

Rhythm & Reviews

Friday, October 23, 1998



Casey Neill reviewed

The Celtic-folk-punk trio's offbeat music proves a popular seller among all ages / PAGE 9A

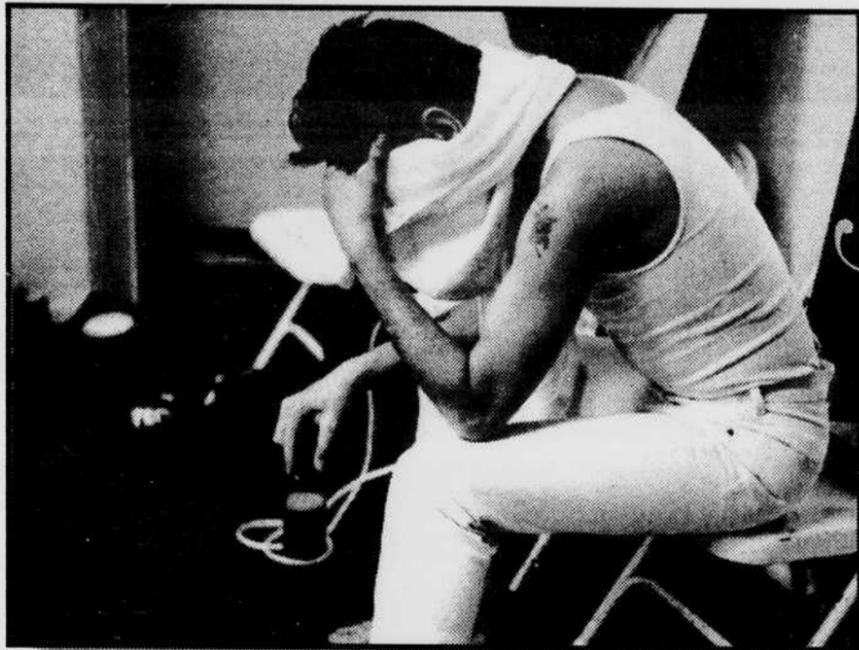
Ani DiFranco live

The ever-evolving singer radiates charisma on the Hult Center stage / PAGE 8A



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Bittersweet Symphony

BY EVAN A. DENBAUM



These are bittersweet times for serious Depeche Mode fans.

"For the Masses" is fun for a while — fans can wax rhapsodic as Depeche Mode's contemporaries such as The Smashing Pumpkins and The Cure take cracks at the classics — but in time it becomes abundantly clear that these covers are vastly inferior to the original songs. In fact, attempting to listen to the album from beginning to end is a true test of endurance. There are few fans with enough verve to sit through Rammstein's belching rendition of "Stripped," which closes the tribute with a song-butchered as offensive to listen to as the album's nuclear-orange CD is to look at.

Then, just when Depeche Mode die-hards are beginning to recover, "The Singles 86>98" comes along. Now, with one moderately priced purchase, anyone can easily own a set of the Depeche Mode

songs that matter most.

For those who shelled out for every album since '86 (many with song redundancies) and scavenged for the maxi-singles going for \$6.99 a pop, this latest release is bittersweet at best. But no real fan can resist having these band-defining tracks in a neat little double-CD package. There goes another twenty-three bucks and a little pride.

At least serious fans can still take solace in the ultra-obscure, maxi-single B-sides that didn't make the "86>98" compilation. The general public might now get exposed to the radio play version of the powerful, lyrically superb "Walking In My Shoes" on "86>98," but they won't get the "Grungy Gonads" remix buried deep in the maxi-single. "Enjoy the Silence" might enjoy a renaissance, but the "Ricki Tik Tik Mix" is still safe, as is the treasured acoustic

Turn to **DEPECHE MODE**, Page 10A

The Singles 86>98

Depeche Mode

TYPE: Pop
PUBLISHED BY:
Mute Records
RATING:
★★★★★



COURTESY PHOTOS

Photos were taken from 'Depeche Mode 101.'

By **Evan A. Denbaum**
for the Emerald

Tell me there's an album featuring The Smashing Pumpkins, The Cure, Veruca Salt, God Lives Underwater and Dishwalla, and you've got my attention. The list reads like an MTV Music Awards lineup — on a good year. Tell me they're all covering Depeche Mode, a band of equal if not higher caliber, and you've got a sale.

But is "For the Masses" actually any good? The back cover and CD are an obnoxious, bright orange, to start — but the album itself does make for a good time.

The Pumpkins track is pleasant,

although nothing spectacular. God Lives Underwater's cover of "Fly on the Windscreen" has grown on me immensely. People either love or hate Failure's grungy interpretation of the great "Enjoy the Silence." If you like it, I'd seriously recommend checking out Failure's latest album, "Fantastic Planet."

One of the gems on "For the Masses" is Hooverphonic's cover of "Shake the Disease." The song serves as a forum for people to hear Hooverphonic, an up-and-coming band from Belgium that on its latest album sometimes sounds like a fusion of

The Sundays and Aphex Twin. Its earlier album, "A New Stereophonic Sound Spectacular," has a distinct, dynamic sound, as well.

But in an album stocked with big names and rising artists, it's little-known Locust that truly does the most with a Depeche Mode original. A male and a female vocalist playfully duel with Depeche Mode's lyrics — effectively playing out the roles of "Master and Servant" — adding another dimension to the song.

Even if you liked "Du Hast," the single that brought the German group Rammstein some attention, skip the last track. Just pretend Rammstein isn't there. You'll feel better about the album and save yourself some agony. I promise.

Bands cover Depeche Mode — for better or worse

Film is astounding, but not easily 'Beloved'

Though well made, 'Beloved' explores complex issues and is sometimes hard to follow

By **Amy Boytz**
Oregon Daily Emerald

There are a lot of reasons why "Beloved," the new movie starring Oprah Winfrey and Danny Glover, should be astounding.

The film is based on the revered book of the same name by Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison. The movie project has been in the works for almost a decade. And hours of preparation and filming went into the making of "Beloved."

In all honesty, the film is astounding. But it is also disturbing, horrific — and sometimes difficult to follow.

"Beloved," set in reconstruction-era Ohio, is the story of Sethe (Winfrey), a runaway slave trying to make a life for herself. Sethe lives with her daughter, Denver (Kimberly Elise), a young woman trapped by her own fears.

Sethe cannot shake the bad memories of

her life as a slave.

Also haunting her and Denver is the ghost of Sethe's dead baby girl. The ghost interrupts their daily life, making it difficult for Sethe and Denver to be accepted by others in their town.

Beloved

DIRECTED BY:
Jonathan Demme
STARRING:
Oprah Winfrey
RATING:
★★★★★

missing element in their lives.

All is well until Beloved (Thandie Newton), a mysterious, ghostly young woman, shows

Turn to **BELIVED**, Page 9A



Oprah Winfrey stars as Sethe, a former slave who is literally haunted by her past, in the film version of Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison's "Beloved."