

# yam

yetanothermagazine filmtvmusic

aug2010

## lima film festival 2010 highlights

blockbuster season  
from around the world

in this yam we review //  
**aftershocks, inception, toy story 3,**  
**the ghost writer, taeyang, se7en,**  
**boa, shinee, bibi zhou, jing chang,**  
**the derek trucks band, time of eve**  
**and more //**

# yam exclusive

interview with  
songwriter diane  
warren

We keep working on that, but there's so much territory to cover, and so very little of us. This is why we need **yam** contributors. We know our readers are primarily located in the US, but I'm hoping to get people from other countries to review their local releases. The more the merrier, people.

Yup, we're grovelling for contributors. I'm particularly interested in someone who is located in New York, since we've received a couple of screening invites, but we got no one there. Interested? Hit me up.

You know the address:  
amy@amy-wong.com

amywong //

p.s.: I actually spoke to Diane Warren. She's like the soundtrack of our lives, to anyone of my generation anyway. Check it out.

We're trying to get more variety in **yam**, trying to mix music in different languages – even though it still is predominantly Asian – and reviews from new film releases from around the world – which are still predominantly American.

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# toy story 3

Toy Story 3 brings back our favorite toys — including Woody and Buzz — as they face their existential crisis... what are toys when they don't play with them anymore? After all, their owner Andy is now heading off to college. It is obvious that he hasn't played with them for years, and their toys are trying anything, in order to get him to open the toys' chest in hopes of rekindling their childhood friendship.

As Andy begins packing, he seems to be unable to put his faithful Woody away in the attic, so he adds him to the "University" box, while putting the rest away in a black

bag heading for the attic. However, the bag is mistaken by Andy's mom as garbage, so she throws them away. The toys, misunderstanding this accident as Andy wanting to throw them out like trash, decide to head off to the pile of donated toys for the children's daycare.

In there, they are welcomed by a Lots-o-Huggin' Bear, who shows them how wonderful the daycare is... not. Soon, Andy's toys will find out that little kids are not very suited to play with them. So now, they will have to plan their escape to return to Andy before he heads off to college.

What stands out about this is their inclusion of very tense moments, rivaling many action films, with a lot of humor

— oftentimes taking jabs at Ken, which is just... REALLY funny. And then there's that feeling of sadness that creeps in from time to time — which Pixar is mastering — because we know it's the end. And Toy Story 3 SHOULD be the end, the final installment of the franchise, there shouldn't be any made-for-tv sequels, nor attempts to make a tv series. This, as it stands, is the perfect cycle, and shouldn't be tampered with. This should be Pixar's trilogy legacy.

Best film of 2010 so far. Obvious Best Animated Film candidate at the Academy Awards.

★★★★☆



# the ghost writer

Directed by Roman Polanski -- you know, the one he did before all his melodrama -- based on the novel and script adaptation by Robert Harris, The Ghost Writer tells the story of a ghost writer (Ewan McGregor) - referred often as The Ghost - who gets hired by the former British Prime Minister Adam Lang (Pierce Brosnan) - following his wife Ruth's (Olivia Williams) advise - to help him write his memoirs, after the previously Ghost was found dead.

As The Ghost gets shipped to a secluded location for a month-period with a \$250K deal, he discovers things about the past that could jeopardize his life. "It's all in the beginnings" they said.

I'm not gonna say that the ending blew me away, but it felt so satisfactory for some reason, that I couldn't help but leave the theater eerily content. Perhaps it was the performances, which made me think I had seen a great film, because let me tell you - Olivia Williams should at least be nominated for Best Supporting Actress in the upcoming Award season.

The film is rather simple, you know what you're supposed to find out, and when you find it you know that there should be something else behind that. When you finally get there, you don't feel cheated or roll your eyes just because what was on screen. There's hints of drama, and hints of thriller... there's even hints of a mild action film, and some comedy.

It's just a very well-balanced film with really really great actors.

Once again, I need to see Williams getting really famous after this. Please.

★★★★☆



# aftershocks

When I think of IMAX... I think National Geographic under the sea films, Star Wars, and The Dark Knight. But let me tell you, Aftershocks is playing a complete different game. Aftershocks is a drama... it's a tear-jerking, heart-tugging drama. It depicts the story of a family that was forever affected by the 1976 7.8 magnitude in the city of Tangshan, which had a reported death toll of 240 000 people.

When I first heard about Aftershocks, not being familiar with Feng's style, I thought "Oh, China is making their big Hollywood Disaster Film on IMAX" a la 2010 and boy, was I wrong. Sure, the film counts with a luscious (and devastating) sequence that last several long minutes of the 7.8 magnitude earthquake... which felt like a mega-earthquake on screen. However, after that scene, which pretty much starts the film, it aptly turns into a drama telling the struggle of a mother that had to choose between her daughter and her son, and the hurt of a daughter that believes to have been abandoned.

The film lasts about 2hrs, and I was possibly in tears in the first few minutes as the earthquake struck, and the audience immediately feels connected to the mom and her kids. It instantly reminds me of writers telling me "You need something big so your reader believes the connection can happen," and for the viewers watching Aftershocks, this big event is the devastating earthquake. Then, when you thought the worse of the crying was done, a brand new wave came over you and you were at it again. I think I was bawling for a good 1.30hr of the film.

Oh how I wish this opened in America so there could be ANY nomination for actress Fan Xu – playing the mother –, though the whole cast was remarkable.

★★★★☆

pg6



# inception

Inception had been the most anticipated film of this Blockbuster season. I mean, we are talking about Christopher Nolan -- whom people are referring to as the new "insert name of any filmmaker" [Hitchcock/Kubrick] -- with his stellar cast that includes Oscar nominee Leonardo DiCaprio, Oscar nominee Ellen Page, Oscar nominee Ken Watanabe, Oscar Winner Marion Cotillard, Oscar Winner Michael Caine, as well as Golden Globes nominees Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Cillian Murphy. No doubt, Inception has a dream cast and crew.

In it, DiCaprio plays Cobb, a man on the run from the US system who happens to work on what is known as "subconscious exploration" which refers to entering your brain while on a dream-state to obtain information. Cobb is

hired by Saito (Watanabe) for an impossible task to secure the disintegration of the competition's company. For this to happen, Cobb must enter the mind of Robert Fischer Jr. (Murphy) and insert this idea, and make him believe it came from him. This is known as "Inception".

Cobb will be joined by his team that includes Arthur (Gordon-Levitt), and a young architecture student named Ariadne (Page).

Despite everything said about this movie, I thought it was pretty straight forward. Of course, repeat viewings of the film would be more than useful, but as a regular movie, Inception delivers as much thrill as any action flick released this season. The cinematography is breathtaking at times,

combined with special effects that drags you into the story.

The acting is more than solid, it's DiCaprio's most interesting role since his snubbed performance on Revolutionary Road, and I could easily see nominations for supporting acting for Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Marion Cotillard.

Of course, it doesn't hurt at all to have an interesting story as the base of this action thriller. Dreams are interesting, and leaves you enough space to mess around with people's minds without making them feel like you've cheated on the story. - amy

★★★★☆



# lima film festival

Lima became the capital city of Latin American cinema with the 14th edition of the festival.

The 14th edition of the Lima Film Festival started on August 6th, a cold Friday night. The camera crews from different media outlets were waiting for the festival's guests to arrive, though I was really more distracted with the lights. Shiny things get me that way. I arrived pretty early, even though I expected delays. However, to my surprise, people started arriving as soon as I got in.

Peruvian actress Delfina Paredes, who was being honored in this edition of the festival, was the first big guest to arrive, but instead of stopping by every outlet, she wooshed by the "red carpet" and entered the venue. Someone noticed, so she returned to talk to a few cameras, but that's it.

The festival counted with a selection of one hundred feature films, most of them new releases in the country. Plus, the competitions on the documentary and fiction categories, which featured many pieces from Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Cuba, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Uruguay, El Salvador, Paraguay, and even Sweden.

The Lima Film Fest week is certainly a busy one, and hard one to keep up with. Besides presenting films by Maria Novaro, Jacques Tati, or the Barreto family, they had showings of other Latin American films not in competition, as well as films from Valencia, and even special showings of some films shown at Cannes this year. There were workshops, and other activities – including open-air movie showings... those are held in the summer, guys! – in the end there's so much to do, so much to see and so little hours in your week. If it hadn't been for the press screenings, I might have missed the whole festival!

The closing night was held on August 14th, this time a cold Saturday night, with even bigger media outlets – spotting the cameras from ATV Noticias (local) and Televisa (Mexico) – tonight seemed like a bigger affair. Every film production seems like a winner. Argentina's Puzzle (Rompecabezas), Peru's Undertow (Contracorriente), and Cuba's Jose Marti film took home the Audience Award, while the International Critic Award was given to Peru's Paraiso, which also took home Best Debut Film. Best Actor and Actress were given to Pascual Loayza for Southern District (Zona Sur) from Bolivia, and Maria Onetto for Puzzle. Octubre – also from Peru – earned Best Screenplay, so it didn't leave empty-handed.



## noteworthy films not in competition



## noteworthy films in competition



## local films in competition







1minutefilmreview's ratings

amy's ratings

Inception ★★★★★½  
AKIRESU to Kame (Achilles and the Tortoise) ★★★★★½☆  
My Name is Khan ★★★★★☆  
Edge of Darkness ★★½☆☆  
Catch-22 ★★★★★☆  
Encounter at the End of the World ★★★★★☆  
The Holy Mountain ★★½☆☆  
The Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call - New Orleans ★★★★★☆  
Paranormal Activity ★★½☆☆  
Nayak ★★★★★☆  
Before The Devil Knows You're Dead ★½☆☆☆

The Wolfman ★★¼☆☆  
Hot Tub Time Machine ★★½☆☆  
The Runaways ★★★★★☆  
The Greatest ★★¼☆☆  
Green Zone ★★★★★☆  
San Suk Si Gin (Shinjuku Incident) ★★★★★¾☆  
Greenberg ★★¾☆☆  
Au Revoir Taipei ★★★★★½☆  
Cherrybomb ★★¼☆☆  
Splice ★★★★★½☆  
Knight & Day ★★★★★☆  
8: The Mormon Proposition ★★½☆☆

Nanny McPhee Returns ★★★★★¼☆  
La Yuma ★★★★★☆  
Navidad ★★¼☆☆  
Carancho ★★¾☆☆  
El Vuelco del Cangrejo (Crab Trap) ★★½☆☆  
Jose Marti: El Ojo del Canario ★★★★★☆  
La Casa Muda (The Silent House) ★★½☆☆  
The Karate Kid ★★½☆☆  
The A-Team ★★★★★☆  
Diary of a Wimpy Kid ★★¼☆☆  
The Art of the Steal ★★★★★¼☆

coming soon



in theaters

on dvd/blu-ray

August  
- The Switch (20th)  
- Nanny McPhee Returns  
- Mao's Last Dancer  
- Soul Kitchen  
- The Tillman Story  
- Going the Distance (27th)  
  
September  
- Machete (3rd)  
- I'm Still Here (10th)  
- Resident Evil: Afterlife  
- Never Let Me Go (17th)

- Easy A  
- The Town  
- Jack Goes Boating  
- Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps (24th)  
- Buried  
  
October  
- The Social Network (1st)  
- Let Me In  
- Nowhere Boy (8th)  
- Conviction (15th)

August  
- Dexter Season 4 (17th) [DVD][Blu-Ray]  
- The Good, the Bad, the Weird [DVD][Blu-Ray]  
- L'Enfance Nue (Criterion) [DVD]  
- El Premio [DVD]  
- Lost: The Complete Collection (24th) [DVD][Blu-Ray]  
- Ajami [DVD]

September  
- Glee Season 1 (14th) [DVD][Blu-Ray]  
- Robin Hood (21st) [DVD][Blu-Ray]  
- Modern Family Season 1 [DVD][Blu-Ray]  
- El Secreto de sus Ojos [DVD][Blu-Ray]  
- Iron Man 2 (28th) [Single DVD][2-Disc DVD] [Blu-Ray Combo]  
- The Thin Red Line

(Criterion)  
[DVD][Blu-Ray]  
- The Killer Inside Me [DVD][Blu-Ray]  
- Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky [DVD][Blu-Ray]  
  
October  
- Beauty and the Beast Diamond Edition (5th) [Single DVD][Blu-Ray]

Combo]  
- The Secret of Kells [Single DVD][Blu-Ray Combo]  
- Agora (9th) [DVD][Blu-Ray]  
- I Am Love (12th) [DVD][Blu-Ray]  
- How to Train your Dragon (15th) [Single DVD][2-Disc DVD] [Blu-Ray Combo]



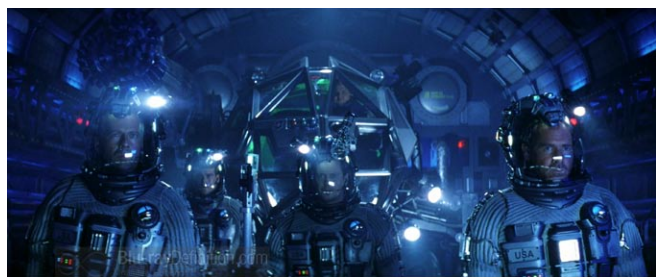
# exclusive interview with diane warren

Whenever I think about Diane Warren, the first five songs that immediately pop in my head are Aerosmith's *I Don't Want to Miss a Thing*, Aguilera's *I Turn to You* – though I recently found out it was an All-4-One song first – Toni Braxton's *Un-Break my Heart*, LeAnn Rimes or Trisha Yearwood's *How Do I Live*, and Celine Dion's *Because You Loved Me*.

Though, Warren's list of songs and hits are more than a couple of hundreds, including translations of her songs into Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Japanese. Warren's name may not be easily recognized, but her songs and sounds have been heard around the globe.

YAM managed to chat with Ms. Warren in honor of the release of Chinese singer Bibi Zhou's (Zhou Bichang) latest album i.Fish.Light.Mirror, which includes one of Warren's compositions, titled I Miss U Missing Me... which has also been translated into Mandarin as Yi Di Lei de Ju Li (A Tear in the Distance).

I have been preparing for this interview for the past two or three weeks, though I have been listening to her songs since I'm old enough to remember. After all, Warren's first charting hits began in '83 and '85... and I was born in '86. She especially marked a big chunk of my teenage years with songs like Can't Fight the Moonlight, Please Remember, or But I Do Love You, all performed by LeAnn Rimes for the Coyote Ugly Soundtrack. Warren wrote songs for pretty much all the boy bands I grew up listening to, like 98 Degrees, Westlife, BackStreet Boys, and Nsync, these guys even performed Music of my Heart at the Academy Awards with Latin sensation Gloria Estefan. And talking about Latin music, Warren has also written songs for Ricky Martin, Jon Secada... and her Spanish translations have been performed by the likes of Yuri, Luis Miguel and Chayanne. Please, Ms. Warren is just a global songwriter!



Let's start with a pressing curiosity. I was at a Karaoke bar the other day, and when I Don't Want to Miss a Thing started playing, everyone sang it out loud. What makes this song special that everyone knows it by heart and wants to sing it at the top of their lungs?  
I just think it's one of those songs, one of those melodies that anybody can sing. It kind of makes you feel good. That was in Peru, right?

Yeah.  
It just goes to show you that a melody goes around the world. It's got the right melody, the right words... it's just a world's song. It's such a great example of that, it just stands on its own.

What was the thought behind I Don't Want to Miss a Thing?  
I was thinking about loving someone so much, that you even miss them in your sleep. It's not how I would feel about anybody, but there's people that have that kind of love. You just can't wait to see them. It's just a very cool idea.

We just got really interested in contacting you when we read about your recent composition for Chinese singer Bibi Zhou.  
How do you know a Chinese vocalist in Peru?

I'm a Chinese descendant, so I look for a lot of entertainment information online. In fact, our job in YAM is to talk about all of entertainment from around the world. So when we learned of your collaboration, I lost it.  
She's a good singer, huh?

She is one of the best vocalists.  
Yeah, I thought she was great.

How did that come about?  
That was actually Julie in my office, she's the one that



sent her the song. She does a lot of the European and Asian deals, and she told me about her, so I checked her out. I thought Bibi was great when she did the song. It's always nice when they record your songs from different countries. It's kind of the same thing with I Don't Want to Miss a Thing in a Karaoke bar in Peru. It's worldwide.

Is this your first direct collaboration with an Asian artist? I mean, I know that your songs have also been translated to Japanese and other languages.  
No, I've done other stuff with other Asian artists. I don't normally write songs for people. I wrote it, and then turned out to be a great song for her. She made it her own, and became her song, you know what I mean?

Have you heard the Mandarin translation?  
I haven't heard that yet. Is it beautiful?

Yes, it sounds great. It was translated into A Tear in the Distance.  
Oh, wow. Yeah, it's not going to mean exactly what it means in English, which is fine. Is Bibi a big artist out there?

Yeah, she was actually the runner-up on a pop idol singing contest.  
Oh, wow. Is it like American Idol?

Yeah, but it's only for girls. It's called Super Girl. Super Girl, I like that.

In fact, Bibi just had a sold-out concert recently. Really? Wow, there's so many people in China. Concerts do really well, right?

They're actually getting bigger.  
So now you got that on TV, like Idol and stuff.





**Yeah, and now with the Internet. Everyone is uploading everything. You can find anything from around the world.**  
Yes, it's crazy.

**For instance, I saw an interview you gave to the Eurovision Song Contest in Moscow last year, where you talked about the inspiration behind Celine's Because You Loved Me, about the support your father gave you to become what you are now.**  
It was a chance to thank my dad for believing in me.

**We all want to become writers or songwriters at one point in our teenage years, but when and how did you know you wanted to do this for real?**  
I just knew that was what I wanted to do, you know? And I started doing it, I was a kid making up songs in the guitar. You know, I just loved it. It was an escape, it was fun.

**How does the business part come into all of this?**  
It's a business, it's hard work. It's like in anything. First of all, you have to be great, and you have to work hard... you have to knock on doors. You have to be persistent, and resilient, and you have to just do it. Anything that is competitive is going to take a lot of work.

**How did you get to work?**  
I went to see music publishers, eventually I got fine and I did a song called Rhythm of the Night.

**Oh, yeah - the song you mentioned in the Eurovision interview, where you talked about the guy from Russia who knew no English, but knew the songs.**  
Yeah, that was like 20 years ago. The translator asked me what songs I had written, so I sang a part of the song, and the Russian kid went "Ah, DeBarge - Rhythm of the Night" - That was so cool. There's this thing like I've said before -

**Like music is a language.**  
Yeah, it is. Music is an international language, no doubt. You know, a lot of my songs do well all over the world, which I love because it's not just for America, I want my songs to be heard everywhere.

**YAM Magazine ran an article about international artists crossing over to the American music market with songs in English, in which we wondered why they even needed English, when the music was**

**already great.**  
But it does help to speak English here.

**Why do you think that is?**  
Because it's the language here, otherwise no one would understand it. Every now and then something that isn't in English -

**Like the Macarena.**  
Yeah, exactly. Even Livin' La Vida Loca was in English. It just, it makes sense.

**Well, we're in the year 2010, everyone's listening to music online, and everyone is exposed to all types of music from everywhere in the world where there's an Internet connection. Where do you think the future of music is heading?**  
I think the future of music is heading where good music is still gonna have to be great, no matter whether you get it on the Internet, on your watch, or on your shoe, or if it comes out from the microwave. The music people are gonna want will still be quality music. I mean, anyone can put anything up online, but how are you gonna get people to buy it, and get people to pay attention to it, you know? You have to have hit songs, you're gonna have to have music people want.

**Have you heard about other Asian artists besides Bibi?**  
No, I haven't done much research, but I do know a lot of people sing my songs. You know when someone does a song, or someone wants me to hear about this artist, that's when I check artists out.

**I know you've done music for Sandy & Junior, and RBD.**  
Yeah, I've done stuff for so many people, it's hard to keep track.

**You've also wrote songs for Ricky Martin... Gloria Estefan, Jon Secada. You're actually pretty big. You talk to people, and they know your songs, even though they don't really recognize your name.**  
Yeah, that's nice. I like that.

**So you're very famous, in a very-**  
in a very un-famous way. It's nice, I don't mind that.

**Yeah, kind of like voice actors.**  
Oh, yeah. When they know your voice. They don't always recognize you, I mean, some people recognize



me, but they recognize my music more than me.

**Yeah, but you still are the inspiration to tons of aspiring songwriters who grew up listening to you, do you have any words of encouragement for them?**  
Just keep doing it, keep writing songs, just... keep working. I kind of work every day, you know? It's all about the work, working hard, and doing great work.

**You've also been nominated for Academy Awards, Golden Globes, Grammy awards, how does the process for writing a song for a movie work?**  
It's the same, it's still about writing great songs.

**How do you keep pushing yourself, how do you keep your passion alive?**  
It's just there, it's what I do. It's what I live for. That's what I love to do, I love to write songs. I'm actually in the middle of writing a song right now, the passion's there.

**I read somewhere that you were diagnosed tone-deaf?**  
Oh, a guitar teacher said that when I was ten. That's not true, I'm not tone-deaf.

**Well, that's a mean teacher.**  
That's a stupid teacher. It was a guitar teacher that I went to one time. I just didn't want to learn the scales, and he told me that I was tone-deaf.

**One last question, and I'll leave you to your creativity, are you working on something else besides your project Due Voci with Kelly Levesque and Tyler Hamilton?**  
Oh, yeah. I just did a great new song for Cher's new movie Burlesque.

**Oh the movie looks great, right?**  
Yeah, looks great. I also wrote a song for Akon's new album, and a bunch of others. I'm working with

Jennifer Hudson, and Keisha Cole... and some great new artists. That's just at the top of my head.

**Well, now I'm really looking forward to Burlesque.**  
Oh, wait 'til you hear my song. It's great. One of my best songs.

**Well, Ms. Warren, I just want to thank you for taking time from your busy schedule.**  
Just call me Diane. Thank you very much, bye and stay warm.





the derek trucks band

Roadsongs (June 21st, 2010)

The Derek Trucks Band's two-disc live album counts with 14 tracks of old school American rock n' roll and blues. Even though Trucks' guitar may not be as recognizable as Santana's is around the world, Roadsongs makes for a compelling performance that actually gets better with repeat listens. And that's the thing about American rock n' roll, it isn't as hip as British rock n' roll, and it isn't commercial as pop punk, punk rock or pop rock.

Roadsongs doesn't rely on catchy melodies, quoteable verses, or an image. Members of the DTB could be wearing a shirt or a t-shirt, long hair or short... it doesn't matter, they still get together to jam. Perfect to listen on a warm afternoon in your screened porch.

Highlights? Down in the Flood, Sailing On, Days is Almost Gone, Key to the Highway - amy

★★★1/4☆



se7en

Digital Bounce (July 21, 2010)

After an absence of four years, which he spent States-side doing little to nothing, Rain's so called "rival" comes back to Korea because I guess he needed the cash?

Here is the deal, I have really never gotten into Se7en. He was in America doing a single with Lil' Kim, and that was about it. I really never got his appeal, so I was looking forward to this album, to see what the fuzz is all about.

Digital Bounce sounds like they gave Se7en the tracks that didn't cut it in G-Dragon's

and Taeyang's albums... or it might be that they had little time to work on them? Whatever it is, it fails to impress the ones who can't see Se7en's appeal. Sure the main single is a bit of an earworm and... yeah, I think that's about it. - julili

★★1/2☆☆



shinee

Lucifer (July 19, 2010)

Taking another step to evolve into men, SHINee release their second studio album. Darker, manlier and completely different from what you hear in Kpop right now.

I have listened to the this album everyday since its release. It would be easy for me to say that this is a great album, but I am too much of a SHINee fan – so yeah, I am biased as hell. But there is some truth in the fact that SHINee is a contemporary

boyband. Where others have been misusing the autotune, SHINee let their voices shine – bad pun, sorry. There is no denying that these boys can sing. They may not be the best, but for the songs they do, they do it good. This album is a bit more edgy, a bit more 80's, it has some funny melodies and a kick ass electric guitar solo. It is good, not their best, but really good. - julili

★★★★☆☆



taeyang

Solar (July 1, 2010)

Now the spotlight lies on YG's Taeyang, his anticipated first solo abum is a r&b production with the sound Taeyang is very much known for... a sound that has gotten a little bit boring, if you ask me.

This album is so mainstream r&b that it becomes a bit boring. Not that there is no denying that taeyang is a great performer, but to us nothing will ever beat his first single "Just Look at Me".

★★★★☆☆

Solar is okay, I guess. It has the beats and the melodies that are easy to listen to, but at the end of the day I am a bit tired of the same Taeyang with the same haircut, same moves and same songs. Sure, there are not many artists like him in the Korean music scene, and he is the only one so far that has shown that he can do good r&b in Korean. Yet, it is time to show something new, Youngbae! - julili

★★★★☆☆





macy gray

The Sellout  
(June 22nd, 2010)

After the success of I Try, it seems that Macy Gray had only moderate success, even if she had it all going for her. Recognizable voice, eccentricity, and talent, yet she faded into a known obscurity. In The Sellout – is she coming back to commercial music? – she collaborates with the likes of Velvet Revolver for a really catchy beat-driven Kissed It.

Best: The Sellout, Kissed It, Beauty in the World, Stalker - amy

★★★¾☆

jing chang

The Opposite Me  
(July 9th, 2010)

In Jing Chang's – Zhang Yunjing – second album, she takes on the composer's hat, and an edgier look. Playing with the concept of "opposites," we see Jing Chang sporting two very different images, and both look like more-than-apt pop stars.

The first two singles, Broken and The Opposite Me – which she wrote – open the album with a more pop rock vibe, which is much more common in the Chinese music scene than anywhere in dance-pop Asia, and we would love her to explore it more. Instead, she softens the themes and begins talking about love. Sure, songs like The One (Ni Shi Wei Yi) have beautiful string arrangements for a catchy pop song, as well as rhythmic slow jams with a simple but beautiful piano on Quit Loving You, while songs like Mending have a nice touch for a closing album concept, but opportunity missed, I guess.

Best tracks? Broken, and The Opposite Me - amy

★★★½☆

eminem

Recovery  
(June 18th, 2010)

One wonders if Eminem purposely released Relapse to be able to release this. In Recovery, he seems sharper, even if it isn't par with some of his previous work – in here, he apologizes a lot, which seems like a whole new different Eminem altogether – but he also seems more serious, more willing to take a shot at himself than other celebrities.

Recovery also counts with more radio-friendly collaborations like Won't Back Down with Pink, and Love the Way You Lie with Rihanna. Even the first single, I'm Not Afraid seems like the hymn for those who've lost their way.

He really should stay away from collaborating with Lil' Wayne, though.

★★★¼☆

bibi zhou

i.Fish.Light.Mirror  
(June 18th, 2010)

In i.Fish.Light.Mirror – what a peculiar title – Bibi starts the album with power ballad songwriting queen, Diane Warren in I Miss U Missing Me, which allows Bibi to dust off those singing chops. However, if you thought the album was gonna keep that path, you'll be surprised with Bibi's ditching the geeky glasses for a more eclectic look. In Canned Fish (Yu Guan Tou) and One-way Mirror (Chan Mian Jing), she sounds more electro slow jam Faye Wong, than Bibi, which could potentially keep her away from being a mere dance pop idol – which she isn't, and showcase that vocal ability goes beyond genres.

The album seems to take us through different music eras, with songs that sound a bit 70s, a bit 90s pop rock and electronic ballas of the early 2000s. Despite the variety of genres, it's hard to see something that makes it work as a whole. Bibi is talented, but the album lacks direction.

Best? I Miss U Missing Me, Canned Fish, Love & Life- amy

★★★☆☆



boa

Hurricane Venus  
(August 5th, 2010)

The princess of Kpop returns to celebrate her 10th anniversary as an entertainer, after a six-year absence in the Korean music scene.

This album is different to what she's come up with before, a lot of electro pop songs mixed with some ballads and then a very jazzy song at the end. If the album begins with the frivolity of Game, it rounds up with the soothing Romance.

Hurricane Venus seems like a good balance of the overly-autotuned production that has been plaguing the Kpop music scene, with a bit of what old school Kpop used to be with songs like Ordinary Day. However, the production is brought down with tracks like Implode and Stand By.

★★★☆☆

more albums

Kylie Minogue - Aphrodite	★★☆☆☆
Usher - Raymond v. Raymond	★★½☆☆
Han Geng - Geng's Heart	★½☆☆☆
Drake - Thank Me Later	★★¾☆☆
Arcade Fire - The Suburbs	★★★★☆
Dirty Projectors and Björk - Mount Wittenberg Orca	★★★★☆
Regina - Puutarhatrilogia	★★★★¼☆
Seo Taiji - The Mobius	★★★¼☆☆
Leehom Wang - 18 Martial Arts	★★★★☆
Julieta Venegas - Otra Cosa	★★★¾☆
Ólafur Arnalds - ...And They Have Escaped the Weight of Darkness	★★★★½☆
Enrique Iglesias - Euphoria	★☆☆☆☆
Scissor Sisters - Night Work	★★★★☆
Sia - We Are Born	★★★★½☆
Sarah McLachlan - Laws of Illusion	★★★★¼☆
Juan Luis Guerra - A Son de Guerra	★★★★☆☆
Jewel - Sweet and Wild	★★★★☆☆

nick chou

First Album  
(July 16th, 2010)

Nick Chou's debut album is a much needed infusion of fresh air in the Mando dance pop world. Of course, the album was mastered by Tom Coyne, who mastered albums of the likes of Pink's Funhouse, Beyonce's I Am Sasha Fierce... and even Justin Bieber's My World 2.0.

Sure, Chou's forte won't be the vocals, instead the album relies heavily on the beats and hooks, which it delivers. Mandarin commercial pop hasn't gotten a good a release as this one. Maybe that's how the rumor of Korea wanting to nab him to be part of Super Junior came from?

Best tracks: Fu Xin Han, Shi Ming Bi Da.

- amy

★★★¼☆

coming soon

August 24th	- Michelle Branch - Everything Comes and Goes
- Katy Perry - Teenage Dream	- Luis Miguel - Luis Miguel
- Fantasia - Back to Me	- Chromeo - Business Casual
- Ra Ra Riot - The Orchard	
- Ricardo Arjona - Poquita Ropa	September 21st
- Eels - Tomorrow Morning	- Maroon 5 - Hands All Over
- Margaret Cho - Cho Dependent	
August 31st	September 28th
- Goo Goo Dolls - Something for the Rest of Us	- Kenny Chesney - Hemingway's Whiskey
- Klaxons - Surfing the Void	- Jimmy Eat World - Invented
- Sting - Symphoncity	- T.I. - King Uncaged
- Ruben Blades - Maestra Vida	- Mark Ronson - Record Collection
September 7th	October 5th
- Sara Bareilles - Kaleidoscope	- KT Tunstall - Tiger Suit
- Robyn - Body Talk Pt 2	- Ciara - Basic Instinct
- Thermals - Personal Life	- Ne-Yo - Libra Scale
September 14th	October
- Robert Plant - Band of Joy	- Kings of Leon - Come Around Sundown
- Brandon Flowers - Flamingo	- Taylor Swift - Speak Now
- Linkin Park - A Thousand Suns	
- Weezer - Hurley	





## bad guy

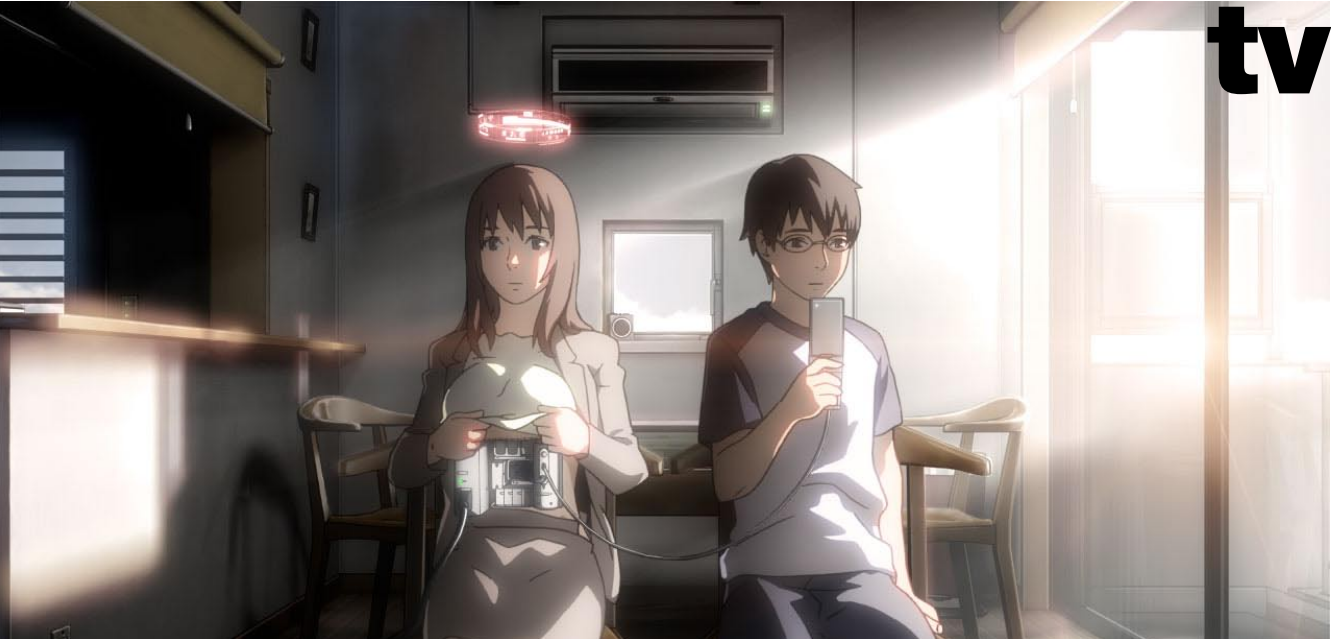
Otherwise known as Nappeun Namja Bad Guy or Bad Man, it tells the story of Shim Gun Wook (Nam-girl Kim), who is plotting the revenge against the Haeshin Group, a large corporation to whom Hong Tae Sung (Jae-wook Kim) is the heir.

To say that I was obsessed by this drama is understating it. Here we are presented with the same plot we see in most dramas, rich family, poor boy, revenge, a girl seeking to come up on the social ladder, love, deception, tears. Loads of tears. This time around, though, the ones crying where the male leads and what is wrong with seeing a beautiful man cry?

In it, Shim Gun Wook, the man with many names but without an identity, seeks revenge from the Hong family after they had taken everything away from him.

This drama has it all, the hot lead men, the beautiful lead women, good clothes, fast cars, trips to other countries, passionate dialogue, amazing photography. Yes, it was perfect. Until the very end when they had to go with the typical plot twist you see in many dramas. I shall not spoil it but I suggest you watch it if you want to see a telenovela just much more better done. - julili

★★★¾☆



## time of eve

Otherwise known as IVU no Jikan (Eve no Jikan), this tells the story of the fictional future of Japan, in which human-looking robots with top-notch artificial intelligence will be common place. Because of this, an Ethics Committee has been establish to make the distinctions between humans and robots more noticeable. Robots follow the three laws of robotics, and when they break them, robots must be disposed of.

In futuristic Japan, we meet Rikuo, a geeky high school student who finds out that his family's robot – nicknamed Sammy – has visited a place that has not been instructed to visit. When Rikuo and his friend Masakazu go to find out what that place is, they discover a café called Time of Eve, in which the number one rule is to have humans and robots interact without distinction.

The series of six-15-minute episodes is obviously short, but it accomplishes what 2-hour films can't sometimes, it introduces you to characters that you will care for, and by the last episode, you will feel like the series should be longer.

Time of Eve presents this futuristic Japan in which robots are segregated just because they're robots. Society must make it clear when someone isn't human, and robots must always work for their masters. This obviously brought back memories of The Animatrix's The Second Renaissance shorts, in which robots begin fighting for their rights to end human oppression, but in it we don't feel emotionally attached to them. In Time of Eve, however, we get to meet them as "parts of families" or as foster parents, even as lovers. It's just impossible to not be moved by Rikuo's friend Masakazu's ultimate realization.

★★★★☆



by Yu Aoi

Pop-up book

★★★¼☆

Presented in a Yu-Aoi-faced hardcover book of 6 pop-up art pieces, Uso. (うそ), or Lie. is just a simple pop-up book that highlights the team behind the project, instead of the idol. With art direction by Hirano Atsushi (平野篤史), styling by Yoko Omori (大森 ゃう子), hair & makeup by Eri Akamatsu (赤松 絵利), and photographs by Osamu Yokonami, Uso. plays on the theme of lies, which seems to be a fixation on Aoi's part – she also participated on Camouflage, also known as Yu Aoi x 4 Lies.

We're not entirely sure, but this could be the first time an idol has ever released a pop-up book, instead of a regular photobook, which is in itself highly ambitious. Add to that 3D-glasses exhibitions in Shibuya and Nagoya, and we're talking about another level. However, what Uso. lacks is going beyond the "this is cute" factor.

I really think the book needed a short story to keep it together, as it stands the art on the book is just very nice and elaborated pieces of pop-up pieces featuring Yu Aoi, which isn't to say that is bad. The idea behind this is original, the execution is great, the book is different, but it could have been an instant classic with some actual storytelling.



# yam website opening giveaway

## want to win a copy of uso. by yu aoi?

As previously announced, YAM will be opening a website by the end of the year, and to commemorate the event, we will be giving away a copy of Yu Aoi's pop-up book at a retail price of ¥3,990 (\$47 USD).

What do you have to do?

Just go through the YAM past issues [001-011] at [www.amy-wong.com/tag/yam](http://www.amy-wong.com/tag/yam), read our cover editorials, and give us some feedback on them. The best entry telling us how we can improve YAM articles and YAM content, will get the book sent straight to their doorstep.

Everyone can participate, except those who have written articles for previous issues of YAM and/or have been credited in the contribution page.

Just send your feedback to [amy\[at\]amy-wong.com](mailto:amy[at]amy-wong.com) until Novemeber 30th, 2010.



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