ODST brings new life to Halo universe

By Zheng Zheng  Staff Writer

When it comes to first-person shooter (FPS) games on the consoles, the Halo franchise has definitely been iconic. It’s hard to believe that six years have passed since the original release of this would-be cultural phenomenon on the Xbox.

Now, two years after the last of the series, Halo 3: Orbital Drop Shock Troopers, was launched. Bungie presents to its loyal fans new concepts from the Halo universe in the form of Halo 3: ODST.

Released on Sept. 22, this FPS game is both refreshing and innovative while carrying the reputation of the franchise without the help of Master Chief.

That’s right, unlike the previous Halo installations, players in the campaign of ODST will not reprise the role of the enhanced superhuman soldier Master Chief.

Instead, the players will be given the opportunity to play as members of the Orbital Drop Shock Troopers (ODST), in what most would consider a side plot that happens during the timelines of Halo 2 and Halo 3.

The game initially starts off with a horrific accident during a drop pod mission in space that separates the members of ODST.

This sets the stage for ODST players to search for other scattered squad members through out the crash site.

The story of each trooper is later to be discovered incorporated together through The Rookie’s journey. While The Rookie is “the player,” each individual story is played from the perspective of the squad member who experienced it.

Because of this alteration in perspective, the gameplay changes accordingly to let the players know from the very beginning that they are no longer the same as Master Chief and that they have to think about their actions more carefully in order to survive.

To further elaborate, players, now acting as troopers, will find themselves unable to jump as high or move as fast as the legend himself.

The motte attacks will not do as much damage, and instead of the Chief’s damage absorbing energy shield, “stunma,” which functions mechanically identical to the shield, is introduced for the troopers.

Also, players in ODST will have access to new inclusive weapons including a silenced submachine gun and a pistol.

While some players may be disappointed by these changes to the gameplay, the majority will find it to be a fresh experience accompanied by a refreshing plot connected with the individual side stories.

Although the campaign mode of Halo was never a disappointment, the franchise really became renowned for its multiplayer experience. ODST actually does not offer a fully compatible PVP (player versus player) multiplayer option all on its own.

Instead, the Halo 3 multiplayer disc is as it is on its own. Although the Halo 3 multiplayer has definitely stood the test of time and all the extra maps are nice additional features, it is a major drawback for players who already own the multiplayer disc from the original release of Halo 3 and already paid for the extra maps.

For these old fans, the $60 price tag on ODST suddenly seems much higher since they are paying for what they already own. This, plus a campaign that can be rushed through in three to four hours, makes the players all the more change the decision to get the game.

In order to compensate for this, the campaign disc of ODST includes the introduction of the new Firefight mode. It is similar to a survival challenge in which team members share a pool of lives and waves after waves of enemies appear in an arena setting.

This mode can be played with single player, split-screen local multiplayer or up to four players total over Xbox Live. With a total of 10 playable maps, Firefight is quite an excellent addition for quick pick-up games without have to immerse oneself in the storyline of the campaign or get caught up in the competitive environment of the multiplayer game mode.

Although the campaign disc of ODST is very solid game from most perspectives and might just be worth the steep price.

Those who do not already have the Halo 3 multiplayer disc should seriously consider purchasing ODST.

Even with the absence of Master Chief, ODST feels every bit like a Halo game trying to accommodate players of all skill levels. This goes to show that the Halo franchise is far more than just one super-powered guy wearing a shiny helmet.
Imagine a world... where robot surrogates look like humans, the superiority of convergent technologies will prevent war, and cosmologists study engineering and space to help colonize Mars.

Hear futurist Dr. James Canton talk about advanced and emerging technology and other trends that will shape our world.

JAMES CANTON
CEO & Chairman of the Institute for Global Futures, a leading think tank

Author of:
The Extreme Future: The Top Trends that will Reshape the World in the 21st Century

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Tuesday, October 20
Ferst Center on the Georgia Tech Campus

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL
Zombieland satirizes horror film genre

The typical zombie film always seems to bring the same images to mind: hordes of slow-moving zombies that desperately try to fill their insatiable hunger for human flesh. Frankly, this cliché for zombie movies almost always fall flat because of this. Zombieland really does nothing new with its comedic twist, but does that really matter?

The answer is yes. This movie actually benefits from including all of the zombie genre's clichés because it brilliantly succeeds at satirizing the entire genre.

Fleischer's film begins by introducing the narrator/main character who is only known to the audience as Columbus because this is his hometown. Columbus is a neurotic college student with irritable bowel syndrome who tends to keep to himself. Eventually, he has managed to survive in the post-apocalyptic world of Zombieland for such a long time. Over time, he developed a list of rules that he must follow to stay alive, and these rules show up throughout the movie in the form of funny on-screen captions.

For this reason, he has managed to survive in the post-apocalyptic world of Zombieland for such a long time. Over time, he developed a list of rules that he must follow to stay alive, and these rules show up throughout the movie in the form of funny on-screen captions.

Jesse Eisenberg, a relatively new actor who looks a little bit like Superbad's Michael Cera, does great job with this character. In the movie, Columbus is trying to go back to his hometown of Columbus, Ohio to see if his family is still alive. On his way there, he soon finds another survivor. This man refers to himself as Tallahassee because he is on his way to Tallahassee. Woody Harrelson delivers his best acting role in years with this character.

Tallahassee is an emotional man with a rock-hard exterior who is good at doing just one thing: killing zombies. To him, killing zombies is a game, and he clearly has fun with it. If you thought this movie could not get anymore ridiculous, then you were definitely wrong because the best part about Harrelson's character is that his entire motivation for survival is based on finding Twinkies.

On their search for Twinkies in an abandoned grocery store, Columbus and Tallahassee come across two conniving sisters who con them out of their car, guns, and supplies. Columbus and Tallahassee refer to the older girl as Wichita and the younger girl as Little Rock.

These two sisters are extremely crafty, and they repeatedly out-smart Columbus and Tallahassee. One of the best parts of this movie is the great chemistry between all four of the main characters. They are often reluctant to trust each other and they are often at odds, even as they rely on one another to survive.

In the end, they are still forced to work together because flesh-eating zombies are definitely good at making people set aside their differences. Zombieland is definitely the funniest movie to hit the box office since Todd Phillips' The Hangover came out a few months ago.

It's so full of excitement, laughs, and allusions to pop culture that watching it will give you a hard time not enjoying themselves. While this movie certainly isn't Oscar-worthy, it will definitively entertain its audience.

Although movie tickets are pretty expensive these days, Zombieland is more than worth spending ten dollars to see it in theaters, and fans of parodies or zombie movies should definitely not pass this one up.

By Chris Harless
Contributing Writer

Zombieland

GENRE: Action, Adventure, Comedy

STARRING: Jesse Eisenberg, Emma Stone, Abigail Breslin and Bill Murray

DIRECTOR: Ruben Fleischer

RATING: R

RELEASED: Oct. 2, 2009

OUR TAKE: ★★★★★

Dan Deacon entertains at Eyedrum

Dan Deacon might seem out of place if you saw him in the streets. His oversized glasses of you-guys-he-could-might-alone-force-you-to-surmise-that-someone's-something-quirky-about-this-guy. This is because he must have some sort of offbeat hobby or something that distinguishes him from the rest of us. Turns out he'd be right.

During his college years at the Conservatory of Music at State University of New York at Purchase, he experimented with all kinds of electronic equipment, releasing several albums that are rarely impossible to categorize for their sporadic content.

He's shaped-shifting 2003 album A Winged Victory for the Sullen is a good example of his early output. It swiftly moves through sequences of highly unpredictable sounds and textures. Songs use effects like vocal gibberish, strange monologue, ambient sounds and seemingly random note combinations to bring the listener to places they have almost undoubtedly never been before musically. It is very interesting stuff, but definitely not the kind of thing people rally behind. Not surprisingly, Deacon isn't known for his work back then.

In 2007, his crazed electro-pop piece Spiderman of the Rings exploded onto the scene with enormous success. He's adopted a unique sound combining layered, bouncing synths with driving percussion, topped by either his voice or, more often, a choir of cartoon-like voices that sing like incorruptible kids on a next-generation frequency.

Deacon works in a “feel-good” zone these days and you're apt to either love his music or find it a little annoying or excessive. Either way, the adaptation of his recent songs to the live setting is undeniably awesome. After touring with a 12-man band in support of his newest album Bromance, he brought a solo set to the Eyedrum here in Atlanta and really got the crowd going.

By Mark Jackson
Contributing Writer

Lights, Camera, Action

YOU, FILM, ITALY

Visit the Italian Film Studies booth at the Study Abroad Fair October 20th.
Deacon from page 15

Opening act Nuclear Power Pants was first to take the stage. Hailing from Baltimore like Deacon, their spaced-out, fuzz-rock warmed up the anxious crowd. The women in the band wore large polygon neon green masks with orange neon teeth, which apparently is their usual concert look. For their spaced-out, fuzz-rock first to take the stage.

I found a pie from New York Prime. In this pie, I ordered a banana cream pie rich and sweet, the way chocolate fondue laden brownies ready good lamb sliders. Then, to further incorporate this Deacon/Power Pants combination was an interesting one, their similarities lying mostly in their oddball swagger and distinct sound, but they were enough for the two to line up a string of dates together.

Although the audience is now fully involved in all kinds of awkward situations through the first-person perspective, Secret Girlfriend never lets the audience feel any pressure at any given moment. So now, whether you can get wine for the lovely girl in the pool or win a game of kickball to impress Jessica matters more than ever before.

I imagine a world where your two best friends, both inappropriately hilarious and most importantly, less attractive than you, are the only two other persons of your gender.

Imagine a world where Deacon manipulates his voice to sound like a cartoon, accented as the soundtrack to an all-out dance contest starting with two people, one of whom happened to be my friend sporting an astronaut helmet. My personal favorite was near the end of the night when "Wham City," the 11-minute centerpiece of Spiderman of the Rings (and also the name of his Baltimore "artist collective"), played during the formation of a human tunnel that snaked all the way past Dhan's bio-fueled school/tour bus in the parking lot. What followed was a much needed intermission.

He only played songs from Spiderman and Bronson, but it made sense since they are the most up-beat and all fit nicely together. His older songs would probably sound odd in comparison.

To put the show simply, it really helps the audience to turn it into true humor. It's a point-of-view tele-ENTERTAINMENT

Deacon from page 15

Imagine a world where the people in it chosen for the viewers to be the star of a carefully predetermined to be a male in his mid-20's. The plot of the show generally involves "you" trying to balance your life between the cute, fun and outgoing secret girlfriend Jess (Sara E. R. Flencher) and your bipolar, psycho ex-girlfriend, Mandy (Alexis Krause), with both having an on-again-off-again physical relationship. However, the conflicts between love and lust are often complemented by the absurd situations that you and your best friend Phil (Derek Miller) and Sam (Michael Blacklock) regularly get into.

Each of these four main characters is unique and entertaining in their own right, making the show more than just a series of random clips but rather a nicely composed story with fully developed characters. The show, however, with its overwhelming amount of sexual content, is seemingly targeted to a specific audience. But in reality the show can truly be enjoyed by all lovers of comedy.

While a large majority of Secret Girlfriend's humor does come through the exaggeration of its sexual content, it is never vulgar or distasteful. It's always complemented by some other jokes that simply utilize the sexuality and turn it into true humor.

The result is non-offensive, non-degrading comedy that can be enjoyed by more than just people who cannot afford HBO. Furthermore, the breakthrough point-of-view style of Secret Girlfriend really helps the audience to indulge in fantasy life with-
Theme Crossword: Flimflam

By Robert Zimmerman
United Features Syndicate

ACROSS
1. Muscle tension
5. Skewered entree
10. "Alas!"
14. 1996 Madonna role
19. "Once - a - time"
20. Maui farewell
21. "American Gothic" painter
22. Out of patience
23. Main level, usually
25. Movie set, perhaps
27. Oolong
28. Having a row
29. Thickness of wire
31. Bassist Carter
32. MacGregor, for one
33. Score
34. Cautious
38. Lacking stick-to-itiveness
41. Israel's Sharon
42. Expense
43. Butter's sash
44. Burger request
45. Bernstein ballet
47. F Fe
48. Connecticut senator
49. Soda
50. Camera feature
51. Miss. neighbor
52. Dated
53. BSA groups
54. Competes
57. Sword handles
58. Actor Minoes
59. Enthralled
60. Couples
62. Dr. Talk
63. Kids' refrain
65. Scare off
66. Japanese-American
67. Frequently
68. Thicker
69. Shop-window sign
70. Map abbr.
73. Massenet opera
74. Political reward
75. 1962 Sue Lyon role
77. Tennis return
78. Successors
79. Riyadh resident
80. Sesame
81. Attended
82. California city
83. Barroom brawl, perhaps
87. Behavior
89. - Ripken Jr.
90. Roswell sightings
91. Locale of many Van Gogh paintings
92. Even though
93. Gym shoe
95. Poultry selection
96. Short for a long reptile
97. French lake
98. One way to search for water
99. Just fair
100. Barrett of Pink Floyd
103. Dried-sea-menace
107. Wet-season menace
110. "My Dinner with ."
111. Touches, in baseball
112. Utah range
113. Actress Gilbert
114. Doctor's orders, at times
115. Coagulate
116. On the up and up
117. Low card

DOWN
1. Grass cluster
2. Ron Howard's early role
3. Writer Ephron
4. Annapolis grad.
5. Ankle-length cloaks
6. Tuckered out
7. Brit's trunk
8. Word of surprise
9. Shopper's joy
10. To an extreme degree
11. Composer Carmichael
12. Spy-story character
13. Authors of many footnotes?
14. Elbow grease
15. Early sci-fi author
16. Akai pledge
17. Large cask
18. Appropriate
24. Hawk's hand
26. Wipes out
30. Actor Baldwin
31. Lout
32. Mourning
33. Name from "The Sound of Music"
34. Directing brothers
35. Detroit success, 1955-1971
36. WWII Atlantic menace
37. File-to-file connections
38. Everything in Tijuana
39. Part of a botamer name
40. Leonard Anderson orchestral piece (1947)
41. Under way
42. Early Canadians
43. Coquetter
47. Silly
49. Mexican peak, for short
53. Genealogical diagrams
54. Kind of check
55. Tic
56. Floor covering, at times
57. OT. book following Daniel
58. Roulette
59. Part of a bomber name
60. BSA groups
61. Web-footed diver
62. Stand up, in a way
64. One answer to "Who is it?"
65. Distrust
66. Hammer's target
67. Buckeye Stater
68. Bill or Steve
69. Long, narrow cuts
71. Actress Mariva
72. Pioneer movie critic on TV
73. Soapy minerals
74. Genealogical diagrams
75. Genealogical diagrams
76. Significant -
79. Have an impact on
81. Business channel
83. Between the Rockies and the Pacific
84. Fleur-de-lis
85. Fleur-de-lis
86. Jubilant
87. Matt Dillon, for one
88. Above it all
90. Imperial decrees
94. Wake-up call
95. Do without
96. del Sol
98. Feature of an old phone
99. Joined the choir
100. Fly
101. The past
102. "Overlord" beginning
103. Corpulent
104. Undivided
105. Ritz
108. Whopper

Homecoming Concert

Show up early and be closer to the stage!

Tickets at the Door: $15 for Students
$25 for Guests
CASH ONLY
Piled Higher & Deeper by Jorge Cham

**MY PEAK PRODUCTIVITY**

![Graph showing peak productivity]

- **TOO MANY DISTRACTIONS**
- **TOO TIRED**

**USUALLY AROUND 2:00pm**

- **Webcomic by PhDcomics.com**

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**Non Sequitur by Wiley**

1. **WHAT IF YOU'RE NOT LISTENING?**
   - **MOOCH, NOT LISTENING!**
   - **OH, OKAY!**

2. **YOU SAY I'M A MOOCH!**
   - **LUZ, THINKING ON THE NOSE, SO THEY GAVE HER A TOY.**
   - **OH, OKAY!**

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**Crossword Solution from Page 21**

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**PADDY, YOU KNOW HOW I HATE STARING AT THAT FINDING A RESOLUTION IS BETTER THAN FIGHTING?**

**NELL, I JUST WANTED TO GIVE YOU A HEAD-UP THAT YOU’LL BE PROUD OF ME.**

**OH, OKAY!**

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**OH, OKAY!**
Non Sequitur by Wiley

Hey, I wasn’t asking Roger around lately.

UNH! I think he did.

Oh, no! He just wanted to borrow whatever.

Whatever?

Well, he’s not here, so I’m basically right.

Dilbert* by Scott Adams

DID THE EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE APPROVE MY PROJECT?

WE AGREED ON A PREDECISIONAL DRAFT FRAMEWORK FOR MAKING THE DECISION.

DOES THAT MEAN ANYTHING?

IT DEPENDS WHAT YOU MEAN BY “ANYTHING.”

WALLY, I NEED YOU TO DO AN INVENTORY IN OUR WAREHOUSES. IT SHOULD TAKE ABOUT A MONTH.

HYPOTHETICALLY, WOULD ANYONE KNOW THE DIFFERENCE IF I JUST MADE UP THE NUMBERS?

WELL, NO...

DREAM JOB!

WALLY, ARE YOU DONE WITH YOUR PROJECT YET?

I’LL BE DONE NEXT WEEK.

YOU’VE SAID “NEXT WEEK” FOR SEVEN WEEKS IN A ROW. WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I’M GOING TO BELIEVE IT THIS TIME?

THE FIRST SIX TIMES?

THE COMPANY URGES ALL OF YOU TO E-MAIL YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND SUPPORT THE BILL THAT GIVES US PORK PROJECTS.

IF THAT BILL BECOMES LAW, IT WILL IN EFFECT TRANSFER MY TAX MONEY TO YOU EXECUTIVES FOR YOUR NEXT OBSCENE BONUSES.

DON’T YOU OWN COMPANY STOCK IN YOUR RETIREMENT ACCOUNT?

NO, I’M ONLY DUMB ENOUGH TO WORK HERE.

THE CEO AND THE SENATOR

IT WOULDN’T BE LEGAL FOR ME TO BRIEZE YOU.

SO I HIRED YOUR WIFE AS A CONSULTANT DESPITE THE FACT THAT SHE THINKS “PRESENT VALUE” IS SOME SORT OF GIFT CARD.

AND I WROTE SOME LEGISLATION FOR YOU BECAUSE YOU’RE A LAZY THIEF.

HA HA! LET’S CALL THAT ACCESS.

NOW WHAT DO I DO?

CLICK SOME BUTTONS AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS. YOU CAN’T HURT ANYTHING.

IN MY DEFENSE, THAT HARDLY EVER HAPPENS.