

Fishbone opens for 311

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has yet to parallel, and it is one of the bands 311 credits as an influence.

Fishbone's sound is even harder to categorize than 311's, as the former blends funk and punk, ska and blues, and rock and jazz into the mix that band members call "Nutmeg." The group's latest release, "Chim Chim's Badass Revenge," displays "Nutmeg" in all its forms.

The band's success — with its first hit coming from "Party at Ground Zero" from their self-titled debut EP in 1985 — happened much earlier than 311's. The track scored big on radio and MTV and propelled Fishbone

into releasing multiple critically acclaimed full-length and EP releases.

For those who want to refresh themselves with Fishbone, "Fishbone 101" is a two-record compilation of early Fishbone hits, such as "Skankin' to the Beat" and "Bonin' in the Boneyard," as well as demo versions of songs like "Party at Ground Zero" and "Alcoholic." Released last year, the album is a necessity for any Fishbone fan.

Fishbone is currently touring and has branched off to join 311 for the Midwest leg of its tour. The group should play a collaboration of songs from all albums, while concentrating on those from "Chim Chim's."



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.
DETECTIVE ED EXLEY (Guy Pearce) encounters danger in 1952 Los Angeles while solving a restaurant murder in "L.A. Confidential."

'L.A. Confidential' opens up

BY PATRICK MINER
Movie Critic

Movie Review

Is it too early to be calling for an Oscar?

Surprisingly enough, "L.A. Confidential" should not only be mentioned for possible Academy Award attention, but as the early front-runner. Based on the novel of the same name, the film is a complex portrayal of crime in Los Angeles in 1952 and the corruptness of its police force.

Directed and produced by Curtis Hanson, who has directed films like "The Hand That Rocks the Cradle," the film intertwines a group of diverse characters in a story that's too busy to leave for popcorn. In bringing the complex story to life, Hanson combines high-profile actors with lesser-known players in roles that

have as many intriguing differences as depth.

Kevin Spacey plays the smooth Jack Vincennes, a cop whose job is more important in making the force look good than the actual busting of the criminals. His celebrity status is ensured through Sid Hudgens (Danny Devito), the editor of the tabloid "Hush Hush," and the two work together in catching show-business personalities while also catching it all on film.

Two Australian actors, Russell Crowe and Guy Pearce, won the lead roles as Bud White and Ed Exley. White is a fearless cop who pays particular attention to the female victims of the city. Exley is the rookie cop who lets his ambitious ideas of pro-

The Facts

Title: "L.A. Confidential"
Stars: Kevin Spacey, Russell Crowe, Guy Pearce, Danny Devito, Kim Basinger, James Cromwell
Director: Curtis Hanson
Rating: R (violence, language, nudity)
Grade: A
Five Words: "Confidential" excels in performances, direction.

motion be known at the expense of being despised by his fellow cops.

Both are under the watchful eye of Capt. Dudley Smith (James Cromwell) as they attempt to solve a restaurant murder case. Kim Basinger receives the nod as the mysterious Lynn Bracken, and her character fascinates both Bud and Exley.

The contrasts in ideals of the characters was portrayed beautifully by Hanson, as he weaves amazing performances with a believable view of early '50s Los Angeles. The use of relative unknowns Crowe and Pearce in the two lead roles in the film gives the American crowd a fresh look without a lot of prejudiced assumptions from previous characters.

This film is easily in contention for early Oscar consideration. Kevin Spacey shows again why he is one of the top performers in the business, and he could very well grab another Best Supporting Actor award to match the one he won for "The Usual Suspects." Other actors, such as Crowe and Pearce, and the screenplay by Brian Koppelman and Hanson will be considered for awards, and the job done by Hanson will indeed not be "off the record, on the QT and very hush, hush."



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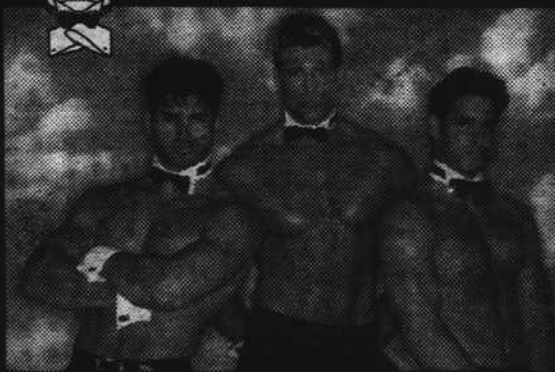
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