

# ENTERTAINMENT

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## What's true and what's new

Musician Shane Hines is charting a solo career while keeping ties with his Ode to Abbey bandmates. He plays in Atlanta this weekend. Page 21

## Our two national pastimes

The Two Bits Man takes readers on a journey to both the World Series and your local Wal-Mart. Confused? Read on. Page 5

# Hackman's 'Heist' worth stealing time to see

Gene Hackman and Danny DeVito join forces in director David Mamet's newest offering, featuring Hackman as an experienced professional thief who gets talked into one final hurrah before his retirement.

By Chuks Ibeji  
Staff Writer

MPAA Rating: R

**Starring:** Gene Hackman, Danny DeVito, Delroy Lindo, Rebecca Pidgeon, Ricky Jay  
**Director:** David Mamet  
**Studio:** Warner Bros.  
**Running Time:** 107 minutes  
**Rating:** ★★★★★

From the onset, *Heist* makes it very clear that you're dealing with a cool, calculating and coniving bunch of individuals. Things start off with a beautifully staged jewelry theft. The participants exchange signals and check their watches. Then they exchange more signals. Then, Boom! They attack like jackals. The best part is that the scene nonchalantly hints of the things that are to follow.

Gene Hackman plays the role of Joe Moore, a long-time thief whose youthful days are painfully behind him. His band of scoundrels includes tough guy Bobby (Lindo), trickster Pinky (Jay), and Moore's knockout of a wife, Fran (Pidgeon). Already contemplating retirement, Moore makes a careless mistake on a job. This cements his decision to walk away from the game.

The problem is that his cynical employer, Bergman (DeVito), is somewhat disapproving of Moore's decision. He has bankrolled a big job for Moore and his boys. The payoff is potentially huge. So understand-

ably, Bergman is a little upset. Thus we're introduced to the friction between Bergman's camp and Moore's. After the thieves horse around for a little while, both sides come to a compromise and the heist is scheduled to proceed. And by "horse around", I mean they blackmail, lie to, and point guns at each other. You know, the usual.

But you really wouldn't want it any other way. It's fun to watch the double-crosses in *Heist*. There are two main reasons

No one seems out of place; even the lackeys who exist solely to absorb bullets.

for this. One, the writing is great. Two, the acting is superb. The chemistry between the players is pleasantly engaging. No one seems out of place; even the lackeys who exist solely to absorb bullets. This is most fortunate because a good deal of the movie takes place with the characters having to actually interact at length with one another. When actors don't click, long talky stretches can become excruciating, but not in *Heist*. The cast feeds off each other,

and that makes for some good movie-watching.

What's also great is the resourcefulness of Moore's crew. Something will invariably go wrong, but they'll always have a contingency plan. Moore quips that he wouldn't even tie his shoes without a backup plan. MacGyver would have been proud of these guys.

If there are any gripes, it's that the main theft scene is a little too far beyond the realm of belief. I mean the chances that any movie type robbery could actually be pulled off are pretty slim anyways. But filmmakers have to make the scenes at least seem plausible. Not to give anything away. But I thought that this scene was a slight stretch. Also toward the end, *Heist* dragged on a little bit. It seemed to suffer from having one to many double crosses. But none of these complaints detract from too much from the overall quality of the film.

It's only at the movies where a person can root for the crooks and feel good about it, and *Heist* gives you every reason to. It's a very smart film which constantly tries to keep you guessing, and more often than not, it does a good job. Plus, if you're in the mood for a laugh, the movie works in this respect as well. DeVito, Lindo, and Jay give particularly hilarious performances. It has something for almost everybody. *Heist* is definitely the movie to see this weekend.



Photo courtesy Warner Bros. Pictures

Gene Hackman, center, plays Joe Moore, 'a long-time thief whose youthful days are painfully behind him,' who leads his gang for one final caper in Warner Bros' 'Heist.'

## Soup cooks up something new

By Alan Back  
Senior Staff Writer

**Artist:** Soup  
**Album:** *Soup!* (5-song EP)  
**Rating:** ★★★★★

Hometown heroes Soup have changed their game a bit, as anyone who's been to one of their recent shows can testify. The extended jams on their earlier albums have been dialed back in favor of tighter songwriting, such as what's on their new EP *Soup!*. Hearing guitarist Kevin Crow plug in makes for a sharp detour from the days when the entire front line was acoustic.

What this disc has in common with the band's earlier recordings is a reliance on the strong three-part vocal harmonies between Crow, Erik Rowen (guitar), and Andrew Margolius (accordion/harmonica). They also show off the sort of musical interplay that comes from plenty of practice, in addition to a more introspective lyrical turn ("Light the Candle," "Where Are You Now?"). The whole package puts a very different face on Soup, but it's one that deserves a look.

To order the EP, visit Soup online at [www.soupkitchen.com](http://www.soupkitchen.com).

## 2 Skinnee J's raise Masquerade decibel level



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The energetic 2 Skinnee J's, a hip-hop/rock band hailing from Brooklyn, New York, brought their unique sound to Atlanta, playing near campus at the Masquerade on North Avenue.

By Brian Basamanowicz  
Contributing Writer

After a giant bunny, sporting a gold chain with a dangling dollar sign token, leads the stage crew in executing the final preparations for the 2 Skinnee J's stage setup, a member of the opening band, "Rustic Overtones" walks on stage wearing only bikini briefs and a cowboy hat. He proceeds to read a blatantly misinformed and nonsensical article from Creative Loafing denouncing and criticizing the 2 Skinnee J's. Immediately following his reading, the bikini cowboy introduces the Atlanta audience to the 2 Skinnee J's, their entertainers for the evening. The band emerges, looking goofier than ever, all of them dressed in slacks, a sleeveless dress shirt, and an assortment of thin cheap neck ties. The costumes bring to mind a fusion between something you might find in a professional wrestling gimmick and what you might find when looking for job interview apparel at the Salvation Army. Between the costumes, cowboys and stagehands, many newcomers may erroneously get the impression

that the band is not to be taken too seriously. Little do they know that the intensity level is about to surpass all expectations.

The welcoming, slow paced, friendly, opening number subtly bleeds into the somber orchestral melody of Star War's universally familiar, "Imperial March." A sense of importance and purpose begins to permeate the atmosphere; stemming initially from the sound waves and blossoming into the concerned and dire expressions on the faces of the two MCs, Special J and J Guevara. The instrument-wielding band cadres are staring intently ahead with heroic anticipation as if they are piloting their own tie fighters in a glorious attempt to defend the death star from destruction. The band is no longer merely a group of guys dressed in goofy clothes with instruments, microphones, and a bunny for a stage hand; they've suddenly become a uniformed army, charged with the mission of delivering the most ridiculously entertaining performance ever to land on the stage of the Masquerade. The tension

See *Skinnee*, page 24

**Onward and Crossword** Written in Triplicate

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57			58				59				60	61	62
63						64					65		
	66					67					68		

By Kit FitzSimons  
Staff Writer

ACROSS

1. Word before foam or dog

4. \_\_\_\_\_ In Hats  
7. It's higher than a deuce  
11. Grecian pot  
12. Singer Turner  
13. Wading bird

15. Singing singers (3 wds)  
18. Organic compound suffix  
19. Burro  
20. Tide rival  
21. Chacha chaps  
25. Mahal, for one  
27. He's on Rushmore  
28. "Shoot!"  
30. Old West school teacher  
33. Wander nomadically  
35. Place to park  
36. Bottled water brand  
38. Caught by a coondog  
40. Dodge logo  
42. Skin problem  
43. First Bond flick (2 wds)  
44. Buys on Hellenic Wheel of Fortune?  
46. Thinking machines, for short  
47. Month grps.  
49. Dodo dossier word  
51. Son-gun connection (2 wds)  
54. Mel of baseball fame  
56. Cousin on "Mad About You"  
57. Booboo book (3 wds)  
63. \_\_\_\_\_-Squeezed  
64. Tide type  
65. Use a crowbar  
66. Bunches (of)  
67. Snaky fish

68. Observe

DOWN

1. Dine finely  
2. Mess up  
3. Singer DiFranco  
4. 20 Questions guess  
5. Lang. Arts  
6. Simba's love  
7. Meme meaning (2 wds)  
8. Part of R & R, for short  
9. Author Stanley Gardner  
10. Not my  
12. Printer need  
14. Rodman's grp.  
16. (Wait a) moment  
17. Superlative suffix  
21. Blowpipe projectile  
22. Arrival in Paris?  
23. "Tomorrow \_\_\_\_\_ Dies"  
24. Keep in the deep-freeze, perhaps  
26. Joe, at a diner  
29. It can be of shock or of affairs  
31. Puerto \_\_\_\_\_ person  
32. Frenzied, as attacks  
34. "Tiger by the toe" verse's word  
37. Henhouse heap  
39. Toto toter  
41. Top amount possible

45. Handbag handle  
48. RR stop  
50. James Bond author  
51. Not in synch  
52. Law grp.  
53. Volume / depth  
55. Prong  
58. 9-digit ID  
59. Sandra \_\_\_\_\_  
60. Fedex rival  
61. Exist  
62. Leached-ash liquid

*The answers to Kit FitzSimons' latest challenge can be found on page 25 of this week's issue. Here at the Technique, we apologize for many things, but your lack of skills in completing the Onward and Crossword puzzle is not on our list. Which brings to mind the last thing we apologized for. Boy, that was a few years ago. See, last year's editor wrote this story about this thing and he said this stuff that wasn't true, so we had to run a correction. I think we should run some more corrections because we mmake errors all the time. I wish things could be perfect but the Heisenburg Uncertainty Priciple says they can't.*

# When all else fails, Shane Hines goes right back to the beginning

By Alan Back  
Senior Staff Writer

Watch a big city's music scene for more than ten minutes and you can probably catch wind of at least three bands breaking up. What they do afterward is anybody's guess. Some of the members hook up with other groups right away; others take a break from music; still others hang it up for good and get themselves "real" jobs.

Shane Hines, on the other hand, went back to square one and started figuring out new ways to get around on the gameboard.

Growing up in Fairfax, Va., Hines took up guitar while absorbing a steady diet of jazz and blues. He got a chance to put those influences to work when he made music his full-time job and founded the three-piece Ode to Abbey in 1996. Bassist Adam Brode and drummer Craig Kaufmann made up the rest of the group, which relocated to Atlanta a year later to break into Southeast markets.

Regarding his earlier dabblings in music, he reflected, "It's funny because part of me knew I was going to be a musician the whole time. But Ode to Abbey was the first time when I actually moved and said, 'Okay, I'm going to do this.' That was when I admitted it to myself 100%."

They put out two albums—one studio recording, one live set—and had started working on a third when they decided to part ways last fall. According to Hines, the split was

based on differences in individual goals and expectations: "Everyone wasn't on the same page, I guess." He stated that he, Brode, and Kauffman are still on good terms.

After Ode to Abbey folded, he found his way back to Fairfax to make a new start as a solo performer. Right off the bat he found himself with a handful of extra songs and nowhere to put them. Some had already been recorded with the

"I feel very lucky that I'm passionate about something. It's hard for me, actually, to even go there—[what] if I weren't a musician."

**Shane Hines,**  
on the role of music in his life

band for that third album; others were pieces he wrote mostly for himself.

Laying them all side by side, he came up with a solo debut album, *Blues for Balalaika, Parts 1 & 2*. Released in April, the disc serves as a condensed guide to Hines past and present.

"When we stopped playing, I just sort of put [the songs] together, and that's why the record is like it is...I don't know if I'd ever do a record by necessarily planning it that

way, but it worked out," he said.

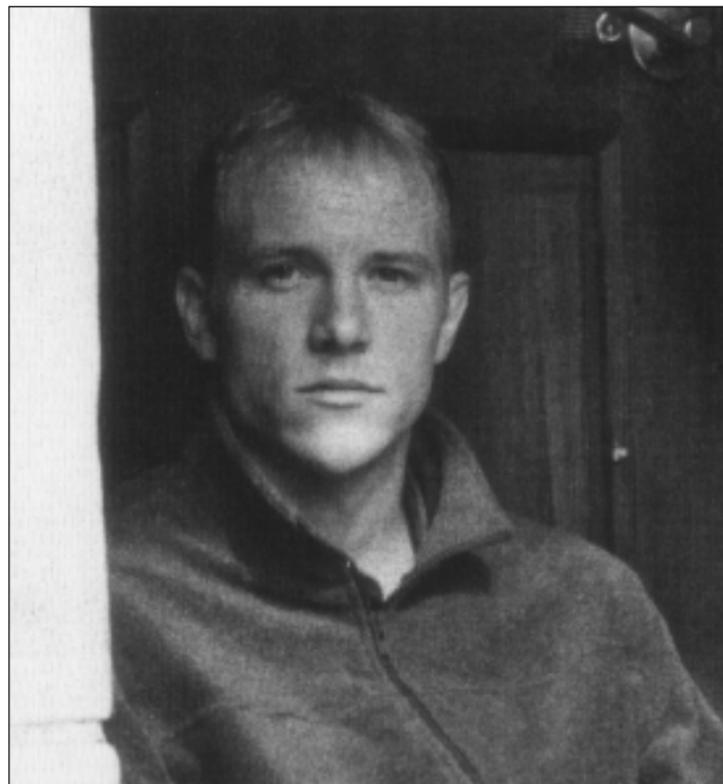
*Blues* plays almost like two short EPs recorded on a single CD. Four full-band songs start the lineup, making a couple of teeth rattle with the help of Brode and Kauffman. Following these are seven acoustic tracks that take a more subdued approach.

The latter songs were recorded at a friend's house and had a variety of origins. "A song like 'Stumble'—I wrote that right when I started recording it. I got inspired by the situation of what we were doing. There's some stuff that's basically brand new, and then there are some songs that are three or four years old, that I'd never gotten to play in a band."

The chorus of "Stumble" could almost double as a meditation on going it alone: "I've got to say/It feels a bit strange/When I'm just carrying my own weight/Without her gravity/I can rise with more ease/When I stumble."

The break between the album's two sections mirrors the one Hines worked through when he went solo. Unplugged shows were a side project while Ode to Abbey was in business, he explained. For now, though, these gigs take top priority and give him a breather from the (barely) organized chaos of heading up a band.

"After being in one for four years, I needed a little bit of a break. So it was kind of nice just to go around by myself and play the songs acoustic. That was great for a while; it still is great, but I'm definitely ready



Courtesy of Brian Cooley / WICKED GROUP

**Shane Hines, formerly of the Atlanta band Ode to Abbey, visits Eddie's Attic tomorrow night to open for fellow solo performer Jennifer Nettles.**

now. I have the energy and I feel good about the new songs, and I'm just ready to go that way again."

The two ways have netted him slots at two of Atlanta's better listening rooms: Smith's Olde Bar for the electric sets with Ode to Abbey, and Eddie's Attic for acoustic gigs such as tomorrow's opener for Jennifer Nettles. Both kinds of shows suit him fine, but being away from Smith's and similar venues has him

ready to get back into the electric setting.

Finding a new band is a game of patience for Hines, and the last thing he wants is to throw in his lot with people who take music less seriously than he does. At press time, he had two players (guitar/keys and bass) lined up and was looking for the Holy Grail of rock and roll: a

See *Hines*, page 24



## Hines

from page 21

killer drummer ready to hit the road hard.

He commented, "The guitar player is a really experienced guy who's been doing this for a while, but the bass player is, like, 22. He's got some experience and he's really good, but he still thinks that it's fun to travel around in a van! It just cracks me up...but I tell him, 'The only fun part, my friend, is the actual playing. Everything else is kind of boring.'"

To keep life from getting dull on the home front, Hines has been putting together a small studio of his own to use in roughing out ideas for future albums. He originally planned to use it for the groundwork on a follow-up to *Blues* over the summer, but put those plans on hold in order to get the personnel straightened out.

"I sort of stopped doing that because this drummer—it doesn't look like he's going to be the one, so I don't want to continue along and

have to go back through everything. I'd prefer some continuity in terms of the feel and the sound of the band...First and foremost, the guys I'm playing with that are into it, they love music and they're cool guys. That's pretty much what it comes down to."

It also comes down to the fact that he knows how much weight music carries in his life. "So many of my friends aren't sure what they want to be doing with themselves. I feel very lucky that I'm passionate about something. It's hard for me, actually, to even go there—[what] if I weren't a musician. I really enjoy it, which is a great thing. It's not the easiest occupation, I guess, but what is?"

Easy, no. Fulfilling, yes. With or without a full band behind him, he just keeps doing his thing as best he can.

*Shane Hines will be performing at Eddie's Attic tomorrow night. Call (404) 377-4976 or visit [www.shanehines.com](http://www.shanehines.com) for more information.*

## Skinnee

from page 19

builds and the moment becomes appropriate. "Get on your feet!" Guevara shouts the opening lyric to "Irresistible Force" as the instrumentalists engage, and the song takes flight. As if Guevara did no more than push a button, the crowd becomes a bouncing, rocking, living jungle and the show has begun.

The rest is hypnosis; some one and a half to two hours of music and spectacle that will make you laugh, cry and reassess your relationship to the force. The strength of the 2 Skinnee J's live performance comes from their ability to sneak into the comfort zones of their audience with a good sense of humor and then to unleash a stunning musical fury which transforms the crowd into a party.

The 2 Skinnee J's are a hip-hop rock band from Brooklyn, New York. The band's first major label release, *supermercado*, debuted in 1998 under Capricorn records. The J's were signed over along with 311 to Vol-

cano records when Capricorn began to lose its footing in the industry. Volcano resultantly received the releasing rights to the J's upcoming, much anticipated release, *Volumizer*. Despite the album's completion, the release date for *Volu-*

**The rest is hypnosis;  
some...music and  
spectacle that will  
make you laugh, cry  
and reassess your  
relationship to the  
force.**

*mizer* has been set back repeatedly. All songs on *Volumizer* have been available through Napster-like file transfer programs for months. It seems as if the J's and Volcano are patiently waiting for a time when nothing will obstruct the record from hitting big. In an interview with

Special J and J Guevara last Saturday, the *Technique* confirmed such semblance.

Special J confirmed the actual and final release date to be February 2, 02. He claims that this date is optimal because it will provide a relief from the onslaught of "New Metal" music that will be continuously flooding the radio. And with the fresh sound of *Volumizer* available in a swarm of increasingly outplayed pop songs, we just might see the singles from *Volumizer* being played 24-7.

Currently the J's are touring almost continuously. Such non-stop performing, results in a "Trial by Fire" according to J Guevara. Meaning, the quality of the 2 Skinnee J's live shows are maintained by the lack of time they have to do anything else except perform. But the J's somehow don't seem tired, neither on stage nor in person. The band is not going to run out of energy any time soon especially with a potentially enormous success just around the corner.

**Two Bits** from page 23

hat that isn't even in high Ethiopian demand.

I feel like such a hypocrite.

Who am I to criticize the Hamburglar when I'm essentially just as bad as he? Maybe Ronald McDonald had the right idea after all in his policy of a laissez-faire, live and let live social paradigm. I mean, even Bowser would send legions and legions of koopas to be de-winged and even flattened by the Mario Brothers before he would finally step up and take action into his own hands. I guess he thought it would be a learning experience for the koopas, much like some time in prison might help the Hamburglar reassess some of his choices.

Well, folks, it's been a learning experience for myself as well and until next week, this is the Two Bits Man planning to go eat a Happy Meal and give Ronald McDonald a hug.

**Religion** from page 13

ways. "Some leaders...encourage all members of the congregation to give blood and show their willingness to help the nation. Some of the congregations are informing the public of the truth behind Islam," said one Muslim student.

The students at Tech have generally treated the Muslim community with respect despite the expected backlash. "We stressed to the student leaders [in the BSU] that although the attacks were atrocious, the terrorists were not at all representative of the Muslim community, and we hope that they would communicate this to the rest of their peers," said Evans.

The Community Affairs Committee of SGA also authored a resolution on unity and respect of all religions in response to the September 11 attacks. "There are people who have hardened their misconceptions about Islam. However, there

are many others who have become more interested in knowing about Islam. The good thing is that these people...try to search for the truth. So reaching out to these people is much easier," said Amer Bashir, President of the Muslim Student Association (MSA). "I think most of are lucky enough to be surrounded by friends who understand where we are coming from, even if they are not Muslim, so they don't judge us in times like these."

Yet the problem of fanatics also exists within the Muslim faith itself. Muslim students stress that the type of religious fanaticism that may have led the terrorists to believe that they were killing in the name of religion is not what exemplifies a true believer of Islam. "The way Muslims perceive Islam, they regard that as the Balanced Path or the Middle Way. Also, Islam is understood as a complete way of life. So being strong in faith means having more understanding of the religion. Most Muslims regard

narrow-mindedness as fanaticism, which implies focusing on just a few aspects of the religion to the exclusion of the other parts," said Bashir. Students have different ways of handling this issue, however. One Muslim student observed, "I believe the best way to handle this fanaticism is to cause minimum fuss and let the others speak, if they are people who will also listen, then express your views, otherwise it's best to be patient." Bashir said, however, that since fanaticism results from ignorance, the best solution is to work towards education and a better understanding of Islam.

Organizations like the MSA make many efforts to educate people about the true tenets of religion. The public relations committee sets up a table on Thursdays in the Student Center to answer questions students may have, and it also puts out literature about Islam so that the campus population can have the opportunity to be better educated about the religion.

**TopCoder** from page 15

tween one and the next...it doesn't specify in terms of skills, as do the various professions in medicine. TopCoder gives [programmers] a name," Rob Hughes, the COO of the company, said.

"This was a great way to show potential employers their skills, much more than one could in a traditional interview. Programmers must be compensated accordingly for the work they perform."

In addition, TopCoder frequently allows companies to sponsor their tournaments, both reducing the cost of the competitions as well as providing a name to potential employers.

Over 125 people sign up on the website daily as new members. Experienced members have been known to average nearly five hours a week either competing in small tournaments, or collectively discussing solutions to problems in TopCoder.

S	E	A			M	E	N		T	R	E	Y	
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F	R	E	S	H		N	E	A	P		P	R	Y
	M	A	N	Y		E	E	L			S	E	E

**Coming Attractions Harry Potter**



Photo courtesy Warner Bros. Pictures

Class is in session with Madame Hooch (Zoë Wanamaker) at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, and Neville Longbottom (Matthew Lewis) is taking to the skies. Look for Emily Cavender's review of Warner Bros. Pictures' 'Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone' in next week's *Technique*.