

yam

yetanothermagazine filmtvmusic

feb2010

dreamworks

fun animated films, but
should there be more?

concert review

beyoncé's i am... yours
tour in lima, peru

in this yam we review //

**shutter island, the white stripes,
city of life and death, legion, tété,
joey mcintyre, kara, aleks syntek,
perfect girl evolution
and more //**



evil fansubs!

the battle
between fans and
distributors//

Getting outdated material is the most serious issue dealing with something like a printable online magazine. Locking articles and reviews before going live, so by the time they hit the net, they don't seem so fresh any longer.

This is what I wanna work on, and I have to write it publicly so I make sure it's not thrown away into oblivion like so many other things.

I'm setting the deadline to issue 012. No more locking stale reviews. That's 6 months to work on this project to make it better.

In the meantime, you can still contribute with your reviews or opinion articles.

**Just send them to:
amy@amy-wong.com**

amywong //

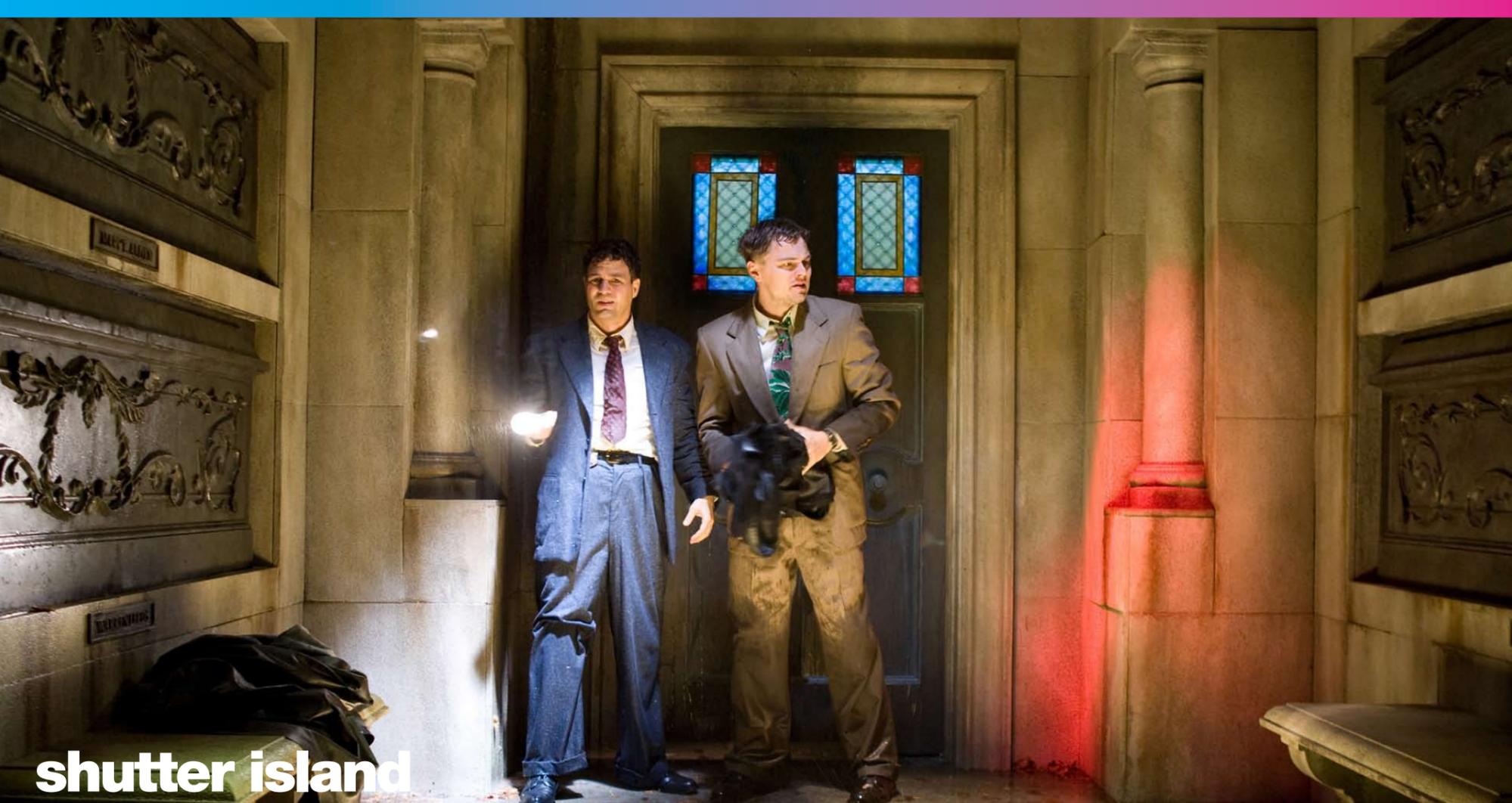
p.s.: no sign of rojo.

It's getting harder to come up with material to work into new issues of **yam**. Some of the ideas get sketched out, but eventually get forgotten... and some others begin getting outdated with the passing of days.

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from the editor //

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shutter island

Based on the novel of the same name by Dennis Lehane, set in the 50's United States, it tells the story of Marshal Teddy Daniels in charge to investigate the disappearance of a murderess who has escaped from a hospital for the criminally insane located in a remote island known as Shutter Island.

The film's selling point is that it's an Scorsese film starring his latest muse (male muse?) Leonardo DiCaprio. The trailers sell the idea that this will be one of those thrillers to get you crazy with its ending, however, you'll probably end up

nodding and saying "okay" by the end, instead of the more common "wow, I did NOT see that coming."

The acting is pretty good, and the appearances of Jackie Earle Haley (Little Children, Watchmen) and Patricia Clarkson (High Art, Dogville, Vicky Cristina Barcelona) more than make up for the effort to sit and watch DiCaprio for more than 2hrs., for those who hate watching him anyway.

And for those that might hate me saying this, did anyone feel the editing of the film was off? And I'm not talking about a "there's something weird about this movie" off, but "wow, I just got totally disconnected from the characters with this scene" off.

Anyone?

All in all, please don't expect a surprise ending like the promo material suggests, but instead enjoy the thrill ride, and the acting more than the story... or even just the characters.

★★★☆☆

the white stripes: under great white northern lights

There is something iconic about The White Stripes. Perhaps it's their hippie, yet sophisticated air. They make Bluegrass, Folk, Blues, Rock & Roll, Rock and they can even make pure noise, if they feel like it. They are completely committed to their aesthetic image of white, red and black... and even though they're just a guy and a gal, they can act like total rock stars, which they are.

In White Northern Lights, Emmett Malloy documents the band's first time doing a nationwide tour in Canada, not only visiting the biggest cities in the country, but also stopping by unusual venues in not-so-known Canadian cities like Whitehorse in Yukon, or Yellowknife or a public bus in Winnipeg in Manitoba, or a day camp in some city in Ontario

and even a bowling alley in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

It wasn't about big shows in big stadiums and big crowds, but about raw sounds, energy and emotions. The people found out about impromptu shows one hour ahead of them, and showed up in hopes that their anonymous tips were any good. Jack and Meg even have a music-off with a group of Inuit elders!

It's amazing the variety of genres The White Stripes can cover, which would make them a band worth checking out live in any place... big or small. After all, it's all about the music and their energy display.

The documentary is truly a gem for painting a contemporary band as such an iconic and timeless band for the future.

This will truly be a musical and visual classic. - amy

★★★★☆

dreamworks & how to train your dragon

Before the years of 3D animation, Dreamworks was possibly the only studio [maybe with 20th Century Fox] trying to give Disney a little run for its money... at least in the late 90s and 2000. Finally it happened in 2001 when Shrek came out. However, through the years, Dreamworks has released animated films that have failed to become iconic pieces, even if they are thought of as funny and entertaining at the moment of release, and have become financial hits for the studio.

After more than a dozen flicks, I think it's time to take a hit at Dreamworks' animated film plans of making good business over pushing the envelope as an animation studio. Not since the success of Shrek, and perhaps the flop that was Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron – which, by the way, has beautiful animation – has Dreamworks tried to do something new other than talking funny animals with running gags on Madagascar and Kung Fu Panda, because that's what the masses love to see.

I am part of the masses, I found Madagascar and Kung Fu Panda funny, but I haven't felt like watching them ever since I first saw them... as rentals.

Before every studio [among them Sony Pictures, Warner Bros, Universal, and even Nickelodeon] who had never really ventured into animated territory on the big screen before tried to cash-in on the business of 3D animated films because they didn't cost as much and made money, I used to be first in line to watch all animated releases at the theater. I was there for the releases of animated flicks like The Road to El Dorado, Anastasia, Titan A.E., even some not-loved Disney flicks like Treasure Planet, Tarzan, Atlantis: The Lost Empire, and Dinosaur. I saw them all.



After so many years of watching animated films, it feels like Dreamworks has found their winning formula of cheap thrills and decent box office numbers, and they're sticking with it. Time and time again, they put out a piece with similar jokes, running gags, and uninspiring character design with little heart.

Their latest animated adventure, How to Train your Dragon, tells the story of Hiccup, a geeky very un-viking boy from a Viking village who wants to slay dragons, but can't because he lacks all the physical attributes that a hunting Viking possesses. One day, Hiccup gets to meet an unusual dragon, whom he names Toothless that will challenge all the knowledge that his people have of these creatures.

Dragon is a solid entertaining piece with thrilling uses of 3D, exciting action-packed sequences and some really nice textures. Its story isn't bad either, however, it lacks certain qualities that make other animated films classics.

The main character, Hiccup (voiced by forever-geeky Jay Baruchel) is your typical good-hearted boyish hero. Though, at times he gets on my nerves for all the unnecessary clumsiness [think Susan on Desperate Housewives], Hiccup has good intentions and never means to do anything bad.

His dragon companion, Toothless is a very slick salamander-like dragon that at times acts like Stitch (obviously from the involvement of Chris Sanders) from Lilo & Stitch.

The supporting characters are typically cartoonish or archetypal, from the father who never listens, to the main character's love interest who seems to have an attitude problem when Hiccup begins outshining her, to the dim-witted "love" rival and the bickering twins. No, there is nothing particularly wrong with these characters. However, there is nothing particularly memorable about them either.

Entertaining? Sure. Nice 3D POV shots, and even cute Lilo&Stitch-esque dragons? Cool.

Will I ever watch it again and again and again? Maybe not.

That's the things about Dreamworks animated films, and many of the latest animated films coming out... it seems, month after month – they don't really hold up to repeat viewings.

Also, the Spanish dub seems funnier than the original English version. Case and point – Toothless becomes Chimuelo. You know you've got a problem with your script and/or voice actors when your dubbing has more spark. - amy

★★★¼☆



city of life and death

Nanjing! Nanjing! – in its original name – shows the dramatization of the Massacre of Nanjing and other events in 1937 during the Second Sino-Japanese War, in which the Imperial Japanese Army had just captured the then-capital of the Republic of China. The massacre lasted several weeks, in which massive numbers of Chinese prisoners of war and civilians were killed. However, unlike many war movies around the world highlighting heroic acts, the film paints a crude reality for their main Chinese and Japanese characters.

The film, shot in black and white, looks already like a classic film for years to come with gruesome war imagery that could probably compete with any action sequence in any big Hollywood film while having you in tears before the opening title appears on the screen. No character is truly evil, they are mostly presented as horrible human beings more concerned about raping females and thinking of going back home, than worrying about the lives they are taking. Among these soldiers is sergeant Kadokawa (Hideo Nakaizumi), who is coming to terms with the violence surrounding him, and ultimately takes over his life.

The film biggest problem is probably its Chinese origin, meaning that a lot will be turn off by politics... or even more silly, subtitles. Do not miss the chance to see this as it is raw with emotions and performances that will keep you thinking about the characters as real people. - amy

★★★★☆

legion

Legion is the nearly-Apocalyptic film telling the story of a day when God loses all faith in humankind and sends his legion – hence the title – of angels to destroy us. Why nearly-Apocalyptic? Because you will never see Hollywood releasing a film about the end of humanity in which humanity actually ends... so with that alone you know the outcome of the whole film. It also helps that the only angel to defy God, therefore one of the good guys, is played by Paul Bettany (A Beautiful Mind, Creation).

The film started off well with the fallen angel and the prophecy of the baby that would give God his hope back, until about 15 or 20minutes into the film, when everything began going downhill. You could ask how anyone could make a film about the destruction of mankind by its very own creator such a dreadful – as in boring – experience. You could start with picking on the characters. It's not that we hate action flicks, but when you finish watching a film wishing all the characters that survived had been killed off, there must be something wrong with it. It's not even like too many characters survived, in fact, many committed the stupid mistakes of getting themselves killed... typical horror film deaths.

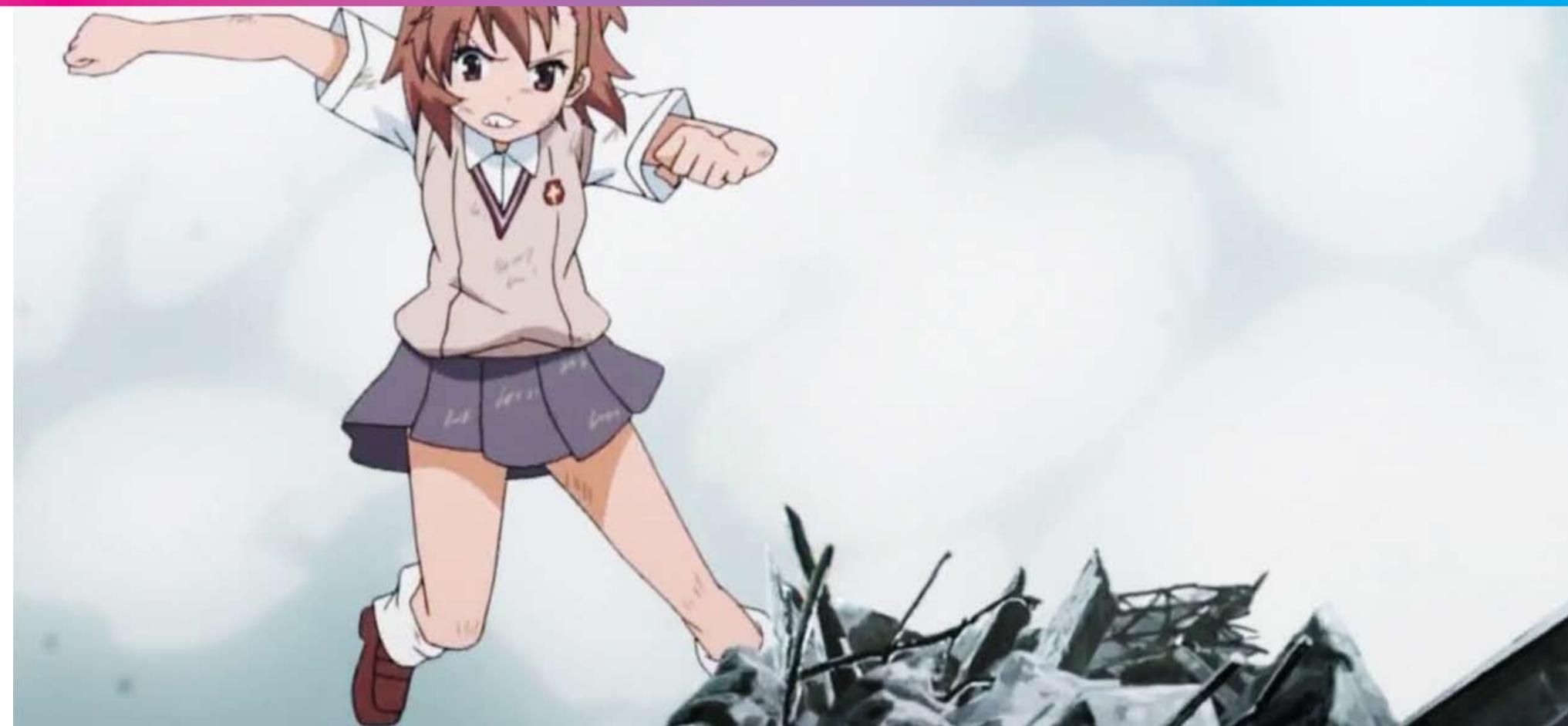
If God is sending his army of angels to kill us, we want to see the main characters fighting for dear life because it matters. We wanted Bettany's Michael to win because he wanted to save the baby, but we also wanted the mother of the baby, Charlie, to die already... as well as Jeep, the guy who is in love with her and seems to be less than bright.- amy

★½☆☆☆



fansubs: a necessary evil

short for [fan-subtitle] .-
version of a foreign film
or foreign television program
which has been translated by
fans and subtitled into
a language other than
that of the original.



I don't think Fansubbing groups are evil, but some people – namely distributors – don't agree with us, and end up taking legal action against the very people who support their projects. The fans.

American television, like the American film industry, doesn't often get “fansubbed” because people know that the shows they're interested in seeing will almost always get picked up by a local network for broadcast. This is why we get shows like House M.D. subtitled a few months after the original broadcast, and why we get all of CSI's versions dubbed and broadcast at your local TV station.

For smaller television industries in Canada, France, United Kingdom, China, Taiwan, South Korea or Japan, they won't get broadcast outside their native countries unless their respective copyrights are given

to worldwide distributors – in the case of Canada's Being Erica on BBC World Entertainment, or Catherine on TV5 Monde. Japan's industry, as well as most industries from countries in the Asian region, lack major distribution in America and Europe because companies fear they won't get their money worth.

Just think about it like this... your local cinema distributor will only buy the rights to any Audrey Tautou film because that's the only French actress most people know in your city. Forget about the chance to watch that film you've heard about by this no-name director with no-name actors. Unless, of course, said film had already won a few prestigious awards or had broken a record or two.

This is where Fansubbers come to the rescue. Who are these Fansubbers? Obviously, they are mostly fans

of the subject. However, I've seen people who subtitle things for a living and choose fansub projects based on their interest after watching said video.

Fans can be interested in an anime series, a specific filmmaker, an idol or a live-action drama for its cast or thematic. It can be anything that sparks your interest. Because of this passion for the subject, people subtitling pay extra-attention to the language they use or words they decide to pick because it better illustrates the real personality of a character. Because they are fans, they want to translate as perfect as they can in order to convey the idea that made them interested in the first place. They understand the characters, they understand their personalities, they understand the world and themes. This is something that doesn't necessarily happen with some subtitles used on official releases.



If a Japanese series (or film) is lucky enough to get picked up by an international distributor, a team is put together to handle the subtitles in the project. The problem with this is that they won't always be that enthusiastic about a job, hence there will be subtitle work that will meet fan-standards or will fail miserably. Case and point, Magnolia's home release of the Swedish *Let the Right One In*, which was met with loads of negativity because Magnolia decided to release the discs with different subtitles than the theatrical version. When the fans complained, the company didn't see what the big deal was.

I'm not saying fansubbing is the best quality work you'll ever find. In fact, there are groups of fansubs – especially idol-centric fansubs – that will include personal comments in-between the subtitles just because they felt like jumping when two characters played by their favorite idols get a scene together.

After a fansub is done, the word spreads online, and people download the videos and subtitle files. Doing so creates two types of consumers, the one who will see it and forget it, and the person who will be moved emotionally to the point of becoming a fan. Distributors shouldn't really focus their efforts in the fleeting viewer who will never speak of your work again, instead they should focus on the newly-found audience that wouldn't have been able to watch otherwise. These are the fans that will tip the decision of a local distributor to get the rights of the project. Do you think that without the already-established fanbases, shows like *Inuyasha* and *Naruto* would have gotten American broadcasts and DVD releases?

Of course, if they want to annihilate their own fanbase by sending legal notices to their fans, who are in fact doing a translating job for free, who is stopping them? They are in the right to protect their intellectual property, but why kill their audience? Instead, they could hire the Fansubbing group to use their work... or they could release their own subtitles on the DVDs or Blu-Ray discs. Obviously, neither of these options would stop freeloaders to sell pirated versions and make money off from the work of the distributors AND the work of the fans, but that's another story...
- amy





coming soon

maca's ratings

- Nine ★★★★★
- Sherlock Holmes ★★★★★½
- Post Grad ★★½☆☆
- The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus ★★★★★
- Alice in Wonderland ★★★★★½
- Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief ★★½☆☆

amy's ratings

- La Mere (The Mother) ★★★★★½
- Crazy Heart ★★★★★
- Agora ★★★★★
- Tetro ★★★★★
- INSUTANTO Numa (Instant Swamp) ★★★★★½
- Alice in Wonderland ★★★★★¾
- The Saga of Gösta Berling ★★★★★½
- Häxan: Witchcraft Through the Ages ★★★★★½
- Trois Couleurs Trilogy ★★★★★
- La Nana (The Maid) ★★★★★½
- Pi ★★★★★½
- Europa ★★★★★

- Tropical Malady ★★½☆☆
- Faust ★★★★★¼
- Steamboat Bill, Jr. ★★★★★¾
- Afterschool ★☆☆☆☆
- URUTORA MIRAKURU RABU SUTORI (The Bare Essence of Life) ★★★★★½
- Shi Yue Wei Cheng (Bodyguards and Assassins) ★★★★★¼
- Confucius ★★☆☆☆
- Kuuki Ningyou (Air Doll) ★★★★★
- Ai no Mukidashi (Love Exposure) ★★★★★
- KIRA- VA-JIN RO-DO (Killer Virgin Road) ★★★★★

in theaters

- April
- Kick-Ass (16th)
 - The Secret in their Eyes
 - Exit Through the Gift Shop
 - The Good, the Bad, the Weird (23rd)
 - Please Give (30th)
 - I Love You Phillip Morris
 - Nightmare on Elm Street
 - Good Heart

- May
- Iron Man 2 (7th)
 - Robin Hood (14th)
 - Shrek Forever After (21st)
 - MacGruber
 - Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time (28th)
- June
- Splice (4th)
 - Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work (11th)
 - Toy Story 3 (18th)

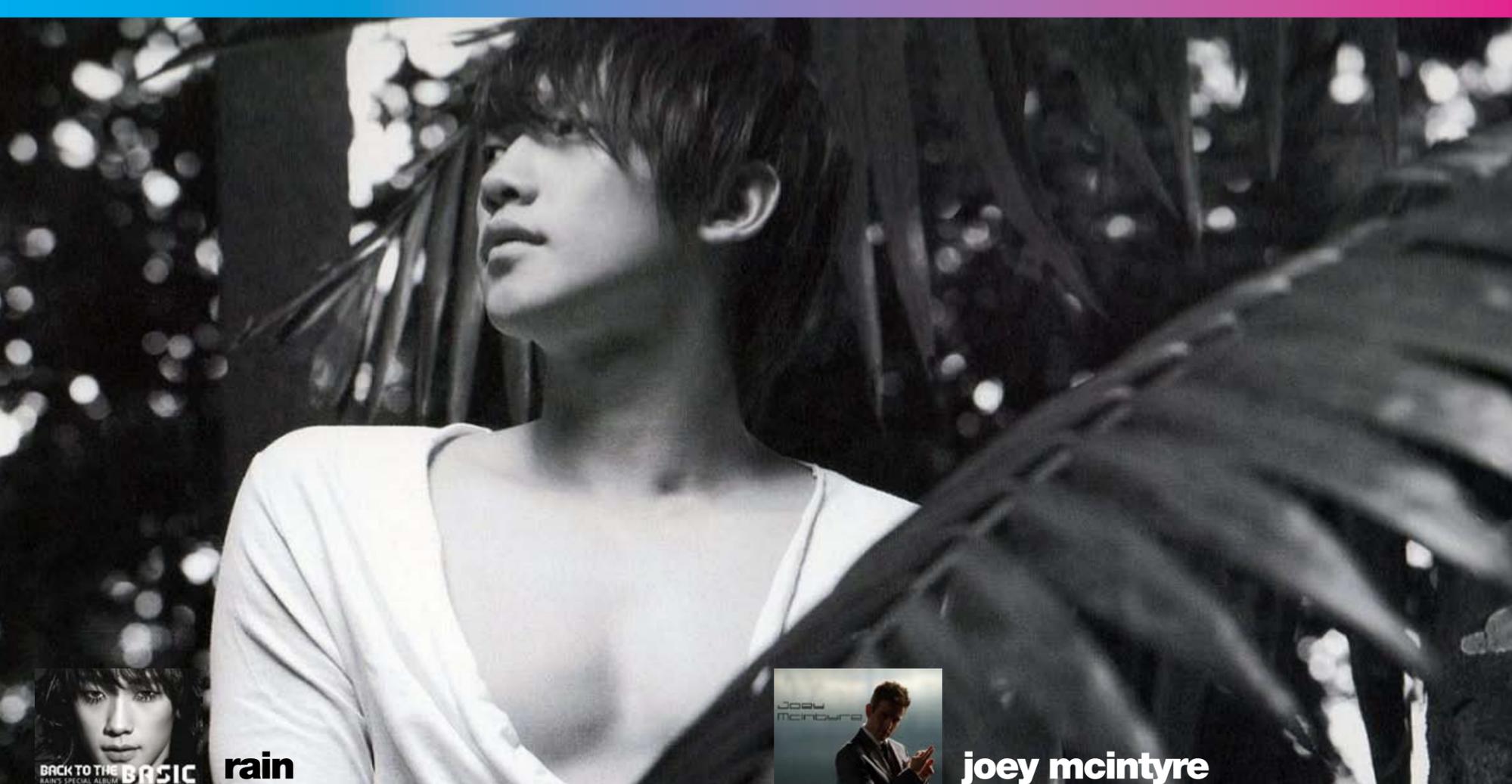
- April
- Apollo 13 (13th) [Blu-Ray]
 - The Great Mouse Detective [DVD][Blu-Ray]
 - A Nightmare on Elm Street [Blu-Ray]
 - Pirate Radio [DVD][Blu-Ray]
 - Crazy Heart (20th) [DVD][Blu-Ray]
 - Summer Hours Criterion [DVD][Blu-Ray]

- The Young Victoria [DVD][Blu-Ray]
- The Lovely Bones [DVD][Blu-Ray]
- Avatar (22nd) [DVD][Two-Disc Blu-Ray]
- It's Complicated (27th) [DVD][Blu-Ray]
- The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus [DVD][Blu-Ray]

- May
- Saving Private Ryan (4th) [Blu-Ray]
 - Nine [DVD][Blu-Ray]
 - Doctor Zhivago [Blu-Ray]
 - Daria: The Complete Animated Series (11th) [DVD]
 - The Messenger (18th) [DVD][Blu-Ray]

- The Road (25th) [DVD][Blu-Ray]
- True Blood - Season 2 [DVD]
- Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog [Blu-Ray]

on dvd/blu-ray



rain



joey mcintyre



kara



tété

Back to the Basic (April 8th 2010)

The sexy megastar is back on the Korean music scene with a minialbum that it's neither here nor there, but this is Rain so it is all good as long as he flashes his abs.

But seriously, this is really good. Add to it that the best songs in the album are produced and written by Rain himself (Love Song and Hip Song) – he is so simple minded, I love it. It kind of adds something extra to the minialbum.

The sound is more R&B, the mood a bit more mature, the voice is all sultry. Yes, Rain, I am ready to throw my panties at you just by listening to your minialbum.

However, Rain should really not sing in English, he should just stick to singing in Korean (bad pun is bad). - julili

★★★★☆

Here We Go Again (November 17th, 2009)

I always thought that McIntyre's acoustic soft pop rock was pretty good, Meet Joe Mac being one of my favorite albums of his. So when I tell you I was surprised to listen to this autotuned version of McIntyre, it's because I wasn't expecting such a synthesized album.

It is truly sad to see a nearly 40-year-old guy trying to sound like a 20-something idol, with somewhat catchy tunes but truly

uninspiring lyrics. But maybe those lyrics do explain it better with "*Back in the headlines/ in the papers/hanging on/he's such a loser/ when is that kid/ever gonna grow up/no I don't/wanna grow up*"

I wonder if Joe Mac is trying to be ironic. Should I give him the benefit of doubt? - amy

★★★☆☆

Lupin (February 17th 2010)

It seems that every girl-group in Korea is doing comebacks with a seemly "darker" concept. The otherwise very sweet Kara turn into thieves, ready to steal your heart and perhaps your wallet.

The minialbum's style and sound are not consistent, but Lupin as a whole is not a bad piece. This is a nice addition to the collection of die-hard fans.

I, for one, am a little confused. I think that when you do a "style" makeover, then you should stick through with the new style throughout the entire album. It's not that I don't like the bubbly kpop that Kara is very much known for, but are they a bit more "mature" as they show in Lupin, or are they still cute young women like they seem in Umbrella. I can only assume time will tell, but as minialbums go, this might just be one of the better ones Kara has released. - julili

★★☆☆☆

Le Premier Clair de l'Aube (February 22nd, 2010)

Tété is back 4 years after the release of the fantastic Le Sacre des Lemmings with Le Premier Clair [The First Rays of Dawn], which brings on the catchy funky chanson francophone.

Tété's voice is soothing, so he could get away with being all dramatic and emotional while singing French ballads. Instead, he brings the fun with fast-paced songs that will make the 37-minute album fly by.

Even though it's really a distinct album by many of today's musical standards, it doesn't hold anything against the masterful Lemmings, but that has little to do with the success of this one.

Highlights: Le Bal des Boulets, Maudit Blues, Les Temps Egares, Petite Chanson - amy

★★★★¾☆



Concert was held at Estadio Monumental's Esplanade, starting at 9pm according to the ticket. At 8:30pm, Peruvian band Adammo played for 30 minutes, only getting a few to actually give two shits for them. The FIFA World Cup was placed at the stage (barely noticeable) at roughly 9pm, as K'naan sang "Waving Flag," he actually got a pretty good reaction from the crowd, unlike the Peruvian band. After that we had to wait until 10:05pm for Beyoncé to finally enter the stage.

Crowd had all kinds of people, from single ladies to old people, families, jailbait, loads of gay people, etc. What really sucked here was that just about every jackass stood up in their chairs to witness the concert. A chair is to sit down, not to stand up on it. Really annoying thing, but I wasn't surprised to see that happening during the course of the event. Also, it seemed to me that barely anyone knew the lyrics to her songs, except for maybe "Irreplaceable." Granted that most of the people around me were girls and minors, but even Jonas Brothers fans knew the lyrics to "Burning Up." And it's sad for me to see that the JB's got a bigger reaction than MJ during the Single Ladies video. People these days~

Beyoncé entered with the "I Am..." instrumental intro, a "Deja Vu" tour skit and kicked off things with "Crazy in Love," wishing Jay-Z had appeared to introduce her. However, it was a very strong intro and for me, it was easily the best part of the show, including the sax solo and confetti

thrown near the end of the song, making her look like a very big deal. The other songs that got the strongest reaction along with the Intro segment would be "Irreplaceable" and obviously, "Single Ladies." The setlist was good for a Beyoncé concert and they made good use of the LCD screen. Highlighting a tribute to Michael Jackson, lots of wardrobe changes (lost count), the multiple front row greeting, and also a brief rendition of "You Oughta Know" by Alanis Morissette halfway through the concert. Her musicians are really great.

I'll admit I only knew very little of Beyoncé's stuff before the concert, except for her big hits – I only ended up here for mere chance. I did, however, hate "Check on It" and "Single Ladies" with a blind raging passion. Thankfully, the first song was kept short while the latter was overextended. This was my first time attending a pop concert. It was surprisingly really good, but it doesn't even come close to Metallica's concert from back in January. All the single ladies and her hardcore fans will disagree with me, though. - my85

★★★★½☆

one way

One Way Street EP
(March 4th 2010)



There is something about R&B and Hip Hop that is very good, which has been terrible absent in the kpop scene for a while.

Minialbums almost never manage to be good from beginning to end. When One Way released Magic, one could understand the trio was of a different caliber, but seeing as many of the minialbums I've listened to usually contain one very strong song alongside mediocre productions; I hardly had my hopes up.

I am glad that One Way proved me wrong. - julili

★★★★½



aleks syntek

Metodos de Placer Instantaneo
(November 24th, 2009)



Syntek is the quintessential geeky hipster that seems to be so in right now, but he's been basically that forever, so he's definitely not cashing in that image. He's always created fusions of Latin Synth Pop with catchy sing-along riffs and choruses. His voice and visuals are unique, and it immediately links anything remotely similar to him.

In Metodos [Methods of Instant Pleasure], Syntek delivers more of his catchy tunes and his ever present Latin-ess. Though different than the stuff in the market, still hardly surprises us. It sounds just like much of what Syntek has done in the past.

Highlights: Ese Mal Gusto - amy

★★★★¼☆

epik high

Epilogue (March 9th 2010)



Epik High are back with an album that lectures you, soothes you and perhaps helps you.

Before you ask, no, I do not know a word of Korean. I haven't either looked up the lyrics to this album. I don't need to though, I don't need to know a language to understand what a song is telling me. Epik High is after all that, a group that does songs that are meaningful and deep. There is no doubt that every song has something to say and I don't really need to fully grasp the language to get it, the music very much helps to get the message through.

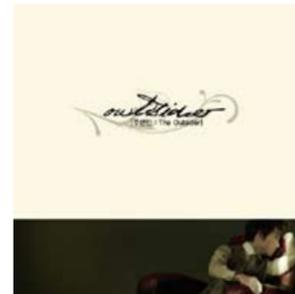
If you are an Epik High fan then, of course, you will love this album. If you never have given Epik High a chance, this album just might turn you into a fan.

Give it a listen, you might not regret it. - julili

★★★★★

outsider

Vol.2.5 The Outsider
(March 2nd 2010)



Speed is his forte and this minialbum is as fast as his lips. Outsider comes back after a long hiatus and he puts in some well deserved light onto the Korean rap scene.

I am no big fan of rap in the slightest, but I find myself nodding my head to the beat, amazed of how fast this man raps, Korean is not the easiest language to pronounce and he being able to do it so fast without missing a beat.

What's great about this is the overall feel. Outsider raps fast but he raps with feeling and has you agreeing to whatever he is rapping, even not knowing a word of Korean.

If you haven't really given Korean rap a chance, you might want to listen to it. It is relaxed yet with the force of the genre and the way Outsider raps makes you forget whatever other thing is going on in your head, finding yourself listening carefully to the words. - julili

★★★★☆

more albums

Akira Kosemura - Polaroid Piano ★★★★★

Akira Kosemura - Grassland ★★★★★¼☆

Los Campesinos! - Romance is Boring ★★★★★

Sade - Soldier of Love ★★★★★

Gorillaz - Plastic Beach ★★★★★¼☆

Camila - Dejate de Amar ★★½☆☆

Salyu - Maiden Voyage ★★★★★¾☆

S.H.E - SHERO ★★¾☆☆

SNSD - Run Devil Run ★¾☆☆☆

The White Stripes - Under Great White Northern Lights ★★★★★¾☆

Tokyo Jihen - Sports ★★★★★¾☆

Vital - Vital EP ★★★★★¼☆

Stomacher - Sentimental Education ★★☆☆☆

Lee Hyori - H-Logic ★★★★★¼☆

coming soon

April 20th
- Glee: The Power of Madonna
- Willie Nelson - Country Music
- Rufus Wainwright - All Days Are Nights: Songs For Lulu
- Kate Nash - My Best Friend Is You

May 11th
- Keane - Night Train

May 18th
- The Rolling Stones - Exile on Main St.
- Band of Horses - Infinite Arms
- Hammock - Chasing After Shadows... Living with the Ghosts

April 27th
- Melissa Etheridge - Fearless Love
- Hole - Nobody's Daughter
- The Futureheads - The Chaos

June 1st
- Jack Johnson - To the Sea

May 4th
- Court Yard Hounds - Court Yard Hounds
- Toni Braxton - Pulse
- Broken Social Scene - Forgiveness Rock Record
- Nikki Yanofsky - Nikki
- Diego Torres - Distinto
- New Pornographers - Together
- Willie Colon and Ruben Blades - Siembra

June 8th
- Dierks Bentley - Up on the Ridge
- Juan Luis Guerra - A Son de Guerra

June 15th
- Sarah McLachlan - The Laws of Illusion
- Fefe Dobson - Joy

desperate housewives - season 6

Sometimes good things must come to an end. They certainly should end before they go stale, and this is the case with Desperate Housewives. It probably should have ended when it had the five-year jump, but it didn't... and it has continued for two seasons more from an idea that has run its course. And that's the problem... people don't know when to stop!

In this 6th season, there's the new family moving into Wisteria Lane – the Bolens with their mystery. The gags are familiar, so are the jokes. It's not like it's bad, but it's certainly gotten old. I mean, how much longer are we supposed to endure Susan?

There have been a few things that surprised us, like Bree's affair... as well as Katherine's sexual exploring. Even Gabby's interactions with Juanita have been kind of funny with lines such as "We're like those people that sell oranges on the side of the road?"

But other than that... I just feel like I'm watching out of obligation until the season ends.

★★½☆☆



tv



perfect girl evolution

Also known as Yamato Nadeshiko Shichi Henge (ヤマトナデシコ七変化), it's a comedy lasting 10 episodes on Japan's TBS channel.

Based on the manga of the same name, it does not make sense at all. I guess that it doesn't have to since we have a bunch of pretty boys (aka ikemen), some kind of plot and some skin flashing.

In it, Johnny's Entertainment's finest, Kamenashi Kazuya leads in the role of Takano Kyohei, the pretty boy that is cursed because he is way too pretty. His amazing looks make him suffer seeing as he is judge by it, no one loves him for who he really is. Enter then Nakahara Sunako (Oomasa Aya) a "horror-girl" that hides behind black clothes and even blacker bangs seeing as a boy once called her ugly. She is unable to look at bright objects and people, this becomes an issue when she is forced to move into the pension that her aunt runs, since the brightest of men live there.

Her aunt wants Sunako to become a lady and she is forcing her 4 tenants, Kyohei, Toyama Yukinojo (Tegoshi Yuya), Oda Takenaga (Uchi Hiroki) and Morii Ranmaru (Miyao Shuntaro) to do the job.

Here is the deal. I am completely biased towards this drama because I think that Kamenashi is hot as hell and a great actor. I also find Hiroki fine as hell, perhaps not as great as

an actor but fine indeed. I was not watching this drama for the amazing plot nor the acting skills. I was watching this drama for the peen.

The very hot peen.

But, if you like mangas and don't mind seeing live versions, then this drama works. They follow the original manga very well and it is fun to watch just for that. The story line is very surreal and awkward from time to time. You kind of want to smack Sunako around for being so, well, so Sunako. You might like it, you might not. If you do, shout me out so that we can spazz JE boys! - julili

★★★½☆☆



united states of tara - season 2

Showtime's favorite D.I.D (Dissociative Identity Disorder) patient is back with family and all extra personalities intact, though Buck (Tara's male alter) is the only one that has made an appearance so far.

This season Tara promises to bring loads of problems for our entertainment. It's funny, but it seems the show is turning even gay-friendlier than ever, as it has began not only tackling Buck's relationship with the town's barmaid Pammy (Joey Lauren Adams), but also exploring Tara's son Marshall's sexuality with the inclusion of Lionel – the flamboyant gay – and Courtney, the friend of the gays but also mildly interested in Marshall.

Joining the other alters will also be a new alter called Shoshana... the hippie therapist helping Tara with her other alters. Now, I wonder if T (the teenage alter), Alice (the stepford wife alter) and Gimme (the animalistic alter) will have major storylines, like the one Buck seems to be having. I mean, from all the alters Buck is my favorite one, and the one who seems to be getting the most character development at the moment.

Looking forward to more of that.

house m.d. - season 6

The 6th season of House M.D started out with a bang with a two-hour special of House in the psychiatry ward with a bunch of crazy people, but House was still a jerk, so it was a lot of fun. He even got to get it on with Lydia (Franka Potente). All in all, the first episode looked like a really stylish episode, or that's how the show would look like if it gets a movie deal. However, it was a bummer that scattered episodes looked like they ran out of the budget to make the season opener look good.

Also, I must address this. When are they changing the opening titles? I thought the exit of Morrison as a cast member would warrant a new one.

During the course of the still on-going season, House has been nicer than he has ever been, making me wonder if the show should make plans to end this season or next to counter the risk of going stale. After all, even though we are in favor of character development and catharsis, NiceHouse is not as fun to watch as JerkHouse.

The writers have also been trying to develop the rest of the characters, but it's really amazing that they have failed to deal with Foreman... even when they're trying to make him do something nice, he sounds like an idiot. Unlike him, they made pretty exceptional work with Chase, especially during the episode The Tyrant.

Some of the best of the season have been episode The Down Low, the sociopath on Remorse, and Morrison's last episode on the show, Lockdown.

★★★¼☆



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