



Courtesy of EMI Records

EMF's latest release is "Stigma."

Believe it: EMF fails to please on release

Billboard single's mass appeal falls flat on 2nd try

Reviews



"Stigma"
EMF
EMI Records Group

Track one on "Stigma" starts off with a bang, but each spin of EMF's latest release leads to mediocrity.

EMF (Epson Mad Funkers) jumped in 1991 from the UK to the USA with "Unbelievable," from their debut album, "Schubert Dip."

Remember this song? It streamed from the car radio at almost every change of a traffic light.

But it sounded good enough to skyrocket to No. 1 on Billboard magazine's Hot 100 Singles chart.

Simply put, EMF is a mass appeal success story.

The voice of lead singer James Atkin is the biggest cog in that appeal.

His British twang makes pronunciations catchy.

Americans must find it fun to sing

Military drama filled with exceptional acting

Powerhouse cast, intense dialogue makes film great



"A Few Good Men"

By Anne Steyer
Staff Reporter

"A Few Good Men" (Plaza 4, Edgewood 3) has more than just a few good performances.

The powerhouse cast of director Rob Reiner's film adaptation of Aaron Sorkin's stage play, packs a wallop of screen presence into a two and one-half hour show.

Tom Cruise headlines as Daniel Kaffee, an attorney in the Navy who has a reputation for plea bargaining. Sharing top-billing is Demi Moore as Jo Galloway, an earnest Internal Affairs officer determined to see justice done.

Kaffee is assigned to defend two Marines accused of murdering a member of their unit in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Galloway worms her way into the case to make sure it doesn't get Kaffee a set of steak knives for another successful plea bargain.

Jack Nicholson is Nathan Jessup,

along with EMF, kind of like toying with a southern drawl — but on the opposite end of a quirky linguistic spectrum.

The rest of the EMF crew is still putting out the hard driving sounds on "Stigma." But there's been little progression or experimentation since "Schubert Dip."

EMF grew out of rural England's small town pubs in 1989. Since then, they've been pegged as leaders in the fourth British Invasion.

"Stigma" is EMF — full-steam ahead. They are progressing, writing more songs. The youthful group's frenzied rock 'n' roll sound is as permanent as ever.

Disappointing, though, are the release's song-writing efforts. "Stigma," with its 10 tracks, is far from noteworthy.

Each song has drive and sounds pretty good, but most songs give nothing creative enough to stick it to the brain bombarded with pop/rock/hip-hop music.

It will take a good dose of repetition before the listener will become intrigued.

— Stacey McKenzie



Courtesy of Columbia Pictures

Tom Cruise (left) and Kiefer Sutherland.

the commanding officer at the Cuba base, who may or may not be the source of all the trouble. Nicholson's screen time is limited, but he squeezes the most out of every second.

Cruise is much more relaxed on screen than he has been in some time. Surprisingly, he handles Kaffee with apparent ease. Moore's Galloway is earnest to a fault and a bit bumbling, true to how the character is written.

The supporting cast is outstanding, especially Kevin Pollak as Kaffee's assistant, Kevin Bacon as the prosecuting attorney and Kiefer Sutherland as a bible-beating marine.

Reiner and Sorkin do a great job of capturing the feel and attitudes of the military.

Sorkin adapted his stage play to the screen with some minor changes — and they only improved the already stunning dialogue. Verbal sparring between all the characters, with especially off-the-cuff remarks for Cruise's character definitely make for an entertaining night at the movies.

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