

# ENTERTAINMENT

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## Answer this kind of Call

Contemporary Christian band Caedmon's Call hit town with a concert and CD debut. **Page 20**

## Hang up on Tori Amos

Though she may be back with a new recording, the Tori Amos we used to know is nowhere to be found. **Page 21**

# Stiller's *Zoolander* prowls silver screen

By Chuks Ibeji  
Staff Writer

MPAA Rating: PG-13  
Starring: Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson  
Director: Ben Stiller  
Running time: 95 min.  
Rating: ★★★1/2

A friend of mine once suggested that if a movie caused you sustained laughter that you had to deem it as being quality—regardless of how silly the subject matter was. The snooty film connoisseur in me hates that type of logic. But I'm going to reject my snobby side and recommend *Zoolander*. Be warned though. You're going to have to check your brain at the door for this one. Failure to do so will result in a very painful hour and a half.

Ok, I suppose that now I'm obliged to tell you about the plot of the movie. There's really no point to do so as anything that remotely resembles a story line proves to be inconsequential. But here it goes anyways.

Three-time defending male model

champion Derek Zoolander (Stiller) sits atop his perch as the hunkiest man in all of creation. But dreams of a fourth title are crushed when he gets upset and the award goes to newcomer, Hansel (Wilson). Distressed and defeated, our hero decides to retire from modeling. His new goal in life becomes to find a purpose other than "looking really, really, really, really good."

*Zoolander's* quest leads him back home to the coal mines of southern New Jersey. Here he attempts to bond

with a family that has forsaken him. When his kinfolk turn their backs on him, he decides to head back to Manhattan. Upon his return, Zoolander find himself in the middle of a plot to kill the Malaysian Prime Minister because of the leader's stance on child labor

laws. In the midst of things, he falls in love with a snooty reporter and is forced to deal with his newly created feud with Hansel. If you're trying to make sense of things right now, good luck. But it's not going to happen.

Why on earth am I recommending the movie? It's because of Ben Stiller's



By Melinda Sue Gordon / PARAMOUNT PICTURES

**Ben Stiller and father Jerry on the set of Ben's new comedic movie 'Zoolander'.**

magic. And it's something that I still can't completely out. He isn't exactly what you call a prototype comedian. He isn't overpowering like a Jim Carrey or a Chris Rock. He's not as sly as a Jerry Seinfeld. But he has the uncanny ability to cause you to eat willingly out of his hand. I guess it's just a testament to what a talent he is.

Stiller also takes on directing and co-writing duties. Assuming this type of responsibility usually requires a certain

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By Melinda Sue Gordon / PARAMOUNT PICTURES

**Derek Zoolander (Ben Stiller) is a male supermodel who brings his own (somewhat dim-witted) style and flair everywhere.**

## Atlanta Opera opens Verdi's Falstaff

By Ananya Paul  
Contributing Writer

After producing numerous tragedies, Giuseppe Verdi capped off his career with a comedy called *Falstaff*. Often, many consider *Falstaff* to be the ripe fruit of Verdi's career, since he wrote it when he was eighty years old and it is most definitely one of his greater masterpieces. It is always a challenge to make the right balance between the comic relief and the dramatic and musical center of the piece. One must also keep in mind that opera is an ensemble of all the characters instead of one star. In the production of *Falstaff*, by the Atlanta Opera, stage action came to life with seeming ease.

The production was absolutely splendid. The set for each Act and Scene seemed unreal because of perfection. The lighting and costumes were quite amusing. The setting for the first act and first scene was a shabby inn with a small table and some chairs. The curtain drew for the audience to cast its eyes on a preposterously obese man. This man, of course, is Sir John Falstaff. The orchestra music seemed to blend in with the rest of the settings. The second scene is essentially dedicated to the female characters. The setting changes from the shabby inn to a pretty garden with flowers and the aroma of tea.

The second and the third acts continue with similar settings until the grand finale or the last scene of the last act. In this scene, a masquerade takes place in the Windsor Forest. The setting is so real

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# P.O.D. boards 'Satellite' to stardom

*In the wake of school violence, these four musicians decided to use their edgy musical variations to bring about some thought-provoking lyrics and surprisingly inspiring songs.*

By Kimberly Rieck  
Contributing Writer

Artist: P.O.D.  
Album: *Satellite*  
Label: Atlantic  
Tracks: 15  
Rating: ★★★★★

Earlier this year, P.O.D. decided to seclude themselves in a tiny studio in the east San Diego neighborhood of Santee to write their new album. Near the studio was Santee High School, site of a school shooting this March 5. Called to action by the shooting, P.O.D. decided to respond to the recent plague of school violence through their new album, *Satellite*. The fourth track, "Youth of a Nation," directly attacks the recent waves of violence. The song begins with sounds of laughter and joy from young children, and quickly fades into angry vocals telling the story of a school shooting. The band expresses its mixed feelings of sorrow for the loss of the lives of innocent youngsters, regret for not being able to help the troubled students that commit the horrible crimes, and anger at the parents and school officials who neglected the warning signs. The chorus has a powerful effect as it directly contrasts the angry vocals with the peaceful

singing of "we are the youth nation" by lead singer Sonny, accompanied by a youth choir.

In their follow-up to their 1999 album, *The Fundamental Elements of Southtown*, P.O.D. continues with their tradition of combining R&B, hip-hop, reggae, and rock and roll. The musical styles of their songs dramatically change from track to track. The band's incorporation of varied styles and genres flows organically and succeeds without a contrived or manufactured feeling to it.

On *Satellite*, there are several collaborations with artists from all over the musical spectrum. Eek-A-Mouse, the renowned Jamaican artist, appears on "Ridiculous" in a song that encourages people to refrain from violence, and focus their lives on love and peace. Eek-A-Mouse's reggae style brings elements of universality and togetherness to a song about people driven by strife. P.O.D.'s acknowledged all-time favorite band, HR of the Bad Brains, appears on "Without Jah, Nothin." The vocals of HR of the Bad Brains are a departure from P.O.D.'s vocal style but complement the multifaceted song, whose punk opening leads to a reggae-styled finish. The change

of musical styles mirrors the lyrics' progression from a man's downward spiral into wickedness and despair to a life of serenity and peace due to an acceptance of God into the man's life.

Another event that provided inspiration for the album was the death of Sonny's mother. "Thinking about Forever" is a heart-wrenching song in which he describes his struggle to stay strong and move forward out of a desire to make his mother proud. He mentions in the song how his daughter looks just like his mother. He de-

scribes how after his daughter's birth he learned to devote himself to someone completely in the way that his mother had devoted herself to him. The title track, "Satellite," also pays tribute to Sonny's mother. In "Satellite," Sonny expresses how he feels that his mother is looking down on him, talks about his feelings regarding his mother's guidance on his spiritual journey.

The band expresses its belief that music should have no boundaries or limitations, and is meant to inspire people through sev-

eral tracks. "The Messiah" combines heavy metal with a religious tone. The lyrics are about having faith in God and the second coming of Christ. It comes as a surprise because the style of the song is similar to an expletive-filled Limp Bizkit song about sex and violence. "Ghetto" expresses the band's belief that the world is full of love despite the fact that there is constant fighting and disagreements. The song also crosses genres, featuring soft vocals at first reminiscent of

See *P.O.D.*, page 20



By Jill Greenberg / ATLANTIC RECORDS

**P.O.D. four musicians with intriguing names (Traa, Wuv, Sonny, and Marcos, from left to right) have hit music store shelves again, this time with a release called 'Satellite'.**

**P.O.D.** from page 19

soul and R&B, changing into a hard rock style in the middle, and returns to the soft vocals of the beginning.

Even though P.O.D. broke through in 1992, old fans of the band will not be disappointed because of the way that they have managed to sound surprisingly new and fresh.

*P.O.D.'s 'Satellite' appeared in record stores on September 11.*

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amount of grace. Fortunately, Still-er's performance is anything but graceful. He and his cohort, Wilson, are able to turn every scene into an enjoyable farce.

I found myself laughing and shaking my head. It was like, "Why am I laughing? This is so stupid!" I tried to resist, but it was no use. As senseless as things got, I just couldn't help laughing. I'm even shaking my head as I write this.

*Zoolander* plays a lot like the *Naked Gun* series. The humor consists of the so-stupid-it's-funny variety. Very rarely did the movie attempt a stunt that wasn't met with approval. It was just good silly fun.

Grab a bunch of your friends and go see *Zoolander*. It's the type of guilty pleasure you probably need to take your mind off of classes. And since the movie doesn't come with a disclaimer, I'm going to remind you again. Make sure that the common sense setting in your head is turned off. Enjoy.

**Caedmon's Call brings new CD, concert, worship style to Atlanta**

By Andrew Santelli  
Entertainment Editor

The words "Christian" and "rock" don't seem like they go together, but a recent trend has defied that definition, with bands like DC Talk and Jars of Clay finding both spiritual and secular success. In this tradition follows the Houston-based group Caedmon's Call.

Caedmon's Call started out leading Sunday night worship at their home church in Houston, Second Baptist, where they recorded some of the tracks on their new album "In the Company of Angels: A Call to Worship."

Their previous release, "40 Acres," brought them a nationwide following of fans interested in their spiritual and musical tilts.

The band came to Atlanta to release "In the Company of Angels" and play before a crowd of at least 2,000 at the expansive auditorium at Perimeter Church in Duluth.

Those who attended the concert found what they were looking for, be it just some good tunes and pleasant melodies or an all-out worship experience.

The band plays a mix of songs with decidedly Christian lyrics, some downtempo and some upbeat, but

all with an intensity that makes even the slower tunes exciting to listen to.

Caedmon's Call has a musical style that could be best described as clean, but not just because the lyrics talk about God. The harmonies heard most vocally by lead singer Cliff Young and his wife Danielle are noticeably tight and well-rehearsed. The guitars (two six-string, one bass) combine together for an acoustic, intimate sound, and that intimate ambience is furthered by soft lighting and an abundance of candles lit in banks onstage.

The band played a mix of new songs and old favorites, as well as covering older and better-known worship songs. The band both began and ended with "Step By Step," a classic worship song written by the late Rich Mullins, who was known as an inspiration for Christian artists with his lyrics. At some points the crowd (both then and at other points during the concert) was singing so wonderfully that the band stepped back off their personal microphones and let the makeshift 2,000-piece choir lift their voices into the church's rafters.

Whether the song was performed by the band or their fans, Caedmon's Call's concert was a wonderful evening of beautiful music.

...style that could be best described as clean, but not just because the lyrics talk about God.

**Feature Photo** Doctors on the Tube

Courtesy of Touchstone Television

Airing Tuesdays at 9:30 p.m. on NBC, 'Scrubs' kicks off its inaugural season. The show features newly-minted medical interns and the trials and tribulations they face as up-and-coming doctors.



## The Live List: 9/28 to 10/5

### CJ'S LANDING (270 Buckhead Ave.) (404) 237-7657

[www.cjslanding.com](http://www.cjslanding.com)  
9/28—Dash Rip Rock, Cory Morrow  
9/29—Hanging Francis, Elephant, Blindspot  
10/4—The Cat Daddies, Lights Out  
10/5—Loud American Tourists, Sasquatch, Grasshopper

### COTTON CLUB (152 Luckie St.) (404) 688-1193

[www.atlantaconcerts.com/cottonclub.asp](http://www.atlantaconcerts.com/cottonclub.asp)  
9/28—420 Monks, [Minus], Lennon  
9/29—DJ Logic & Project Logic, Adom  
10/1—Tom Tom Club, Paul Rudderman Band  
10/5—Athenaeum, The Push Stars

### DARK HORSE TAVERN (816 N. Highland Ave.) (404) 873-3607

9/28—Diggity, 13 Stories, Hannibal Jones  
9/29—9 From 10, IPS, Cloud 10  
10/2—Nervous Children, Molly Bancroft  
10/3—Four Daze, Cog, Bachelor Bed  
10/4—Bowecho, Nothing Simple, Lodwici  
10/5—Nillah, Chain Poets, Acres

### ECHO LOUNGE (551 Flat Shoals Rd.) (404) 681-3600

[www.echostatic.com/echolounge](http://www.echostatic.com/echolounge)  
9/28—The Changelings, Adom  
9/29—Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, Deadmoon, The Forty-Fives  
10/1—Beulah, Mates of State  
10/2—Zeke, Drill Tesm, Puddin'

### EDDIE'S ATTIC (515-B N. McDonough St.) (404) 377-4976

[www.eddiesattic.com](http://www.eddiesattic.com)  
9/28—Jan Smith, Mike Willis, Michael Flynn  
9/28—Halcyon, Karen Reynolds  
9/30—Jimmy Landry, Bonfield & Ebel  
10/2—Michael Levine, Deuce  
10/4—Libby Eason, Brad Large, Seam Smith  
10/5—Steve Forbert, Sam Shaber

### MASQUERADE (695 North Ave.) (404) 577-2007

[www.masq.com](http://www.masq.com)  
9/28—Sandra Collins, AK1200, Taylor, Kazell, Stakka, Skynet  
9/29—X-Impossibles, Kickstand  
10/3—Kings Indian, Cobweb Strange  
10/4—Flotsam + Jetsam, Motive, Hognutt

### ROXY (3110 Roswell Rd.) (404) 233-7699

[www.atlantaconcerts.com/roxy.asp](http://www.atlantaconcerts.com/roxy.asp)  
9/29—The Waterboys, Tom McRae  
10/1—Black Eyed Peas, Mystic

### SMITH'S OLDE BAR (1580 Piedmont Ave.) (404) 875-1522

[smithsoldebar.citysearch.com](http://smithsoldebar.citysearch.com)  
9/28—Dezeray's Hammer, Combread, Cloud 10  
9/29—Tinsley Ellis, Eric Gales  
9/30—Chris Knight, Pat Haney  
10/1—The Stelle Group, The Shadowridge Runners, Billy Gewin  
10/2—Butterfly Jones, Venus Umbrella  
10/3—Reckless Kelly, The Lost Trailers  
10/4—Dallas Wayne, Redd Volkaert, Joe Goldmark, Bill Kirchen  
10/5—Dayroom, Lithp

### STAR BAR (437 Moreland Ave.) (404) 681-9018

[www.cloun.com/starbar.html](http://www.cloun.com/starbar.html)  
9/28—Drive-By Truckers  
9/29—6X, The Helgas, DJ Dodgy  
10/3—Flathead Mike and the Mercurys

### TABERNACLE (152 Luckie St.) (404) 659-9022

[www.tabernaclemusic.com](http://www.tabernaclemusic.com)  
9/29—Burning Spear, Sons of Steel  
10/5—India.Arie

### VARIETY PLAYHOUSE (1099 Euclid Ave.) (404) 521-1786

[www.variety-playhouse.com](http://www.variety-playhouse.com)  
9/28—Ryan Adams, Paul Burch  
9/29—Jump Little Children, David Mead  
10/3—The Rippingtons

# Amos' Strange Little Girls can't deliver

By Alan Back  
Senior Staff Writer

Artist: Tori Amos  
Album: *Strange Little Girls*  
Label: Atlantic  
Tracks: 12  
Rating: ★ 1/2

There's an unwritten law in the recording business: if you're going to do a cover album, at least make a good job of it. The higher your profile, the better the end result has to be if you don't want to come off looking like a complete bozo.

*Strange Little Girls* has been described as Tori Amos' reinterpretation of 12 songs, all written by men, through the eyes of various female characters. Unfortunately, they sound as if they've each knocked back a heavy dose of tranquilizers. Make it through the entire set and you may find yourself wishing you'd done the same.

Fans of '80s music would do well to steer clear of "I Don't Like Mondays" and "Enjoy the Silence." The orchestral majesty of Bob Geldof's hit and the moody energy of Depeche Mode's are nowhere to be found, replaced by Amos' keyboard meanderings and vocal melodramatics.

There might be some hope for the album if these problems were just confined to a couple of tracks, but the plodding feel crops up almost everywhere and drains the vitality from song after song. Considering that Amos takes on material from the likes of Slayer, Neil Young, and Tom Waits, that's quite an achievement.

If John Lennon were still alive today, hearing her hyperextended,

coma-inducing version of "Happiness Is a Warm Gun" would surely kill him.

Reports on his murder, commentary on the Second Amendment, and random sound bites about gun control crop up against silly guitar and drum riffs during the song's 10-minute run. It's almost a cover in name only; three-fourths of the lyrics never get as far as the microphone, and if there's a melody, it's all but unrecognizable.

Doing a silly cover is one thing, but picking abhorrent subject matter is about three orders of magnitude worse—take a listen to '97

Bonnie & Clyde," if you dare. Eminem's fantasy about killing his wife and throwing her body into the lake is the last thing any person of conscience should even think about retooling. Hearing a woman do it (and suck the life out of it in the process) raises questions about how much respect she has for herself and her listeners.

Anybody familiar with the original versions of any of these songs will have no trouble deciding how much respect to give the renditions on *Strange Little Girls*—none. There are bar bands all over the country that can do a better job than this.



By Thomas Schenk / ATLANTIC RECORDS

On her new CD 'Strange Little Girls', Tori Amos does little more than drain the energy from the 12 male-penned songs she covers or rearranges.

# ...010101011010**10**101010**..Two Bits**1010101010101010...

Hi folks. It's the Two Bits Man with some unfortunate news. We live in Hell, or at least within easy walking distance thereof. I realize that some of you might object to this view, because many religions agree on the opinion that Hell features fire and brimstone as far as the eye can see. However, the Two Bits man knows that this is not the case; any engineering student can clearly see how the heating bills alone would grind the entire eternal damnation industry to a halt. Now that the fire theory is put to bed, allow me to expound on why it is relatively clear that we reside in Hell.

First of all, there were midterms. If you're like me, you suffered three tests and pulled an all-nighter or two on homework. Sounds pretty hellacious doesn't it? I thought so. The test that the professor assured the class would be easy turned out to be the hardest thing you've experienced yet in your time at Ma Tech.

If midterms aren't enough to at least cause you some suspicion of your current whereabouts, I'll subject this one for your approval: About twenty feet from the Bursar's Office, there is an elevator for sending

**Well, right there, in the same corridor as the Lyman Loo, there is a small elevator that is way too small for humans to ride.**

gnomes to different levels of hell. If you're like the Two Bits Man, you have waited in line at the Bursar's Office so long on a couple of occasions that you felt the need to visit the Lyman Loo. Well, right there,

in the same corridor as the Lyman Loo, there is a small elevator that is way too small for humans to ride, so clearly it is for sending gnomes to different levels of Hell. While you may attempt to outwit the Two Bits Man by pointing out that the elevator might send the gnomes to different levels of places that are not Hell, I can assure you that you are wrong. After all, it's so effective that I never see gnomes on the floor with the Bursar's Office. You might also suggest that I ride the elevator myself to verify the gnome truth, but that is preposterous. Naturally, a scientifically concise Two Bits Man is too large to fit in an elevator designed for sending gnomes to different levels of Hell.

If the elevator for sending gnomes to different levels of Hell doesn't make you certain that we live in Hell, or within a reasonable walking distance, consider this fact: There are stores at several metro area malls

where you can take your annoying little brat to have his photo made. This is not just any photography studio. No, this is a studio designed specifically for annoying little brats. In other words, this is where profes-

**You might also suggest that I ride the elevator myself to verify the gnome truth, but that is preposterous.**

sional photographers go if they wind up in Hell. Well surprise! You can walk right in. All I can say to you folks is QED! Without a shadow of a doubt, the fact that they are now building portals to the underworld

in shopping malls is all the proof you need to know about where you are in relation to Hell. If only Kevin Smith had hired me as a consultant, I could have helped him make "Mallrats" even more realistic than it already is.

How, you may wonder, did I get to be so wise? That's a simple one, a beer each day for breakfast. If you read the research, they said that beer and mashed potatoes are the two best sources of accessible glucose for a healthy brain. Since the Two-Bits Man is a force of good, I use my brew to help the masses. As an additional measure though, I suggest that if you have any gnome ancestry that you stop paying tuition post haste, and stay as far from the Bursar's Office as possible.

Until next week, I am the Two Bits Man reminding you that that the fastest way to reach the underworld is near the Lyman Loo, not the Lucy Liu.

# Opera

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that the audience immediately started applauding as soon as the curtains went up. Large green trees with a sun set in the background definitely depicted the mood of the scene and the upcoming masquerade. Everything fell into place just like the rest of the play.

The overall performance and direction of *Falstaff* was brilliant. During the ensembles in particular, the chorus members carried out various bits of business in perfect synchronization with the music. For those of you who love opera, you should definitely go watch this production. One significant fact, this opera is a true comedy and not a tragedy, which most operas seem to be. The performance was flawless and is most definitely an excellent night's entertainment with its ensemble work, music, staging, and brilliant performances by the characters. Kudos to the artistic director, William Fred Scott, for whom the production was so ideal.

*The Atlanta Opera's remaining performances of Falstaff will play at the Fox Theatre tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. For more, visit [www.atlantaopera.org](http://www.atlantaopera.org).*

## Onward and Crossword Smokescreen

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11			12		13				14		
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50					51				52		
53					54					55	

By Kit FitzSimons  
Staff Writer

[Editor's Note: This puzzle is reprinted from the September 1, 2000 issue of the Technique.]

### ACROSS

- 1. Not quite passing
- 4. E-\_\_\_\_\_ (Net shop)
- 7. Tardy
- 11. Attire

- 13. Philosopher Tzu
- 14. Opera ditty
- 15. Interrogation technique (3 wds)
- 18. The full range (3 wds)
- 19. "Masher!"
- 20. Lifeguard must-know (abbr)
- 22. Draw a bead on (2 wds)
- 24. Hee-\_\_\_\_\_
- 27. Space bar neighbors
- 29. "Je ne think so pas!"
- 30. Couch
- 31. Suffix for cosmo
- 32. Received
- 33. Teensy
- 34. Fairy tale start
- 35. Collie's call
- 36. Not now
- 37. "It's a mouse!"
- 38. Ordered delivery (2 wds)
- 40. Mined find
- 41. Main rice cake ingredient?
- 42. Lease
- 44. Current girlfriend's worry (4 wds)
- 50. 30 ACROSS, e.g.
- 51. Sam-\_\_\_\_\_ (hyph)
- 52. Water closets
- 53. Old clucks?
- 54. Caustic base in old soap
- 55. Nobel prize?

### DOWN

- 1. Easter morn find
- 2. Distant
- 3. Nottingham notable (2 wds)
- 4. Crockett or Boone activity (3 wds)

- 5. Congruent triangle reason (abbr)
- 6. Common lead up to "I quit!" (4 wds)
- 7. CA boys in blue (abbr)
- 8. (We) exist
- 9. Nervous twitch
- 10. Use one's mouth
- 12. Ham sandwich alternative (abbr)
- 16. Mauna \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. College prep test
- 20. Open boat for one
- 21. Olden-time smoother
- 23. Old Bond player
- 24. Old Toyota jingle (3 wds)
- 25. Post meaning
- 26. Batman's surname
- 28. Jean d'Arc, e.g. (abbr)
- 30. Use a 50 ACROSS
- 38. Be sick
- 39. Matrix character
- 41. Boats' sterns
- 43. Oilers' org. (abbr)
- 44. Overalls slogan opener
- 45. Last name in denim
- 46. Roseanne's TV hubby
- 47. Blooming month
- 48. Word following an or cat
- 49. Jet

*The answers to this week's "oldie but a goodie" crossword can be found in the Sports section on page 29, and as always the Technique makes no apologies if you still can't get the answers right, even after a year and twenty-seven days.*