

saturday, november 04, 2006

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## The Pixies



The name says it all--the PIXIES. In folklore of course, a Pixie is a mischievous creature who according to legend was not good enough for Heaven or bad enough for Hell. And now at a Blockbuster near you, [LOUDQUIETLOUD](#), a film about the Pixies 2004 reunion tour and as a tie-in to the November 6th movie release, the documentary will appear on the big screen in select theaters in the U.S. The big screen venues include Denver, LA, Madison, Chicago, and Austin. Joey Santiago and Charles Thompson (a.k.a. Black Francis) were UMass students when they formed the band in 1986. The Pixies had a short run, recording only a few albums before falling apart between 1992 and 1993. The exact moment of the band's break up is hard to pinpoint as are the synergies of the falling out. Wagging fingers point to Kim Deal's drug and alcohol problems, Black's need to go solo,



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but the truth is most likely that strange fiction of creative differences, in other words, the Pixies fell victim to the bad behaviors and tensions that plague many creative ventures. I guess we all must get this movie! The Pixies were a bit more popular in the UK than the US, and many Alternative Music fans have not given the Pixies their due, but bands like Nirvana have acknowledged the sonic influence. The Pixies last album was released fifteen years ago, but their music is omnipresent in movieland---the exit music in *Fight Club*, background music in *Unbreakable*, two songs in *The United States of Leland*, a tune in *The Weather Man*, and my favorite Pixies tune, "Monkey Gone to Heaven" is everywhere, in TV shows like *The Gilmore Girls* (Lordy!) and films. News is that the Pixies are going to record, according to Frank Black they will start rehearsing in January. Studio time may be essential, the tour was a couple of years ago, and the last Pixie album, *Trompe Le Monde* was released in 1991.

0 comments

tuesday, october 31, 2006

## Death of a President



I happened to be in Toronto this past week when the independent film, "Death of a President" directed by Gabriel Range opened over the weekend. Knowing that I probably wasn't going to be able to see the film in the States due to the boycott I hastily left my conference at the Marriott Hotel and ran over to the Mutalife Cineplex on Kloor and plunked down my \$11.50 CA for the first showing. I'm kind of a reverse lemming that way. I had the same reaction when I was in Boston a few years back and heard that an exhibit of Robert Mapplethorpe photos was under attack. Hey, what can I say. I think art should be subversive. Besides the last people that I want deciding what films I can and can not see are Bush supporters and theater owners. The cinema was crowded, but quiet as I took my seat and there wasn't much popcorn crunching when the house lights went down. For the next two hours I watched this very weird movie unfold. Part docudrama, part re-enactment, part made for television "world in jeopardy" movie like "Pandemic Bird Flu", Death of a President was a hokey fake-u-mentary or "faux documentary" of the events surrounding the hypothetical assassination of President George Bush by a Chicago sniper. Man, this thing was weird. Violent ideas or notions do not make a drama. Everyone in the audience knew they were being jerked around. How did we react? Like we were in an uncomfortable situation. Stiff laughter. Hee Hee, Cheney is President. Hee-hee, Patriot

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