

BUFFALO NEWS

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# THE WEEK



Julianne Moore stars in "Laws of Attraction."

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## OUTTHERE

Stuff to do each day

**TODAY, APRIL 30:** Michelle Branch (pop), 7:30 p.m., Gallagher Center, Niagara University, Lewiston (286-8700).



Michelle Branch

**SATURDAY, MAY 1:** Kevin DuBrow of Quiet Riot with Metal Scene (rock), 9 p.m., Rock 'N' Roll Heaven, 101 French Road, Cheektowaga (608-0000).

**SUNDAY, MAY 2:** "Alexander & the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" (children's theater), 2 p.m., Theatre of Youth, Allendale Theatre, 203 Allen St. (884-4400).

**MONDAY, MAY 3:** Canisius College Chorale (featuring works by Mozart, Schubert, Hogan and more), 7:30 p.m., St. Gregory the Great Church, 250 St. Gregory Court, Williamsville.

**TUESDAY, MAY 4:** Throwdown with Most Precious Blood and With Honor (rock), 6 p.m., Xtreme Wheels, 356 Hertel Ave. (871-9361).

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 5:** "White Trash Wednesday," 10 p.m., Broadway Joe's, 3051 Main St. (836-9555).

**THURSDAY, MAY 6:** "True West" (theater), 8 p.m., New Phoenia Theatre, 95 N. Johnson Park (853-1434).

**NEXT FRIDAY, MAY 7:** The Domination Tour with Sister Machine Gun, Ghost Analogie, Manu Factoria, Veil and more (rock), 8 p.m., The Continental, 212 Franklin St. (855-3938).

# April 30 - May 7



Elizabeth's

## HOT SHEET

What's cool now

**HOT MONEY GRAB:** Justin Timberlake recently sold his memoirs for a record seven figures.

**NEW PICKERS:** Jonathan Bennett's "Mean Girls" update with Tina Fey, who wrote "Mean Girls".



Jonathan Bennett

**HOT SINGER-RAPPER:** Nellie McKay. Check out the lyrics on her home page, nellie-mckay.net.

— Elizabeth Taylor

# HAVE YOU SEEN?

A second look at what everyone's talking about

For members of my generation, who began childhood as the '60s became the '70s, children's educational entertainment was entering a period of intense creativity. Who can forget the early days of "Sesame Street" or "Schoolhouse Rock" or the kid-friendly psychedelia of "Zoom" and "The Electric Company"?

What's striking, looking back, is the prominent role music played in all of these shows. At an age when we were most impressionable, we were introduced to a world where music and learning were conjoined in the carefree air of endless possibility that marks so much of pre-high school life.

Finally, after 33 years, a classic of that era has been given the full DVD treatment.

"THE POINT," a musical parable by rock auteur Harry Nilsson — friend to the Beatles and one of the most prodigiously talented songwriters to ever wear the dubious crown of cult icon — was initially aired on network television in 1971. Since that time, it has developed a rather fanatical underground following; scrapped release dates, a showing on the Disney Channel in the late '80s and the growing legend of Nilsson the musician have added fuel to the collector's fire.

The BMG DVD edition, released a few weeks back, offers the definitive version of this delightful, timeless film, which was written by Nilsson and directed and animated by Academy Award winner Fred Wolf. Unlike the Beatles' entry into the world of animation, "Yellow Submarine," a delightfully offbeat slab of psychedelic esoterica, "The Point" blends then state-of-the-art animation with a deeply moving tale centered

around themes of alienation, diversity and tolerance.

In other words, it's got a point, and one that will serve the children it reaches.

Oh, yeah — the music. Though "The Point" (which features Ringo Starr as the narrator) has been out of print in the film format for years, Nilsson's companion album has been available all along. A definitive remastered version was released by BMG in 2002; it features sparkling versions of the film's classic songs, including "Me and My Arrow," "Think About Your Troubles" and "Life Line." The songs, like the film, are still prescient, and Nilsson's melodic gems remain unsullied years after his death.

The "star" of "The Point," Oblio, a round-headed boy banished from the pointy-headed society he was born into, is an eminently charming little imp. With his faithful dog Arrow, Oblio drives home Nilsson's not particular groundbreaking but eternally resonant theme — being different is hard, most people are incredibly judgemental, and modern society thrives on homogenization and the death of the imagination.

Never has nonconformity been celebrated with such charm.

— Jeff Miers



Obliomed his dog, Arrow

GUSTO/FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2004