

POP CULTURE

'Sarah Marshall' is unforgettable

Oh, breakups. They're so painful, so relatable, and so very funny — at least cinematically speaking.

"Forgetting Sarah Marshall" is a film that really captures the utter humiliation that is a breakup, while also providing hope and a whole lot of laughs. Written by Jason Segel, who also stars in the film, it's another comedy classic from the troupe that brought us "Knocked Up" and "Superbad."

The movie follows Peter Bretter as he struggles to deal with the end of his five-year relationship with Sarah Marshall (Kristen Bell), a pretty starlet whose crime scene investigating TV show is a hit. After several awkward one-night stands (think tears), Peter decides to get away in an attempt to forget about Sarah.

Unfortunately, Peter arrives at a Hawaiian resort only to come face to face with Sarah and her



THE POPCORN REPORT
MEGAN RICHARDSON

Rated R

new man, super cool rock star Aldous Snow (Russell Brand). Naturally, Peter decides that leaving that particular resort would be a sign of weakness, and so he decides to stick it out alongside the overly-affectionate-in-public lovebirds. With the help of various hotel employees, including sweetheart Rachel (Mila Kunis), Peter survives the trip and slowly but surely starts to forget about Sarah Marshall.

"Forgetting Sarah Marshall" is good because mixed in with ridiculous scenarios and imma-



Jason Segel stars in "Forgetting Sarah Marshall."

ture jokes there is a realism that will have just about everyone who has gone through a breakup saying "Oh my god, that's me." Peter sobs pathetically, he makes bad rebound choices, he sits alone in his apartment listening to "Nothing Compares To You" and wants to get back with Sarah even when he knows she's not good for him. Throughout the film, both Sarah and Peter have flashbacks to their relationship, some good, some bad, and they really help to illustrate how complex relationships are, while still adding something funny to the plotline.

The film was well written and the actors were all perfectly cast. Kunis is incredibly likable as Rachel, and Bell manages to add some sweetness to what could be an easily hated character. Segel seems like your average heartbroken Joe, a decent guy who doesn't really have a clue about what happened to his relationship. Brand's portrayal of Aldous Snow is a hilarious treat, turning

the moronic "other man" into a friendly, albeit self absorbed, man.

Words of caution to those not keen on an abundance of sex in films: there are several full-frontal shots in the film, and sex is very much a part of the film. If that doesn't bother you, see this movie.

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



Kristen Bell stars in "Forgetting Sarah Marshall."

Compelling history of music

Tony Palmer's *All You Need is Love* (Voiceprint, 5 DVDs, 14 hours 45 min.). In the mid-1970s, at the suggestion of John Lennon of the Beatles, celebrated journalist and film director Palmer decided to document the "Story of Popular Music" and interviewed the major players in the industry at that time. The 17 episodes were broadcast between 1976 and 1981, but never were released for the home market until now.

For example, the episode that deals with the Beatles includes interviews with band members Lennon and Paul McCartney, press manager Derek Taylor, producer George Martin and managers Allan Williams and (on tape) Brian Epstein (his mother is interviewed live). The anecdotes recalled go beyond those you usually hear. The series begins all the way back with the origins of music in Africa and Europe, and how ragtime, jazz, blues and gospel were formed. Scott Joplin and Eubie Blake from the days of ragtime give way to Louis Armstrong, Earl "Fatha" Hines, Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker and Miles Davis, all jazz luminaries. The blues covers Bessie Smith, Muddy Waters and Memphis Slim. One episode covers music halls, variety shows, vaudeville and drag queens. Then come the crooners, like Bing Crosby and Rudy Vallee. Operetta and Broadway get an episode, as do the swing bands. Rhythm and blues begins with Bo Diddley and branches to Aretha Franklin and Stevie Wonder. Country music gets an episode, as do songs of war and protest, early rock and roll, and The Rolling Stones and "sour rock." The final two episodes deal with glitter rock and "new directions," the latter going from Black Oak Arkansas to Tangerine Dream, from Jack Bruce to Mike Oldfield. The interviews are solid, the newsreel footage to the point and the overall picture that emerges is fascinating. **Grade A**

Craig David: *Trust Me* (Reprise CD, 43:20). British R&B singer-songwriter David, 26, recorded his fourth album in Havana, Cuba with producer Martin Terefe (KT Tunstall, James Morrison) and writer-producer-mixer Fraser T. Smith (Beyonce, Plan B; David's guitarist for several years) and the Cuban influence is strong throughout, especially on the disc's second single, "6 of 1 Thing," in which David's voice becomes like a musical instrument, and in the break on "Don't Play with Our Love." The CD's first single is the hot dance track "Hot Stuff (Let's Dance)," which



TOM'S PICKS
TOM VON MALDER

samples Bowie's "Let's Dance" hit (with Bowie's approval). The lyric flow is often fluid, as on "She's on Fire." The lyrics are center on the mature ballad "Awkward," which features vocals by Rita Ora, a 17-year-old discovery, while the closing "This is the Girl" is David's Top 20 collaboration with London rapper Kano. Also strong is "Kinda Girl for Me," which uses part of Thom Bell and Linda Creed's "You Are Everything." **Grade B**

Dokken: Lightning Strikes Again (Rhino CD, 51:18). This is the 10th studio album for the mid-Eighties sensation hair band, which hit with "Breaking the Chains," "Alone Again," "Just Got Lucky," "Into the Fire" and others. On the verge of superstardom, the band broke up in 1989, only to reform six years later. The lineup is vocalist Don Dokken, drummer Mick Brown, guitarist Jon Levin and bassist Barry Sparks, with a mix by Wyn Davis (Dio, Great White). The sound is a return to the glory days, with an emphasis on ballads: from the power ballad "Standing on the Outside" to the melodic "How I Miss Your Smile" to the probable single "Oasis" and the bit harder "Give Me a Reason." The likes of "Point of No Return" recall fellow rockers Scorpion, while the more generic rocker "Disease" is almost metal in its drumming. **Grade B**

John Bayless: Circle of Life (Angel CD, 57:34). This is a collection of Elton John songs performed on piano in the style of Johann Sebastian Bach. This is not an unusual idea for Bayless, who began his recorded career in 1985 with "Bach Meets the Beatles" (what is unusual is this new album was recorded in 2001 and has waited this long to see release). Highlights include "Your Song" mixed with snippets from the D Major Piano Concerto, "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" as a solemn chorale in C Major, "Rocket Man" that goes from a soulful plea in G minor to a lively toccata, "Crocodile Rock" and "Candle in the Wind" fused with "My Jesus How You Suffered in Gethsemane." Here, "Goodbye, Yellow Brick Road" is married to the gigue from Brandenburg Concerto No. 5. **Grade B+**



Craig David has issued his fourth CD.

Frank Sinatra: Nothing But the Best (Reprise CD, 74:38). This week marks the 10th anniversary of Sinatra's death and he is being celebrated by this 22-song collection culled from his Reprise years (Sinatra founded the label in 1960), as well as four box sets of his movies (see this week's Vidvues online) that cover 22 of his 58 films, including 11 making their DVD debut. The songs here, which emphasize his upbeat material, have been remixed and remastered from the original master tapes; plus, there is an unreleased Sinatra vocal of Johnny Green's "Body and Soul" from 1984, set to newly recorded music conducted by his son, Frank Sinatra Jr. Every Sinatra song is a highlight — OK, I remain a huge fan — but this disc offers "Come Fly with Me," "The

Best is Yet to Come," "Luck Be a Lady," "Bewitched," "Fly Me to the Moon," "Strangers in the Night," "My Kind of Town," "That's Life," "My Way" and "Theme from New York, New York," not to mention the charmingly corny "Somethin' Stupid" with daughter Nancy. A nice touch is the inclusion of a collectible, commemorative Sinatra stamp with official USPS first-day issue cancellation. **Grade A+**

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THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 2 (PG).....1:25, 4:30, 7:30
SPEED RACER (PG).....12:55, 3:50, 6:45, 9:30
WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG-13).....1:10, 4:05, 7:10, 9:25
EXPULSED (PG).....1:40, 3:55, 7:05, 9:15
IRON MAN (PG-13).....1:30, 3:45, 6:55, 9:40
IRON MAN (PG-13).....1:30, 4:15, 7:35
MADE OF HONOR (PG-13).....1:15, 4:10, 7:15, 9:35
BABY MAMA (PG-13).....1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:10
NIM'S ISLAND (PG).....12:50, 2:55, 4:55

FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R).....7:20, 9:50

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THE TOP TEN

MOVIES ...

1. **Iron Man**
2. **Speed Racer**
3. **What Happens In Vegas...**
4. **Made of Honor**
5. **Baby Mama**
6. **Forgetting Sarah Marshall**
7. **Harold & Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay**
8. **The Forbidden Kingdom**
9. **Nim's Island**
10. **Redbelt**



Information courtesy www.imdb.com

MUSIC ...

1. **Madonna**, "Hard Candy"
2. **Mariah Carey**, "E=MC2"
3. **Leona Lewis**, "Spirit"
4. **Lyfe Jennings**, "Lyfe Change"
5. **Def Leppard**, "Songs From The Sparkle Lounge"
6. **The Roots**, "Rising Down"
7. **Portishead**, "Third"
8. **Mudcrutch**, "Mudcrutch"
9. **Various Artists**, "NOW 27"
10. **Tim McGraw**, "Greatest Hits: Limited Edition"

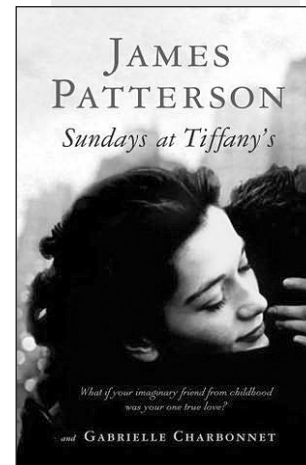


Information courtesy www.Billboard.com

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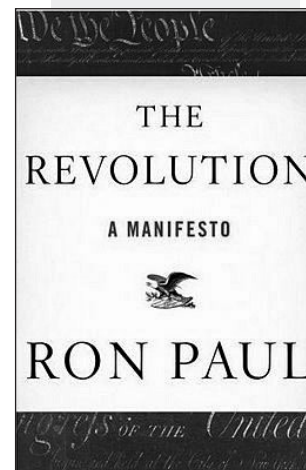
HARDCOVER FICTION

1. **"Sunday at Tiffany's"** by James Patterson and Gabrielle Charbonnet
2. **"The Whole Truth,"** by David Baldacci
3. **"Twenty Wishes,"** by Debbie Macomber
4. **"Hold Tight,"** by Harlan Coben
5. **"Unaccustomed Earth,"** by Jhumpa Lahiri
6. **"Where Are You Now?"** by Mary Higgins Clark
7. **"Dead Heat,"** by Joel C. Rosenberg
8. **"The Miracle at Sleepy Motors,"** by Alexander McCall Smith
9. **"Child 44,"** by Tom Rob Smith
10. **"Certain Girls,"** by Jennifer Weiner



HARDCOVER NON-FICTION

1. **"The Revolution,"** by Ron Paul
2. **"A Wolf at the Table,"** by Augusten Burroughs
3. **"Are You There Vodka? It's Me, Chelsea,"** by Chelsea Handler
4. **"Home,"** by Julie Andrews
5. **"Escape,"** by Carolyn Jessop with Laura Palmer
6. **"Ladies of Liberty,"** by Cokie Roberts
7. **"A Remarkable Mother,"** by Jimmy Carter
8. **"Beautiful Boy,"** by David Sheff
9. **"Mistaken Identity,"** by Don and Susie Van Ryn and Newell, Colleen and Whitney Cerak, with Mark Tabb
10. **"A Voyage Long and Strange,"** by Tony Horwitz



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