
- Fargo [Blu-ray]
- Ran [Blu-ray]
- Terminator 2: Judgment Day (Skynet Edition) (19th) [Blu-ray]
- Valkyrie [Single-disc Widescreen]

- [Two-disc Widescreen] [Blu-ray]
- June
- Revolutionary Road (2nd) [Single-disc Widescreen] [Blu-ray]
- John Adams (16th) [3-Disc DVD] [Blu-ray]



hathaways

Hand me Down (Nov. 8 2008)

Hathaways' first EP release Hand me Down is a really fresh startup for the duo who combines indie folk with Peruvian flavor that sounds familiar, yet brand new.

The EP starts off with Experiment and the line "We are experimental junkies." Kate Hathaway's charango playing skills and voice (which faintly reminds me of Marit Larsen) mixed with Jame Hathaway's vocals and guitar make this 5-tracker

a soothing experience.

Though all the tracks are quite good, and are worth your repeat listens, I recommend Experiment, and maybe the last track titled Wait for Me.

Yeah, love both of those tracks.

★★★★☆

@ mochileros bar

I had the chance to see Hathaways live at Mochileros Bar in Barranco on March 24th and – event-planning and venue issues aside – the show was great. They sounded really good, even though I get paranoid about starting times and they began playing like 3hrs after the time I was told... I ended up not caring, and that says a lot.

Can't really remember what they performed – sorry, guys – since I went into this just listening to their MySpace stuff. Also, I'm writing this a few days after it... so the only

thing I can remember, aside from the dude who was smoking pot somewhere, is that they sang something for Bush (the George W. not Sr. kind) and their disapproval for him. It got people to interact a bit, and even throw in a few jokes... which they also did after James Hathaway took off his shirt.



utada hikaru

This is the One (Mar. 14 2009)

Never been a huge Utada Hikaru fan, but I admit I did sort of enjoyed the simplicity in Heart Station. On Utada's 3rd English release, This is the One, she goes back to regular pop and sort of R&B roots, which strongly influenced all the music throughout her long-lasting career. Though I don't really hate the album, or find myself as indifferent as I used to be with some of her older stuff, I don't find the album remarkable.

One of my other pet-peeves is the reason why international artists need to sing in English in order to get into the "American" market. I much prefer Hikaru's Japanese songs... the same with BoA. The heck? And yes, I'm still waiting for a good Shakira Spanish release since she went all blond on me.

Possible highlight in the album? Apple & Cinnamon~

★★★★☆



madeleine peyroux

Bare Bones (Mar. 10 2009)

It might be her soothing voice and the simple, yet beautiful melody, or maybe it's the French name... but there must be something that makes Madeleine Peyroux worth listening to. Jazz certainly isn't the type of music I picture myself listening to, but the album captures a certain relaxing, yet nostalgic atmosphere, but also a degree of modernity that transcends any genre.

Simply put, or perhaps ordinarily put (not to mention cheesy), the album is like a quiet sunny misty morning with your loved one, plus a cozy cup of coffee - and I don't even drink coffee.

Possible best tracks? River of Tears, Instead, To Love You All Over Again, and I Must Be Saved.

★★★★¼☆



too foreign for your own good please sing in english

The recent release of BoA's English debut, and Utada Hikaru's 3rd English release switched on my rant button, and prompted me to search for articles on why non-English artists must release music in the language, and oftentimes ditch their native tongue, to get into their market. It is quite nicely touched upon an article by the Telegraph titled "The Language Barrier" by Neil McCormick.

English is the Esperanto of pop, or so they say. This is coming from someone who chooses to write in English instead of Spanish – so who am I to tell you what to sing in? No one. Music is a language on its own, as Shakira puts it.

If music is a language on its own, what makes artists sing in English? The Cardigans' Nina Persson says "Swedish is very specific and direct and actually quite a harsh language. English has more of a veil to it, more mystery." Yet we get wonderfully-crafted albums like "Vapen och Ammunition" by Kent whose lead voice, Joakim Berg, sings in his native Swedish.

Perhaps Colombian singer Juanes puts it best, "I feel more natural, more calm and more honest in Spanish. It's the language I dream in." - Despite speaking English, he's never sung in it even though he's collaborated with artists such as Nelly Furtado, Tony Bennett and John Legend. However, he is still missing the mark compared to the success of Shakira who hasn't released a great Spanish album since she turned blond and never looked back. On the other side of the story



are Ricky Martin, and to some degree Marc Anthony, who released Latin albums in English, but have gone all the way back to Spanish and never truly experienced huge success after the craze for Latin music faded out.

Trying to break these walls, Wyclef, who collaborated with Shakira on "Hips Don't Lie", called Chinese musicians Jay Chou and Lee-Hom Wang (Alexander Wang, he's American) "real musicians" for combining Chinese culture with music, and even ended up accompanying on the piano in Chou's performance of "Chrysanthemum Flower Bed" and singing to the romanized lyrics.

It's true that Asian (and many international, as well) artists sing songs in English from time to time, one has only need to look as far as Faye Wong and her "Bohemian Rhapsody" performance, Clazziquai's "Sweety" or Big Bang's "Number 1". Many times, songs can't even escape the seldom words in English like Salyu's "Ai no Jiken" (Love Experiment), and we can even do this backwards and name "Livin' la Vida Loca" or "Give me just One Night (Una Noche)" to show you how they do it in Spanish. There are also musicians writing and singing in English by choice, and not marketing purposes like Marit Larsen, who has been singing in English but hasn't released a single album on this side of the world and focuses on the Scandinavian region.

So what are the chances to get recognized by not singing in English? What would be the chances of Jay Chou,

whose English isn't so good, to win a Grammy singing Chinese songs? Hundreds of songs released worldwide each year push the boundaries of language and music by fusing music genres, mixing words and creating something unique that we never get to hear about due to the lack of interest from the public, hence the lack of interest in promotion. Put a bit of the blame on us for not getting interested enough in other cultures, as well as a bit of blame on an industry that keeps on separating foreign music (and films) from the English-speaking content, resulting in the monopoly of the market by artists that are beginning to sound like a re-hash version of one another.

I'm probably sounding critical on music in English, which is not my intent. My problem is with the idea of already successful musicians trying to sing in English just to breakthrough into a market who is unwilling to listen to their music in its original language. Why should a market that feels something is "too foreign" be important, when people who are more willing to listen to something "alien" are more likely to buy your product anyway.

morning musume

Platinum 9 (Mar. 3 2009)

I am no big fan of Morning Musume albums, they are for the most part filled with the released singles and some filler songs that probably were meant to be singles but didn't make the cut. So imagine my surprise when I was able to listen to this album from beginning to end. When they released "Resonant Blue" I was so excited, finally a song that was in time with the music scene and a more sexy style, the next single "Kanechu Kamo" had the same beat as regular MM songs, but the lyrics were at the same level of "Resonant Blue".



This album is a new direction for the group, members that rarely get lines, now have whole solos. Their sound is not overly bubblegum-pop as it has been these past years, and it feels like MM is going back to their roots of sophisticated light R&B songs from their debut. - jumi

★★★★☆

u2

No Line On The Horizon (Feb. 27 2009)



U2 is the group all should list as a favorite, if you want to be considered knowledgeable. I'm sure there are people who genuinely enjoy their music, but you can't avoid the fact that at least 50% of people will tell us they enjoy their music "just because...". So is it really worth saying this album deserves to be highly-rated just because U2 put it in the market? I don't think so... you can barely consider it a passing grade with melodies and lyrics that aren't really mediocre, but after so many years rarely surprise us anymore.

★★½☆☆

sue's albums

- Lily Allen - It's not Me It's You ★★★★★¼
- Metric - Fantasies ★☆☆☆☆
- The King Blues - Save the World, Get the Girl ★★★½☆
- The Prodigy - Invaders Must Die ★★½☆☆
- U2 - No Line on the Horizon ★★½☆☆
- The Lonely Island - Incredibad ★★★¾☆
- Pete Doherty - Grace/Wastelands ½☆☆☆☆
- Yeah Yeah Yeahs - It's Blitz! ★★★¾☆
- Peter Bjorn and John - Living Thing ★★★¼☆

more albums

- Lily Allen - It's not Me It's You ★★★★★☆
- Joe Hisaishi - Ponyo on the Cliff by the Sea OST ★★★½☆
- Jed Whedon - Dr. Horrible's Sing Along Blog ★★★★★☆
- Kelly Clarkson - All I Ever Wanted ★★★★★☆
- Annie Lennox - The Annie Lennox Collection ★★★¾☆
- Yuji Oniki - Sister Worlds ★★½☆☆
- Marabu - Marabu ★★½☆☆
- MSTRKRFT - Fist of God ★☆☆☆☆
- Rio en Medio - Frontier ★★★★★☆
- Asobi Seksu - Hush ★☆☆☆☆
- Mirah - (a)spera ★★★¾☆
- Condo Fucks - Fuckbook ★★½☆☆
- Gianmarco - Desde Adentro ★★½☆☆
- The Decembrists - Hazards of Love ★★¾☆☆



buono!

Buono! 2 (Feb. 11 2009)

Buono! is what is good and perfect in the HIP family.

Sure they are heavily produced, but if you love anime music then this is the album for you. Every song in this album is like a perfect cousin to the song before. It is filled with a pop rock flavor with impressive guitar arrangements.

The girls have the right amount of cuteness in their voices and the lyrics are for the most part very cute. I highly recommend the last song, it stands out from the rest of the album, and if it is a hint of what's to come from Buono! then I will be a very happy fan.

It is going to be a pleasure to see them live in about a month.



This is the perfect album for the coming spring, it is filled with sunshine and butterflies! - jumi

★★★★½

dbsk

The Secret Code (Mar. 25 2009)

After the huge success of "Mirotic", DBSK is back with their Japanese comeback.

Just a year after "T", they try to keep the new style they acquired for their Korean release but the attempt falls short. The songs produced for the album do leave up to the feel of the "secret" theme, it is when you listen to the singles they have released during the time after "T" that you lose the red-thread.

The singles are not bad, they just don't suit the rest of the other songs.

As always the vocals are perfect and the songs are like honey for your ears.



The theme is appropriate with a more sexy and mystic sound with complex and symbolic lyrics. I really appreciate the songs written by the members themselves. - jumi

★★½☆☆

super junior

Sorry, Sorry (Mar. 12 2009)

I have never listened to a whole album by SuJu, I have always loved them for some random singles. When I heard "Sorry Sorry" (the title track) I went nuts. I was nuts for so many days and that song still has me nuts.

The thing that SuJu has going for them is a great variety of voices, they are after all 13 members. Before they had been very poppy and overly "candy-sweet", this album is far from that. Heavy beats, a more of an R&B vibe that feels nice to the ear, and they have matured not only in music but in their all-round style. - jumi

★★½☆☆



coming soon

- April 21st
- Marianne Faithfull - Easy Come Easy Go
- Jars Of Clay - The Long Fall Back to Earth
- Shania Twain - The First Time... For the Last Time
- Bjork - Voltaic

- April 28th
- Bob Dylan - Together Through Life

- May 5th
- Ben Harper - White Lies For Dark Times
- Ciara - Fantasy Ride
- Peaches - I Feel Cream
- St. Vincent - Actor

- May 19th
- Eminem - Relapse
- Tori Amos - Abnormally Attracted to Sin
- Iron & Wine - Around the Well (Dig)

the l word - season 6

★★½☆☆

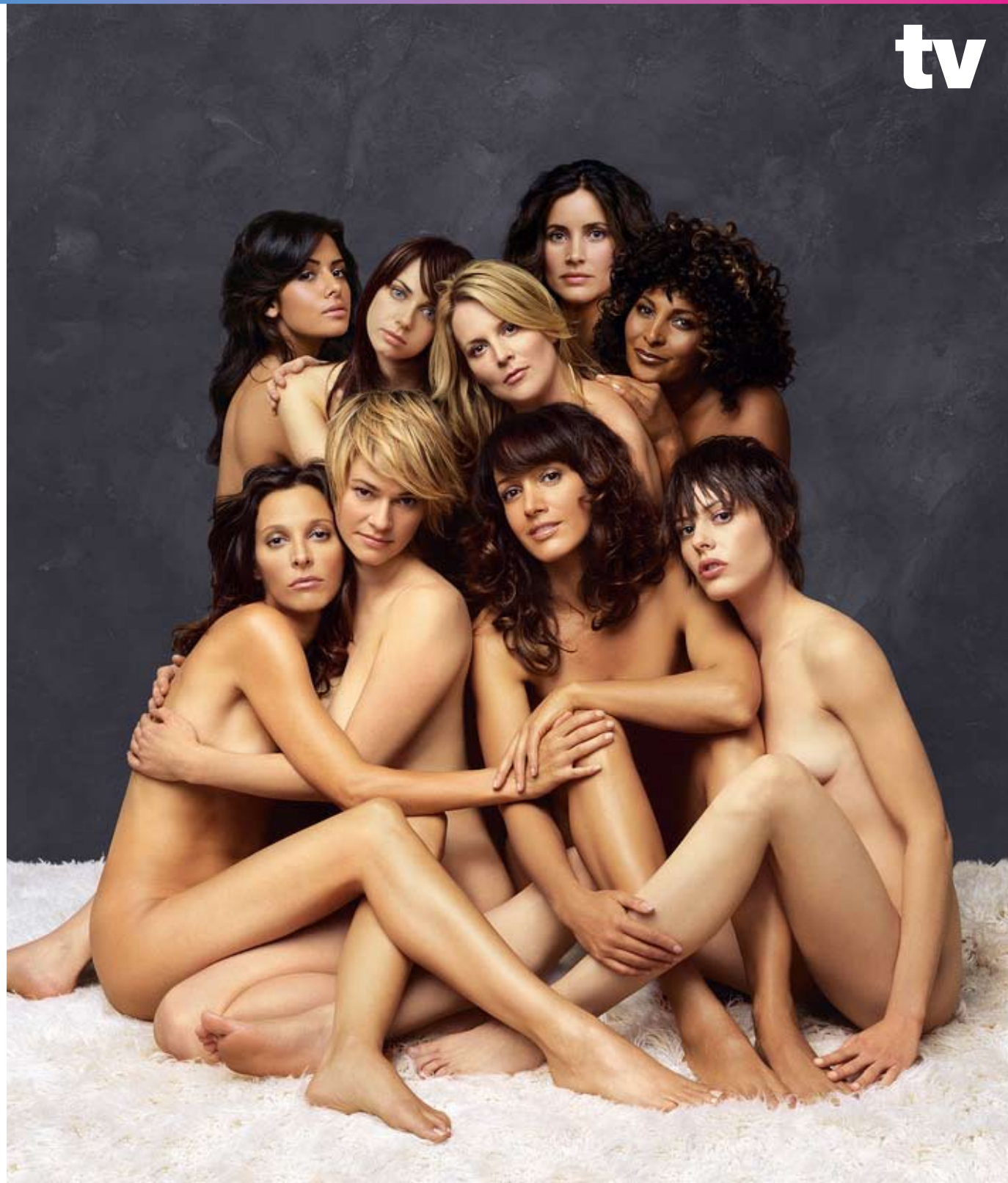
Showtime's drama The L Word aired its last episode weeks ago, but what has the show left? The season was pretty messy, as it introduced a new storyline in ¾ of a season (8 episodes, instead of the usual 12 or 13) and it never wrapped anything up.

You could watch the first episode followed by the series finale, and nothing would have happened. Jenny dies... accident? Or did someone murder her? Who cares! You won't know... ever. Bette suspected of cheating... again!? What happens? Who cares! Did Tasha and Jamie get it on? How would you like to know...

One thing you do find out, Shane and Jenny get together... but you didn't need to watch for that, right? It's all over the licking promo. However, I must admit that everyone finding out about it was pretty hilarious.

A highlight? The L Word Season 6 looks pretty damn fantastic. Cinematography and lighting improved as the show regressed, and it lost the indie-low-budget-feel it had in its first season. Did the budget shift from the writing staff to buy better lenses and lights?

I'm the only one caring about that, right? - amy



tv



desperate housewives season 5

★★½☆☆

Something must be off in Wisteria Lane. The dark-suburban-humor and the telenovela-mystery of the season were what made this a good show, which now has turned into a pretty much humorless non-mystery-telenovela.

Is it the five-year jump? Well, let's see... we still hate Susan,

nothing new about that. The rest just swing from our "like you" and "not like you" scale, and it really depends on the episode.

Bree, however, was a character you could always turn to find something to laugh about or feel something for. Marcia Cross, who pretty much deserved a Best Actress award way before Housewives turned desperate - whoever thought Terri Hatcher deserved a Best Actress for Susan? Pluhease! - Marcia does the best she can with this new Bree, though I sometimes miss the old one... I get a glimpse of her from time to time. Lately, however, watching Bree on screen is shadowed by Orson.

Orson, whom I loved in a goofy sort of way despite the creepy, was perfect for Bree. The man who understood

Bree almost better than anyone has now turned into a petty thief... a kleptomaniac. Only stealing to hurt her and irritate her. Psychological problems? Sure! It just feels a little bit silly, and not in a funny-ha-ha way. Mike's love interests are as old as Susan's, and Tom's multiple-mid-life-crisis have gotten old... really old.

Should this have ended last season? - amy

books

AO AKUA

by Juri Ueno, Photographs by Yuichiro Kobayashi
Photography/Travel

★★★¼☆

AO AKUA (Godly Cloud in Hawaiian, or most likely Rainbow) is Japanese actress Juri Ueno's follow up to A Piacere. This time around, Juri travels to Maui on an energetic/cleansing trip experience, accompanying her in charge of the photos, Yuichiro Kobayashi who takes the place of Kentaro Shibuya.

What is unique about this project is that this photobook comes with a companion DVD, or maybe it's the other way around and the DVD comes with this companion book, but in the end this turns into something much more than a simple photobook. Despite its good creative intentions, the book lacks the chance to use many beautiful photos and uses a few too many snapshots for my taste, which prove to be cute... but not really artistic.

Who ends up showing their artistic side? None other than Ueno, who grabs the painting brush and her oils to paint, her crayons to doodle, her camera to shoot, and even delved into helping the design team work on this book.

No me Esperen en Abril

by Alfredo Bryce Echenique
Romantic Dramedy
★★★★★

Don't Wait for me in April, in its literal translation, tells the love story of a couple, Manongo and Tere, who fell in love at an early age, and not even time changed the way they felt for each other. Before getting too into the book, I'd like to describe Bryce... I personally consider him one of the "men" in my life. He can make you laugh, fall in love with his characters, and even make you look for them in Lima. He uses this city as a stage, which makes him and his work so

special. The reader can relate the story to some areas and streets of Lima and Peru, perhaps the reason why I'm in love with the San Isidro district.

The book describes friendship, or better yet the importance of friendship. Just like Oscar Wilde said "Friendship is more tragic than love because it lasts longer."

While reading the book, I realized that we all have an inner Manongo. Tragic, dreamer, shy and stubborn, but unlike some who prefer to hide it or show it, he just wears ugly sunglasses to give it life. He wouldn't be Manongo without his sunglasses, with time he was hit by his own destiny – Tere got married. She was no longer "his" Tere, she was somebody else's. Manongo ran away, became so powerful

in his own head to destroy the man who took the love of his life away, but the truth is that Manongo did it himself with his constant drama.

I also loved Teddy Boy, one of the teachers and an important person in Manongo's life. A man that I can almost bet my favorite shoes you'd like to be around. And Tere... when I think about Tere, I just see a smile and shoulders. This little girl who had a man who worshiped her, a man that unconsciously let her go and created his own collection of Teres to be able to move on.

I just hope you enjoy the wonderful book. The end will leave you speechless, and maybe even make you cry.
- olga rojo c.

[amy wong//](#)[nate wong.notrelated//](#)[jumi//](#)[olga rojo c.//](#)
[kyle c. finnegan//](#)[maca//](#)[sue//](#)

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