

Fusion

Account of 9/11, God and survival

Author recalls terror attacks' effect on her soul

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Book Reviewer

"Between Heaven and Ground Zero"
By Leslie Haskins
Bethany House
\$17.99 hardcover, 192 pages

They say that every generation has its "marker."

Where, for instance, were you when JFK was shot? Or when the Challenger exploded? Where were you when John Lennon or Kurt Cobain died?

Where were you when the Twin Towers fell?

Author Leslie Haskin was running for her life at that moment, and in the new book "Between Heaven and Ground Zero," she talks about survival, both physically and of the soul.

Being one of just two African-American directors in the northeast region of the insurance company for which she worked, Haskin says that she would like to believe that she was fair to her employees. She knows now, the reality is that they probably dreaded hearing her footsteps. Haskin says that she had an ego that rivaled her job title and her coveted office in Tower One of the World Trade Center.

She remembers that morning of Sept. 11, 2001. Haskins says she grabbed her morning coffee and ignored her phone, as she normally did if the first call came before the coffee. There had been a snafu with a client, and Haskins says she remembers walking to her assistant's cubicle to hammer out the details. At that moment, the floor began to tilt.

Debris fell from desks. Desks fell out of windows.

So did people.

As her co-workers scrambled to find exits from the horror, Haskins said she felt zombie-like. Finally, she walked to the stairs and started her descent. Several times, she remembers helping others and, strangely, she remembers carrying an empty laptop case and a newly-purchased blouse.

Literally, Haskins says, through the grace of God, she made it through the lobby of Tower One and eventually home to her neighbors and family. Friends and relatives flocked to her side. Haskins was safe ... or was she?

Over the next few days and weeks, Haskins says she suffered through Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. She was briefly hospitalized and saw a counselor for awhile, she tried new therapies, and fell into ruinous financial trouble. She was unable to sleep and repressed the memories of all she saw that day. Then,

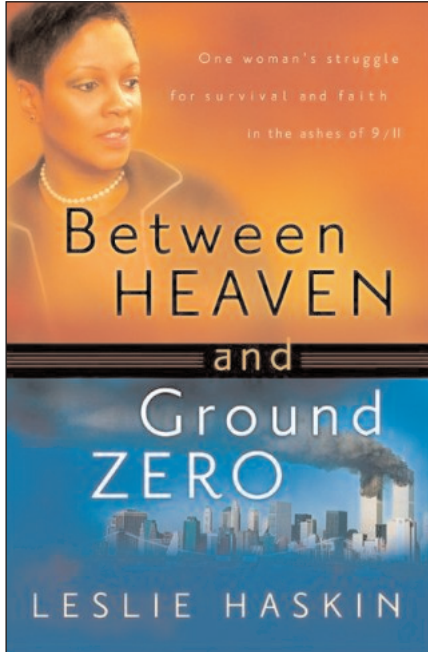
although she had been steeped in strong faith as a child and many people had prayed for her, Haskins suddenly saw that God had been at her side all along.

"Between

Heaven and Ground Zero" is a painful book to read, not because it's a bad book, but because the subject is still very fresh in our hearts and minds five years later. Author Leslie Haskins builds up, minute by minute, to the towers' fall and the aftermath, giving readers a "you-are-there" feeling, making the horror and confusion palpable. Haskins goes on to write about her faith,

her relationship with God and how her life has changed since that day.

If you've tired of the politics of Sept. 11 and you'd rather read a personal account, pick up this inspiring story from a survivor. "Between Heaven and Ground Zero" is a book you will quite easily remember.



CD, DVD ROUNDUP

From previous page

classical feel to singer-guitarist Devin Swanson's adventurous folk-rock-pop. Think Toad the Wet Sprocket meets Vanessa-Mae. Carefully crafted songs draw the listener in slowly, gradually building, establishing a lasting connection. This San Diego band deserves to stick on the charts for a long time.

Fresh DVDs

Various Artists, "Jazz Shots From the East Coast," Volumes 2 & 3

These artfully assembled collections deliver historic performances of legendary artists, recorded in clubs, festivals and TV studios. Each gem retains its sense of intense vibrancy and invention. Check out soul-stirring Coltrane numbers

and the sublime Sonny Rollins rendition of "God Bless The Child" on Vol. 2. Among others featured are Woody Herman's Big Band and Dizzy Gillespie. Included in Vol. 3 is the colossal cool combo of Miles Davis and Coltrane, as well as Art Blakey, Louis Armstrong, Count Basie and the Modern Jazz Quartet. And the temperature soars on Charlie Parker's "Hot House" flight.

Sandy Denny, Queen, "Under Review"

The "Under Review" DVD series offers unique perspectives on influential artists. The two latest releases are must-haves for fans and fascinating introductions for those less familiar with the work. Denny's exquisite voice made her an icon of British folk. A key figure in Fairport Convention, she died tragically in 1978.

The Queen volume covers their career

in the '80s, when England was being assaulted by punk rock. These detailed discs include bio narrative, brief clips and journalists' assessments. They place the artists in the context of their times. Special features add bonus insights. Included are illuminating documentaries, but added performance footage would have been welcome.

Various Artists, "Pure '80s: The Ultimate DVD Box"

Everything old is new again, and nostalgia for the '80s is booming. Genuflecting to the MTV generation, these three DVDs (15 music numbers each) shine the spotlight on "Teen Idols," "Totally New Wave" and "Headbangers Rule!" The discs depict the multiple personalities of the era, spanning the spectrum from Tiffany to Devo to Queensryche. Crisp visuals and excellent 5.1 surround sound are a treat.

Flight 93 entirely in the present tense. We live in the moment with air traffic controllers, military people and the people on that flight - the passengers, the crew, the terrorists. Nobody has the big picture, nobody makes speeches, there are no little human vignettes, and instead of character development we simply see people behaving as they did, or might, in such a situation. Many of the controllers and military people play themselves, on the actual locations, and there are no recognizable actors in the movie. The result is an extraordinary experience, as a world changes and people rise to the occasion as best they can. One of the year's best films. Rating: ★★ ★★

UNKNOWN WHITE MALE (Documentary, PG-13, 88 m., 2006). In July 2003, Doug Bruce finds himself on a train in Coney Island with no idea who he is or how he got there. Diagnosed with total amnesia, he is identified by a girl he was dating, and reunited with his family, friends and a former lover. He doesn't remember them. A friend named Rupert Murray makes this documentary about him, which raises unsettling questions. The "new" Bruce is nicer and more focused than the old one, those who knew him say. He begins a new life, gets a new girlfriend, finds himself satisfied with his new collection of memories and is not too eager to regain the old ones. Who are we, anyway? The kind of movie that leads to long philosophical conversations. Rating: ★★ ★★ 1/2

KINKY BOOTS (Comedy, R, 94 m., 2006). That versatile British actor Chiwetel Ejiofor steals the show as a robust, confident drag queen who has trouble finding stilettoes that can take the weight of a man. Joel Edgerton co-stars as the heir to a failing

shoe factory in Northampton. Their unlikely alliance saves the day with a line of kinky boots, in one of those British comedies in which unconventional sex is surrounded by a conventional story. Ejiofor, whose brief career has included New York cops, Nigerian refugees, space opera villains and mobsters, rules the stage of a drag club as if he were born there, and is a pretty good singer, too. Rating: ★★ ★

FRIENDS WITH MONEY (Comedy, R, 88 m., 2006). Three rich friends (Catherine Keener, Joan Cusack and Frances McDormand) are married, not entirely successfully, but despair for their friend played by Jennifer Aniston, who is "single, a pothead and a maid." The movie intercuts their marriages and their husbands (in order, they're Jason Isaacs, Greg Germann and Simon McBurney). Meanwhile, Aniston is fixed up with a fitness instructor (Scott Caan) who is a world-class louse, and cleans house for a slob (Bob Stephenson), who's a sweetie-pie. The movie plays more like an idea than a story; Aniston's two relationships supply most of the human interest. Rating: ★★

THE SENTINEL (Thriller, PG-13, 105 m., 2006). Michael Douglas plays a veteran Secret Service agent who is having an affair with the first lady (Kim Basinger). Meanwhile, the service learns it has a traitor in its midst, and Douglas becomes a suspect. On the run, he still tries to protect the president (David Rasche), while eluding old friend/new enemy Kiefer Sutherland. Eva Longoria plays Sutherland's rookie assistant. The scenario is unlikely, I hope. But it's told efficiently and with lots of details that make movies like this seem more expert than they probably are. Rating: ★★ ★

— Roger Ebert

MOVIES

Palo Alto

AQUARIUS THEATRE 430 Emerson St. (650)266-9260

Little Miss Sunshine (R) Fri. & Sat. 1,2,3,15, 4:30,5:45,7,8:15,9:30

Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas Midnight (PG) Fri. 12 Midnight
Midnight Sat. 12,12 Midnight

CINEARTS @ PALO ALTO SQUARE 3000 EL Camino at Page Mill Rd. (650)493-3456

Quinceanera (R) Fri. & Sat. 1:30,5:30,9:30

An Inconvenient Truth (PG) Fri. 3:30,7:30 Sat. 11:35,3:30,7:30

Half Nelson (R) Fri. 2,4:30,7:10,9:50 Sat. 11:30,2,4:30,7:10,9:50

STANFORD THEATRE 221 University Ave. (650)324-3700

Breakfast at Tiffany's (NR) Fri. 7:30 P.M. Sat. 3:20,7:30

Pillow Talk (NR) Fri. & Sat. 5:30,9:40

Menlo Park

GUILD 949 El Camino Real (650)266-9260

Boynton Beach Club (NR) Fri. & Sat. 1,3:30,6,8:30

Mountain View

CENTURY 16 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd. (650)960-0970

Black Dahlia advance tickets available on Fandango.com & theater box office

The Covenant (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 11:55,2:30,4:50,7:15,9:40

Hollywoodland (R) Fri. & Sat. 11:30,2:15,5:45,10:30

The Protector (R) Fri. & Sat. 11:45,1:50,3:55,6:05,10:15

The Illusionist (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12:25,2:55,5:25,7:55,10:20

The Devil Wears Prada (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 11:30,1:55,4:30,7,9:35

Invincible (PG) Fri. & Sat. 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:40,10:10

Crank (R) Fri. & Sat. 11:35,1:35,3:35,5:45,7:50,10:05

The Wicker Man (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12:20,3:10,5:35,8:10,25

Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12,2:25,4:45,7:30,9:50

Barnyard The Original Party Animals (PG) Fri. & Sat. 12:30,2:40,4:55

Accepted (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 2,4:20,6:50

World Trade Center (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 1:20,4:15,7:10,9:55

Step Up (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 11:50,2:20,4:40,7:05,9:30

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12:05,3:20,6:45,9:45

Crossover (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12:35,3:50,7:25,10

Beerfest (R) Fri. & Sat. 7:20,10:30

Snakes on a Plane (R) Fri. & Sat. 11:40,9:10

Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles (PG) Fri. & Sat. 12:10,2:35,5:10,7:35,10

MERCADO 20 101 Fwy. & Great America Pkwy. (408) 871-2262

Show Times Change Daily

AMC Select - The Best Specialty Films

AMC Select

Hollywoodland (R) Fri. & Sat. 10:30,1:15,4:10,7:05,10,12:25

Covenant (PG-13) Fri. 11:35,12:45,2:05,3:05,4:35, 5:35, 7, 8, 9:25, 10:30, 11:45

Sat. 12:45,2:05,3:05,4:35,5:35,7,8,9:25,10:30,11:45

AMC Select

Protector (R) Fri. & Sat. 11:45,12:40,1:50,2:55,3:55, 5:15,6,7,7:20,8:20,9:35,10:35,11:50

Crossover (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 11:50,2:10,4:40,7,9:30,12

Crank (R) Fri. & Sat. 10:40,12:40,1:30,2:45,3:45,4:50, 5:55,7:05,8:05,9:15,10:15,11:15,12:30

AMC Select

The Illusionist (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 11:30,2:10,4:55,7:30,10:10

Wicker Man (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 10:30,12:05, 12:55,2:30,3:15,4:50,5:40,7:15,8:15,9:40,10:45, 12:15

(Closed caption) Fri. & Sat. 12:05,2:30,4:50,7:15,9:40,12:15

Fried Worm (PG) Fri. & Sat. 10:50,1:10,3:20,5:30

Beerfest (R) Fri. & Sat. 7:45,10:40

Invincible (PG) Fri. & Sat. 11:40,2:15,4:45,7:30,10

Snakes on a Plane (R) Fri. & Sat. 12:55,5:45,10:35

Accepted (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 10:35,12:50,3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 10:05

Step Up (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 10:25,3:20,8:10

World Trade Center (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 10:45,1:40,4:45,7:35,10:30

Barnyard (PG) Fri. & Sat. 10:45,1:10,3:30,6:8,20,10:40

Talladega Nights (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 10:50, 1:45,4:30,7:10,9:45

AMC Select

Little Miss (R) Fri. & Sat. 10:35,1:35,5:55,8:25,10:50

Pirates Caribbean 2 (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 11:15,5:35,9

Los Gatos

LOS GATOS 41 North Santa Cruz Ave. (408)395-0203

The Illusionist (PG-13) Fri. 4:35,7,9:20 Sat. 2:10,4:35,7,9:20

Little Miss Sunshine (R) Fri. 4:45,7:10,9:30 Sat. 2:20,4:45,7:10,9:30

Campbell

CINELUX PLAZA THEATRE 2501 S. Winchester Blvd. (408)378-2425

The Covenant (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12:25,4:30,7:20,9:30

Invincible (PG) Fri. & Sat. 12:15,2:30,4:45,7:10,9:20

Hollywoodland (R) Fri. & Sat. 1:30,4:15,7,9:40

Barnyard The Original Party Animals (PG) Fri. & Sat. 11:45 A.M.

Crank (R) Fri. & Sat. 1:45,3:45,5:45,8,10:10

The Wicker Man (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 1:35,5:30,7:45,10

San Jose

SARATOGA 14 Saratoga Ave at Campbell Ave. (408) 871-1441

Show Times Change Daily

AMC Select - The Best Specialty Films

AMC Select

Hollywoodland (R) Fri. & Sat. 10:30,1:30,4:30,7:30,10:30

Protector (R) Fri. & Sat. 11:35,1:45,4:15,8:30,10:45

Crossover (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 10:25,12:45,3:15, 5:45, 8:10, 10:25

Crank (R) Fri. & Sat. 11:10,1:15,3:25,5:40,8,10:15

AMC Select

The Illusionist (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 11:15,1:55,4:35,7:15,9:55

Wicker Man (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 10:35,12:55, 3:20,5:50,8:20,10:55

Fried Worm (PG) Fri. & Sat. 10:45,1:30,10:55

Beerfest (R) Fri. & Sat. 1:05,6:05,11:05

Invincible (PG) Fri. & Sat. 11:1,40,4:20,7,9:40

Snakes on a Plane (R) Fri. & Sat. 7:40,10:10

Accepted (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 11:05,1:25,3:45,6:10,8:35,11

Step Up (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 10:40,3:35,8:40

World Trade Center (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 10:35,1:20,4:15,7:10,10:05

Barnyard (PG) Fri. & Sat. 10:55,1:10,3:30,5:55,8:15,10:35

Talladega Nights (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 11:50, 2:30,5:05,7:45,10:25

Pirates Caribbean 2 (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12:50,4:05,7:20,10:40

Redwood City

CENTURY PARK 12 557 E. Bayshore (650)365-9000

Hollywoodland (R) Fri. & Sat. 12:20,1:40,3:20, 4:30,6:15,7:30,9:10,10:25

Invincible (PG) Fri. & Sat. 12:1,20,2:35,3:50,5:10, 6:25,7:40,8:55,10:05

The Wicker Man (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12:10, 1:30,3,4,5:25,6:45,7:50,9:20,10:15

Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 11:50,2:25,5,7:45,10:10

Accepted (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12:45,3:10,5:40,8:20

World Trade Center (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 1:40,10:10,9:55

Idlewild (R) Fri. & Sat. 1:10,4:20,7:20,10

How to Eat Fried Worms (PG) Fri. & Sat. 12:30,2:45,4:50,7,9

Material Girls (PG) Fri. & Sat. 11:55,2:15,4:40,7:05,9:30

San Mateo

CENTURY 12 DOWNTOWN SAN MATEO 320 E. Second Ave. (650)558-0123

Black Dahlia advance tickets available on Fandango.com & theater box office

The Covenant (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 11:40,2:45,7:05,9:25

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Crank (R) Fri. & Sat. 11:55,2:15,4:30,7:25,9:40

The Wicker Man (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12:45,3:10,5:35,8,10:25

Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12:10,2:40,5:10,7:55,10: