

# POP CULTURE

## Second 'Narnia' movie an improvement

As a huge "Chronicles of Narnia" fan and frequent viewer of films, I was very disappointed when the first Narnia movie, "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe," was released. I thought the child stars were unremarkable, the special effects were kind of lame, and the movie as a whole was just not that great. So I went to the second film, "Prince Caspian," with low expectations. I was pleasantly surprised.

This time the Pevensie children — Peter (William Moseley), Susan (Anna Popplewell), Edmund (Skandar Keynes) and Lucy (Georgie Henley) — find themselves back in Narnia, hundreds of years after they left it as kings and queens. Yet, due to the magic of Narnia and a bizarre manipulation of time and space, they are kids again. Or kids still. Whichever way you look at it, once you get past the age and time thing, the story gets very interesting.

Prince Caspian the tenth (Ben Barnes) is forced to run away from his kingdom, Telmarine, because his evil uncle Miraz (Sergio Castellitto) is plotting his



**THE POPCORN REPORT**  
MEGAN RICHARDSON

Rated PG

death in order to win the throne for himself. When some of his uncle's henchmen chase after him into the woods of Narnia, he is forced to call for help using a mysterious horn that he was cautioned only to use under desperate circumstances.

Turns out, the horn belongs to Susan — Queen Susan — and it draws her and her siblings back into Narnia, which is now a much less pleasant place. With the help of the royal siblings and a variety of talking animals, Prince Caspian must fight to take back his throne, promising to free the Narnians (who have been under Telmarine rule since the Pevensies left) when he is successful.



Ben Barnes stars in "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian."

Great battles ensue, both at Caspian's palace and in Narnia, where Miraz and his army are ruthless and the Narnians, led by their brave kings and queens, are wise. The battle scenes are actually very intense and quite violent. I thought they were some of the best scenes in the film.

The acting in the film, though not flawless, improved noticeably since the first installment, making it a much more pleasant movie experience. Mostly, the film was action packed and moved forward with great momentum. It wasn't until close to the end, when some lame dialogue and extremely obvious religious metaphors were injected into the story without any grace at all, that I had any problem with the movie.

It really is a dark story, and it is scarier and more violent than its PG rating would suggest. The special effects in the film are great,

much more seamless, I thought, than in the original. And the talking animals, such as the mighty knight Reepicheep (voiced by Eddie Izzard), weren't annoying, as they so easily might be (think "Doctor Dolittle").

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

★★★ MEDITOCRE

★★ POOR

★ TERRIBLE



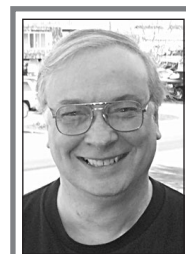
The lion Aslan in "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian."

## Standout DVDs by Limp Bizkit, Mink DeVille

**Scarlett Johansson: Anywhere I Lay My Head** (Atco CD, 44:29). The actress had planned to record standards for her debut album, including the Tom Waits/Bette Midler duet, "I Never Talk to Strangers." But that thought led to this, an album of all Waits' songs (except one original), although "Strangers" is missing.

Producer Davis Andrew Sitek (of the band, TV on the Radio) surrounds Johansson's rather weak voice (at least, unfortunately unemotional voice here) with so many instruments that the effect often is too sweet, too ethereal and too precious. The album opens with the instrumental "Fawn." Probably the best performances are on "Falling Down" and the original "Song For Jo" by Johansson and Sitek, while both "Fannin' Street" and "I Don't Want to Grow Up" have their moments. David Bowie adds backing vocals to both "Fannin' Street" (the newest Waits song here) and "Falling Down." **Grade B-**

**Limp Bizkit: Rock in the Park 2001** (Charly/MVD Visual DVD, 75/87 min.). The rap-metal hybrid (Nu Metal) band is captured at Germany's most prestigious rock event, Rock im Park, held annually in Nuremberg ... and rock they do, starting in molten fashion with the swear-filled "Hot Dog," "Show Me What You Got" and "Break Stuff" (the latter features a turntable and drum break). Vocalist Fred Durst is in the crowd atop two roadies' shoulders while singing "My Generation" (the title phrase is just about all that remains of The Who song). Guitarist Wes Borland (topless but painted in gold) turns in a blistering guitar solo (and then some "singing") on "Faith," before the whole band tackles the George Michael song. This concert occurred just before Borland left the band the first time (for three years). Durst has a woman pulled out of the audience to dance on stage during the softer song, "The One," and has a young boy join him to jump up and down during "My Way" ("or the highway"; not the Frank Sinatra song). The con-



**TOM'S PICKS**  
TOM VON MALDER

cert also includes the hits "Nookie," "Take a Look Around" and "Rollin'." The fun of the disc comes in the shorter remix version, which has more impact as the editing fitting the beats of the songs. The only DVD bonus is an 8:22 interview with the band's DJ Lethal. **Grade A-**

**Mink DeVille: Live at Montreux 1982** (Eagle Vision DVD, 68 min.). The band, fronted by Willy DeVille, burst out of the same 1977 CBGB's punk explosion that yielded The Ramones and Talking Heads, but his band features a prominent saxophone and blended street corner soul, a Latin feel and rock and roll, while DeVille himself had the voice of a 60-year-old black blues singer. After the band plays the sultry "Harlem Nocturne," out comes the already-sweating DeVille, his hair piled in a high pompadour, with a cigarette stuck between his pencil-thin mustache and soul patch, dressed in a lavender suit, purple shirt, black tie and black eyeliner. The band had four albums out by this time and would issue two more, before DeVille went solo. The show includes 15 songs in about an hour, including the solid "She's So Tough," "Cadillac Walk," "Mixed Up, Shook Up Girl," the ballad "Love & Emotion," "Lipstick Traces" and the closing cover of Ben E. King's "Stand By Me." **Grade B+**

**Classic Albums: John Lennon: Plastic Ono Band** (Eagle Vision DVD, 90 min.). Lennon's 1970, first post-Beatles solo album is a fierce, raw classic, in which the lyrics, influenced by study with "Primal Scream" therapist Arthur Janov, are the key. In a recorded interview, Lennon says, "I like first-person music," but he felt he had to hide himself when he was with



Scarlett Johansson's first album is devoted to Tom Waits songs, many written with his wife, Kathleen Brennan.

the Beatles (the song "God" has the line: "I used to be the Walrus, but now I am just John"; its litany of things he no longer believes in — shockingly at the time — includes the Beatles). The album was put together by Lennon and his wife Yoko Ono, with producer Phil Spector also brought in. The songs — nearly every one a classic — include "Cold Turkey," about Lennon's withdrawal from heroin (with his voice approximating the "bird"-like chirping/singing of Ono); the birth-recreation screams of "Mother"; the beautifully simple "Working Class Hero"; the rockers "Well Well Well" and "Instant Karma"; and the activist "Give Peace a Chance." Giving exclusive interviews here are Ono, former Beatle Ringo Starr (he played drums on the album), bassist Klaus Voormann, Janov, Rolling Stone magazine founder Jan Wenner and Abbey Road engi-

neers Phil McDonald and Richard Lush, who break down some of the tracks. The main program is 53 minutes, while the 37 minutes of bonus materials include three live performances, a rare early take of "God (The Dream is Over)" with just Lennon's voice and guitar (the final version includes pianos by Lennon and Billy Preston) and secret bits in the recordings of "Well Well Well" (an Ono comment) and "Working Class Hero" (a verse from a later recording was spliced into the middle of the song). **Grade A**

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**THE STRAND WHAT'S PLAYING:**  
FRI, 5/23 - THUR, 5/29  
"Best movie I've seen so far this year? Hands down, it's Tom McCarthy's superb *The Visitor*."  
- NEW YORK POST

**the Visitor**  
PG-13

Friday..... 5:30, 8:00 Monday..... 7:00  
Saturday... 5:30, 8:00 Tuesday..... 1:00, 7:00  
Sunday..... 3:00, 7:00 Wed, Thur..... 7:00

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May 22th through May 29th Fri., Sat., & Sun.

INDIANA JONES (PG13).....1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40  
INDIANA JONES (PG13).....1:30, 4:30, 7:40

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 2 (PG).....12:45, 3:45, 6:50, 9:45

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 2 (PG).....1:15, 4:15, 7:30

SPEED RACER (PG).....12:55, 3:50, 6:45, 9:30

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG13).....1:20, 4:05, 7:10, 9:25

MADE OF HONOR (PG13).....1:35, 4:10, 7:05, 9:20

IRON MAN (PG13).....1:10, 3:55, 6:55, 9:35

IRON MAN (PG13).....1:40, 7:20

FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R).....4:25

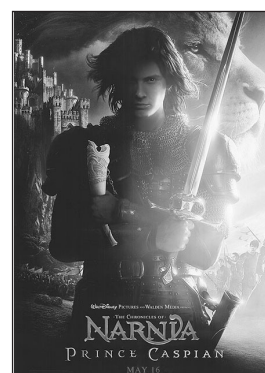
NINI'S ISLAND (PG13).....1:45

IRON MAN (PG13).....4:20, 7:15, 9:15

## THE TOP TEN

### MOVIES ...

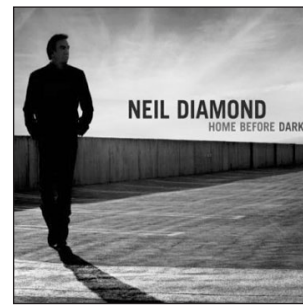
1. **The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian**
2. **Iron Man**
3. **What Happens In Vegas...**
4. **Speed Racer**
5. **Made of Honor**
6. **Baby Mama**
7. **Forgetting Sarah Marshall**
8. **Harold & Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay**
9. **The Forbidden Kingdom**
10. **The Visitor**



Information courtesy www.imdb.com

### MUSIC ...

1. **Neil Diamond**, "Home Before Dark"
2. **Toby Keith**, "35 Biggest Hits"
3. **Madonna**, "Hard Candy"
4. **Clay Aiken**, "On My Way Here"
5. **Mariah Carey**, "E=MC2"
6. **Leona Lewis**, "Spirit"
7. **Gavin DeGraw**, "Gavin DeGraw"
8. **Josh Groban**, "Awake Live"
9. **Dierks Bentley**, "Greatest Hits/Every Mile A Memory 2003-2008"
10. **Luis Miguel**, "Complices"



Information courtesy www.Billboard.com.

### BOOKS ...

**HARDCOVER FICTION**

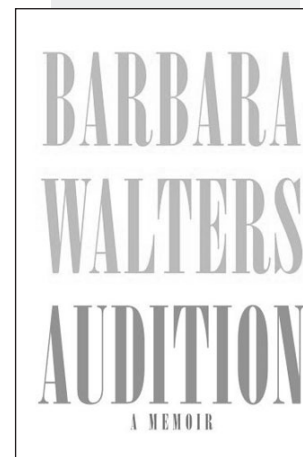
1. **"The Host,"** by Stephanie Meyer
2. **"Sunday at Tiffany's"** by James Patterson and Gabrielle Charbonnet
3. **"Phantom Prey,"** by John Sanford
4. **"The Whole Truth,"** by David Baldacci
5. **"Careless in Red,"** by Elizabeth George
6. **"From Dead to Worse,"** by Charlaine Harris
7. **"Twenty Wishes,"** by Debbie Macomber
8. **"Where Are You Now?"** by Mary Higgins Clark
9. **"Unaccustomed Earth,"** by Jhumpa Lahiri
10. **"The Miracle at Sleepy Motors,"** by Alexander McCall Smith



Top Sellers As Reported By The New York Times Bestseller Lists.

**HARDCOVER NON-FICTION**

1. **"Audition,"** by Barbara Walters
2. **"Home,"** by Julie Andrews
3. **"Are You There Volka? It's Me, Chelsea,"** by Chelsea Handler
4. **"A Remarkable Mother,"** by Jimmy Carter
5. **"The Post-American World,"** by Fareed Zakaria
6. **"A Wolf at the Table,"** by Augusten Burroughs
7. **"The Revolution,"** by Ron Paul
8. **"Ladies of Liberty,"** by Cokie Roberts
9. **"The Downhill Lie,"** by Carl Hiaasen
10. **"Escape,"** by Carolyn Jessop with Laura Palmer



## SUDOKU

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO NOW!

If you're interested in contributing to Now!, please contact Kelly Woods at 594-4401.