

POP CULTURE

'Zohan' is kind of funny, kind of dumb

I've said it before and I'll say it again: I like stupid humor. I really do. But I find it is best served with a strong plot and a side of sophisticated comedy. Movies that are more stupid than humorous really just don't do it for me.

"You Don't Mess with the Zohan," Adam Sandler's latest movie, is unfortunately far too stupid to be good, although I will admit to laughing at some of the jokes.

Sandler stars as Zohan, an Israeli assassin who is sent to kill a terrorist named the Phantom (John Turturro). However, Zohan no longer wishes to live the life of a counterterrorist and decides to fake his own death so that he can flee to America to pursue his dream of becoming a hairdresser. Zohan finds work in a salon run by the beautiful Dalia (Emmanuelle Chriqui).



THE POPCORN REPORT
MEGAN RICHARDSON

Rated PG-13

Dumb but kind of funny, right?

Turturro was great as Zohan's nemesis, and Sandler fans — and by that I mean fans of his most sophomoric and outrageous stuff — will probably love this movie. He is his usual over-the-top self in the film, and yes, he did make me laugh. His character is easily laughed at; Zohan's preference for feathery 80s hairdos and elderly women (the salon caters to old women and so, we



Adam Sandler stars in "You Don't Mess With the Zohan."

soon discover, does Zohan) were funny, if obvious, jokes.

The strong sexual undercurrent of the film might be offensive to some, but viewers should really be expecting it, considering that the film was written by Sandler, SNL writer Robert Smigel and Judd Apatow, whose writing credits include "Walk Hard" and "Knocked Up." All three writers have a taste for the inappropriate.

The film's biggest problem may be that there were too many cooks in the comedy-writing kitchen. Smigel's SNL flavor can be felt in the movie. In fact, Zohan would be a hilarious addition to SNL's cast of characters. Sandler's writing presence is definitely strong, too. It's Apatow, who I usually find comically brilliant, who disappointed me with this one. I expected more from a movie

with his name in the credits.

In the end, "Zohan" just really doesn't have a strong enough plot to carry all the silliness. Instead of a fun summer movie, the film often felt like a less clever version of "Borat."

Megan Richardson is from Northport and is a reporter for *The Republican Journal* and *The Waldo Independent*. She also works at *The Colonial Theatre* in Belfast.

MEGAN'S RATING:

★★

RATINGS:

★★★★★ WONDERFUL

★★★★ GOOD

★★★ MEDIOCRE

★★ POOR

★ TERRIBLE



Rob Schneider stars in "You Don't Mess With the Zohan."

Rocking from Disturbed to Hanoi Rocks

Disturbed: Indestructible (Reprise CD, 49:18). Formed in 1996 in Chicago, the four-man Disturbed is posed to rank atop the hard rock mountain. After three platinum-plus albums with producer Johnny K, frontman David Draiman, guitarist Dan Donegan (lead producer; sounds like he has more freedom here) and drummer Mike Wengren decided to produce album number four themselves.

Recorded at Groovemaster in Chicago, the album soars from the start, with the title track, written in support for the U.S. troops in the Middle East, opening with air raid sirens and the sounds of bombing. The song features a solid riff and good vocals by Draiman. A later song, "Enough," laments the causes of the Middle East war. Arguably the album's best track, it also has a good melody, as does "Inside the Fire," whose twisted lyric has the devil encouraging the singer to take his own life as a way to join his dead girlfriend. The girlfriend may not be dead in the angry "Deceiver," but she might as well be as Draiman wrote the song about an ex that he calls "a master of deception." Donegan's guitar dominates "The Night," while Draiman spits out his words in "Perfect Insanity." Wengren's drums highlight the introduction to "Haunted," which is taken over by staccato guitar (Donegan also solos on the blistering "Torn"). Finally, "The Curse" is a heavy rocker that soars. Draiman told the rest of the band he was "in the mood to purge" before going into the studio; the rest of the band was equal to the slamming attack and a great hard rock album is the result. **Grade A**

Poi Dog Pondering: 7 (Platetectonic CD, 52:51). Also based in Chicago, but worlds different in sound is this band based around singer-songwriter Frank Orrall, formed in the mid-1980s. Orrall originally is from Hawaii, but relocated the band to Chicago in 1992, after he developed an interest in dance and house music! The band's eclectic sound includes the use of organ, horns, violin, viola, upright bass, Wurliitzer, electric and acoustic guitars, Casio SK-5 keyboard, drums



TOM'S PICKS
TOM VON MALDER

and bass. Instead of the usual verse-chorus-bridge song structure, Orrall uses melodic interludes to replace choruses.

The album opens with the gentle, folkish "Perfect Music," which includes an Italian verse sung by Mistress Stephanie. There's a nice melody on "Stinky," but Orrall's vocal is distorted. The first song with a driving rock beat is the wonderful "Lemon Drop Man"; it is guitar led with horns and four backing vocalists. Also strong and rocking are "Candy" and the almost punkish "Super Tarana," with "From This Moment On" is a semi-rocker sung from a female's perspective. The softer "Palm Leaf Effigy" is about screwing up a relationship ("I drove a stake through the heart of the moment when she first trusted me"), while "Baby Together" is done in soul style. About the only misstep is the too-light "Heaven Only Knows."

The album comes with photos of sculptures by Italian artist Virginio Ferrari from the 1960s, and a foldout poster with video stills of various works by Chicago artist Marco Ferrari, Virginio's son, cooking recipes from his mother Marisa Ferrari and a prose piece by Orrall. **Grade B+**

April Wine: I Like to Rock: Live in London 1981 (Cherry Red DVD, 67 min.). One of Canada's most successful pop-rock bands on the international scene, the band was formed in late 1969 in Waverley, Nova Scotia. The original core consisted of brothers David Henman on guitar and Ritchie Henman on drums, joined by cousin Jim Henman on bass and Myles Goodwyn on vocals and guitar (Goodwyn wrote 11 of the 15 songs performed in this concert). Jim Clench replaced Jim Henman in 1971; and the Henman brothers left 1972-73 to be replaced by Gary Moffet on guitars and Jerry Mercer on



The Disturbed are, from left, guitarist Dan Donegan, singer David Draiman, drummer Mike Wengren and bassist John Moyer, who joined the other three in 2004.

drums. Their first hit (not included here) was "Fast Train" in 1971. This concert was recorded after the release of the band's ninth album, "Nature of the Beast," which contained the band's most successful U.S. single, "Between You and Me." Nine of the album's 11 songs are performed in the concert, which I believe was originally released on VHS in 1981. Other songs include a cover of King Crimson's "21st Century Schizoid Man." By now Jim Clench had been replaced by Steve Lang on bass and a third guitarist, Brian Greenway, was brought on board in 1977. Goodwyn, citing exhaustion, led the band into an 18-month hiatus after this tour. **Grade B+**

Hanoi Rocks: The Nottingham Tapes (Cherry Red DVD, 58 min.). Formed in 1979 in Helsinki, Finland, Hanoi Rocks was a glam band influenced by The Stooges, early Alice Cooper Band and The New York Dolls. In turn, they influenced the likes of Guns 'n' Roses and Manic Street Preachers. The band's flame burned out far too soon when drummer Razzle (real name Nicholas Dingley) was killed in a December 1984 car crash (the

driver was Vince Neil, the singer of Motley Crue), just after the band had signed with Columbia Records and recorded its fifth album. (Vocalist-sax player Michael Monroe and guitarist Andy McCoy reformed the band in 2002.). This 14-song concert, recorded April 23, 1984 at the Palais in Nottingham, England is a bit rough — filmed by a video crew that had been doing a trash punk all-dayer at the venue — but catches the band in all its sleazy, yet melodic rock glory, including covers of The Ramones' "Blitzkrieg Bop" and Creedence Clearwater Revival's "Up Around the Bend." Also included are their hits: "Tragedy," "Don't You Ever Leave Me" and "Underwater World" (the alter has the line "Welcome to the jungle," which Axl Rose of Guns 'n' Roses used so famously as a song title). **Grade B+**

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THE STRAND WHAT'S PLAYING:
FRI, 6/13 - WED, 6/18

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HUNT BRODERICK
bette colin
MIDLER FIRTH

then she found me

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Saturday..... 5:30, 8:00 Tuesday..... 1:00, 7:00
Sunday..... 3:00, 7:00 Wed., 7:00 (NOIR NO SHOW)

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June 13th through June 19th

THE INCREDIBLE HULK (PG13).....1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30
THE HAPPENING (R).....1:30, 4:25, 7:20, 9:25

YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN (PG13).....1:05, 4:15, 7:05, 9:35
SEX AND THE CITY (R).....12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:45
THE STRANGERS (R).....1:20, 4:20, 7:15, 9:10

CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 2 (PG).....12:45, 3:45, 6:40, 9:20
IRON MAN (PG13).....12:55, 3:55, 6:45, 9:15
INDIANA JONES (PG13).....1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:40
KUNG FU PANDA (PG).....12:40, 2:45, 4:50, 6:55, 9:05
KUNG FU PANDA (PG).....1:40, 4:05

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG13).....7:25, 9:50

Be our guest for a movie on your birthday! (Proper I.D. required)
I.D. required for R-Rated Films

THE TOP TEN

MOVIES ...

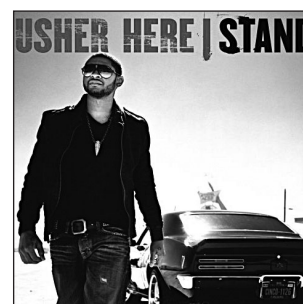
1. **Kung Fu Panda**
2. **You Don't Mess with the Zohan**
3. **Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull**
4. **Sex and the City**
5. **The Strangers**
6. **Iron Man**
7. **The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian**
8. **What Happens In Vegas...**
9. **Baby Mama**
10. **Made of Honor**



Information courtesy www.imdb.com

MUSIC ...

1. **Usher**, "Here I Stand"
2. **Soundtrack**, "Sex And The City"
3. **3 Doors Down**, "3 Doors Down"
4. **Bun-B**, "Il Trill"
5. **Leona Lewis**, "Spirit"
6. **Frank Sinatra**, "Nothing But The Best"
7. **Duffy**, "Rockferry"
8. **Mariah Carey**, "E=MC²"
9. **Al Green**, "Lay It Down"
10. **Death Cab For Cutie**, "Narrow Stairs"

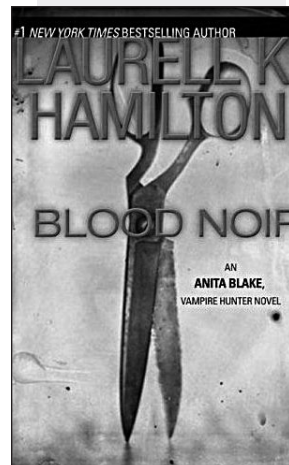


Information courtesy www.Billboard.com

BOOKS ...

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. **"Blood Noir,"** by Laurell K. Hamilton
2. **"The Host,"** by Stephanie Meyer
3. **"Odd Hours,"** by Dean Koontz
4. **"Love the One You're With,"** by Emily Giffin
5. **"Sunday at Tiffany's,"** by James Patterson and Gabrielle Charbonnet
6. **"Chasing Harry Winston,"** by Lauren Weisberger
7. **"The Front,"** by Patricia Cornwell
8. **"Devil May Care,"** by Sebastian Faulks
9. **"Phantom Prey,"** by John Sanford
10. **"Snuff,"** by Chuck Palahniuk



HARDCOVER NON-FICTION

1. **"What Happened,"** by Scott McClellan
2. **"Audition,"** by Barbara Walters
3. **"Are You There Volodka? It's Me, Chelsea,"** by Chelsea Handler
4. **"The Post-American World,"** by Fareed Zakaria
5. **"Stolen Innocence,"** by Elissa Wall with Lisa Pulitzer
6. **"My Stroke of Insight,"** by Jill Bolte Taylor
7. **"The Downhill Lie,"** by Carl Hiaasen
8. **"The Revolution,"** by Ron Paul
9. **"The Great Derangement,"** by Matt Taibbi
10. **"Counselor,"** by Ted Sorensen



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