

# Rhythm & Reviews

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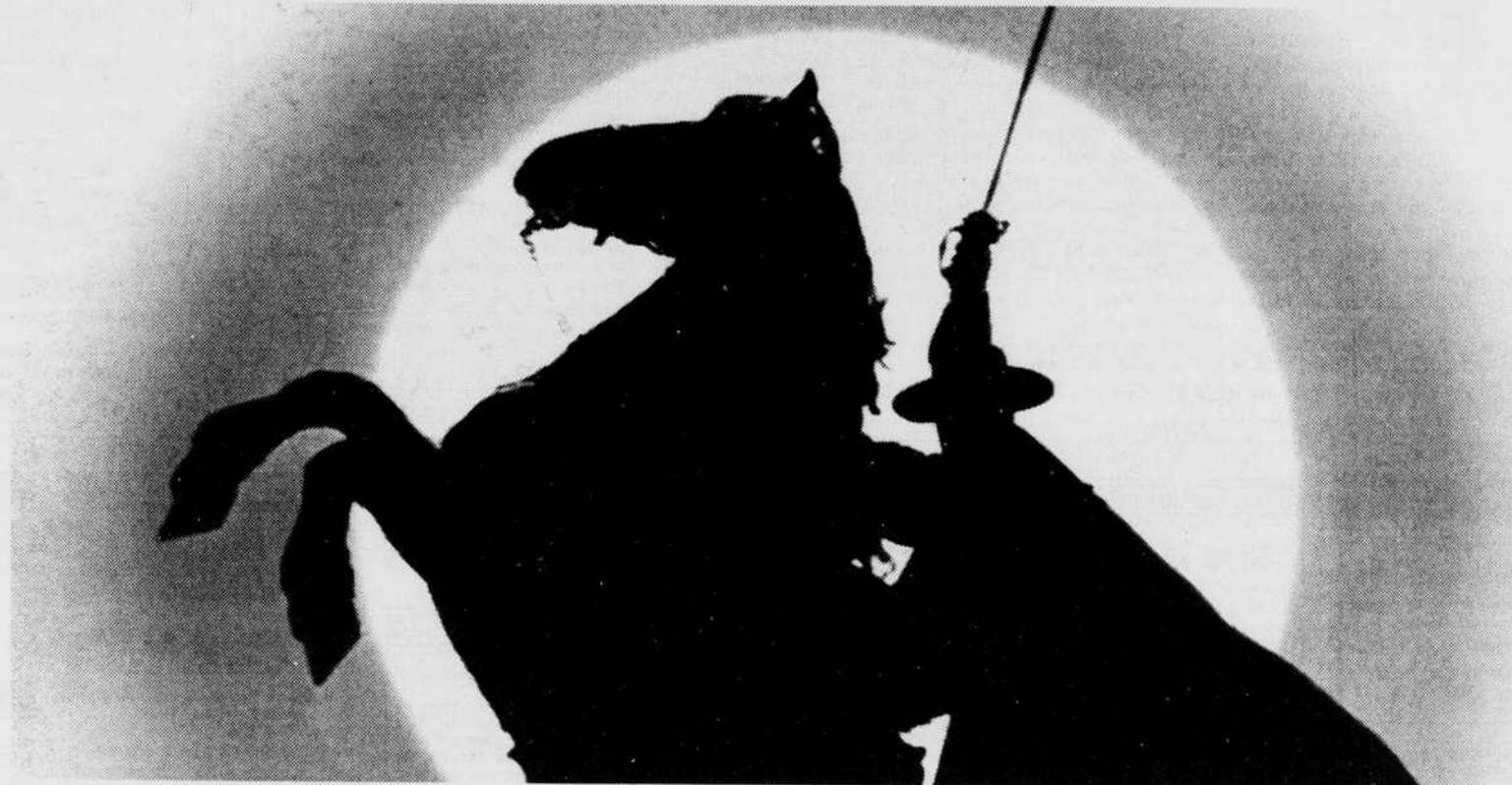
## WEEKEND SPOTLIGHT

■ The Tom Waters Band will bring rhythm and blues to the Hollywood Taxi tonight at 9:30 p.m. \$3 tickets can be had at Fred Meyer, the EMU, Face the Music, CD World, the Record Garden and the Taxi itself.

■ Sam Bond's Garage will host its Great Anniversary Show Friday at 9:30 p.m. The free show will celebrate the pub's third birthday and feature local talent Tim Hull, Honey Bucket, Ashleigh Flynn, Tim Heintz and others, and an award recognizing the "hardest working entertainer in our performance community" will be handed out.

■ The Committee In Solidarity with the Central American People (CIS-CAP) will hold a fund-raiser at the WOW Hall on Friday to benefit victims and refugees of the Dec. 22, 1997, Acteal massacre in Chiapas, Mexico, where 45 indigenous women, men and children were killed. **Nectar Way, The Habaneros and Sunubouti** will perform beginning at 8:30 p.m. Admission to the all ages show ranges from \$5 to \$10, depending on individuals' ability to donate.

■ Pele Juju will bring their own brand of funk-flavored Afrobeats spiced by jazz, reggae, zydeco and R&B to the WOW Hall on Saturday. **Flying Canoe** will open the 9:30 p.m. show and tickets are \$10 in advance, \$11 at the door.



# Unmasking Zorro

The masked crusader returns to the big screen this Friday in 'The Mask of Zorro'

By Rob Moseley  
Associate Editor

The film industry has been beset by heroes of all shapes and sizes in the past few years.

From bat-impersonators in tights to giant lizards to asteroid-riding oil drillers to an early 20th-century luxury liner, local movie screens have been flooded with protagonists who vanquish their foes and generally wreak mayhem on anything and everything that gets in their way.

So in essence, the premise behind "The Mask of Zorro" is nothing new, excepting the Latin flair and a black mask.

What makes this production so special, however, is the quality of the cast's performances and the realism of the action.

Don Diego de la Vega, played elegantly by Anthony Hopkins, is a wealthy Mexican nobleman living in California with his wife and baby girl, Elena. Although his legitimate pro-

fession is never addressed, when necessary de la Vega becomes Zorro, the Latin Robin Hood who aids the poor Mexican peasants against the powerful Spanish governor, Don Rafael Montero.

De la Vega is jailed by Rafael after witnessing his wife's murder and baby's kidnapping, both spurred on by Rafael's jealousy, only to escape 20 years later intent on avenging both atrocities.

Upon escape, de la Vega happens upon an intoxicated Alejandro Murieta, played by Antonio Banderas. Murieta, a common thief, has just witnessed his brother's death at the hands of Montero's American cohort, Captain Harrison Love, played by Matt Letscher.

Too old to foil Montero's new plan to buy California and subordinate its Mexican residents, de la Vega begins training Murieta as the next Zorro. Armed only with that training and a couple of swords, the Zorros past

and present set out to ruin Montero and Love and reclaim the mature Elena.

It's a story that's been told a thousand times — one of love and passion mixed with sword fights and explosions. But "Zorro" mixes all those elements exquisitely into a 136-minute production that never relents.

The on-screen energy between Banderas and the grown-up Elena, played by newcomer Catherine Zeta-Jones, is undeniable, as evidenced by their duels of both steel and skin.

And the Zorro characters' gymnastics and swordplay are deftly choreographed to create battles that manage to retain some amount of realism amongst all the big-budget production.

For those in seek of a good date movie, "The Mask of Zorro" can certainly fill that role. And for those who prefer a solid action-adventure, Banderas and company won't disappoint.

SUMMER  
MOVIES

## The Mask Of Zorro

Romantic Adventure  
Directed by Martin Campbell

■ STARRING:  
Anthony Hopkins, Antonio Banderas

■ RATED: R  
■ SCORE:

★★★★★

## Counting Crows put a new spin on old songs

By Michael Burnham  
Freelance Reporter

I recently picked up an old book that I read a few years back. Upon the first read, the book left a strong and lasting impression on me. The words, imagery and the way it made me feel were unique to the moment. Upon reading it for the second time, I enjoyed the book just as much. I found new meaning in the words. The book was the same, but the connection was different.

I felt the same way listening to the latest album released by Counting Crows: "Across a Wire — Live in New York."

The two-disc release, which hit stores Tuesday, rambles down two different roads using both acoustic and electric renditions of familiar songs off of the band's first two albums.

Both discs of "Across a Wire" were record-

ed before live audiences during the later months of 1997. The band is currently more than a month into recording its third studio album.

The first disc, dubbed "Intimately Acoustic," includes many of the conversational tracks from the band's first release, the 1993 "August and Everything After." Popular songs off the six-time platinum album such as "Mr. Jones" and "Ghost Train" intimately explore human emotion through lead vocalist Adam Duritz's lyrics.

"Round Here," which is perhaps the band's most popular and most overplayed song, stands out the most on this disc. The track winds through almost every season of human emotion in only five minutes through Duritz's confessional tone set to an acoustic background.

Another cut from "August" is "Anna Begins." This song is especially solid in the acoustic setting as Counting Crows gives new angst to its musical storytelling of the truths associated with letting go in a relationship. Similar to the version of "Anna Begins" on the Crows' first album, Duritz pours out enough emotion in his lyrics to make up for his lack of vocal range. But Duritz's almost translucent voice and the band's instrumental chemistry are precisely what bring the Crows critical acclaim.

Other tracks such as "Catapult" and "Have You Seen Me Lately" are lighter renditions than the seemingly alienated versions heard on "Recovering the Satellites," which went double-platinum in 1997.

CD REVIEW

Across a Wire - Live in New York  
Counting Crows

■ STYLE:  
Acoustic Rock  
■ RATING:

★★★★★

Turn to CROWS, Page 8