

New Releases

Prince
"The Vault ... Old Friends 4 Sale"
 Warner Bros.
 Grade: A

The Purple One is back for more.

Prince, or the Artist formerly known as such, is back with an album that, while not quite new, reestablishes his reign with 10 old-school, funky tracks.

"The Vault ... Old Friends 4 Sale," which was released Aug. 24, contains work from when the Artist was still known as Prince. The tracks were recorded between January 1985 and June 1994, mostly at Prince's Paisley Park Studios in Minnesota.

This is one of the first tastes listeners have had of Prince's legendary backlog of unreleased material, aside from widely circulated bootleg recordings.

The album is reminiscent of Prince's best work, but with a slightly different tone and a tweaked sound.

The sexy, swarthy voice — heavy with falsetto — is still the same, and the sultry lyrics would still shock the sexually faint-of-heart.

Songs such as "When the Lights Go Down" and "5 Women+" are adorned with saxophone, trumpet and a plethora of other instruments. They have a jazzy feel that is a unique and welcome twist to some of Prince's other work.

"She Spoke 2 Me," an eight-minute extended remix, is rounded out nicely with a long instrumental cut that makes listeners feel as though they sat in on the jam session.

Keep in mind, most of the songs were recorded in the mid-'80s, so

synthesized keyboards are heavy, and the bulk of the music is obviously from a bygone era. This explains why the disc is being sold under the name Prince, not the symbol the Artist adopted in 1993.

Only one of the songs postdates the Artist's name change.

But that's part of what makes it so good — it's music from the Prince we all know and love.

The collection was handed to Warner Bros. Records three years ago as the last part of Prince's obligation to his 1992 \$100-million contract, which eventually turned into a bitter feud and had Prince scribbling "slave" across his face.

The album gathers together recordings that come from an array of different projects Prince has worked on throughout his career.

Songs on the disc date from his 1985 "Parade" and "Under the Cherry Moon" sessions, his abandoned 1994 "I'll Do Anything" musical project and include remixes of songs that originally appeared on film soundtracks.

The disc isn't full of obscure songs and definitely retains most of the campy kitsch that makes Prince the personality he is. Most of the songs have strong lyrics and tunes that stick in the brain, with a vision of the high-heeled sex machine getting his groove on while rocking out.

Overall, the disc could be compared to a good party: It starts out fast, catchy and fun and, as the night goes on, slows down to some nice jams Prince wrote just for the ladies.

It's a perfect disc of tunes from the past to take listeners past the hype of 1999 and into the new millennium.

— Sarah Baker

'Astronaut's Wife' lost without plot, suspense

By **SAMUEL MCKEWIN**
 Senior staff writer

"The Astronaut's Wife" is one of those curious creations that has ripped off several science-fiction genre movies yet managed to be entirely void of suspense and intrigue.

No wonder there weren't any advance screenings of this film for critics to ravage.

Written and directed by Rand Ravich, the movie looks good enough and employs just about every camera trick and cliché ever invented (including the slow motion shot of a glass of water shattering on the floor).

The cast is good-looking too, with Johnny Depp going blond and Charlize Theron as the aforementioned title character.

But where, oh where, is the story? A better question might be: What is the motivation for such a story?

Depp plays Spencer Armacost, an astronaut who loses contact with his NASA base for two minutes while working in space on a satellite.

He makes it back OK, but his partner (Nick Cassavetes) turns up dead after a few weeks. A few days later, the partner's wife kills herself, claiming to Spencer's wife, Jillian (Theron), that the dead astronaut is still "hiding inside her."

Spencer and Jillian pack up and move to New York, and Jillian gets pregnant.

Film Review

The Facts

Title: "The Astronaut's Wife"
Stars: Charlize Theron, Johnny Depp, Joe Morton
Director: Rand Ravich
Rating: R (one f-bomb-laced verbal tirade, graphic alien sex)
Grade: D
Five Words: Script belongs in outer space.

Here, the movie takes on a definite "Rosemary's Baby" feel, except Depp's character makes way, way more money working for a defense contractor and developing a strange, revolutionary warplane.

The movie hadn't taken much shape by the time of the New York move and just fell apart even further directly after.

Part of it has to do with the sheer delay of suspense; we're not even sure what's wrong until well past the one-hour mark.

This movie has scenes that simply don't belong: Jillian teaching some second graders, Jillian dancing around the apartment.

The dialogue and just plain stupidity of the movie's plot make up the other part.

Depp's role is severely undercut; his lines carry so little weight toward anything that his talent is wasted.

And not to be unfair to the beautiful Theron, but she's over her head in a role

Movie Review

that requires more than crying and collapsing on the floor — the two main staples of her performance here. She's in nearly every frame of the movie, and there isn't a whole lot for her to do.

At only 24, Theron's too green to take on the weighty role of a woman who may be carrying the world's destroyer inside her.

Just what is inside her remains fairly unclear for a long time, and when a whacked-out NASA official (a jittery, almost funny Joe Morton) finally clues her in, Theron kicks the crying and full-bodied sobs into full gear.

It all leads up to a chase scene between Depp and Theron that is among the most ludicrous ever put onscreen. Really, truly ludicrous. All the way down to the shifting from night to day within a matter of seconds — apparently an issue overlooked by Ravich.

Not long after comes the ending, which, when you think about it, renders the entire movie null and void.

There isn't much good to say about "The Astronaut's Wife." The parts are so much greater than the whole. Ravich, as a director, has promise, and a few scenes do make the hair stand on end. As a screenwriter, though, he doesn't have much talent. Ultimately, a pretty worthless script overrides any redeeming production value the movie might have had.

Beer school informs at fair

BREW from page 11

Olympics in Atlanta. "Any place people gather to drink beer, the Beer School will show up," he said.

It may show up in a slightly different form next year. Plans are under way to expand and redesign the school, said senior project manager Daryl Reeves. The Beer School will be closer to a movie theater in atmosphere and will include a High Definition theater, an entryway with a big screen showing the company's

STATE FAIR EVENTS

Event	Time	Location
Border Town	5:30 - 7 p.m., 8 - 9 p.m., 10 - midnight	West Beer Garden
Lorena Prater & the Western Reunion	7 - 11 p.m.	Hooters Beer Garden
Billy Ray Cyrus	8 p.m.	Bob Devaney Sports Center

history and a special brewmaster beermaster's approach, Reeves said. "They love beer, and they love to make beer."

The new design won't change the

Act explores plights of masculinity

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while entertaining them at the same time.

"Theater doesn't replace traditional forms of education, but it does bring in other issues exposing emo-

tions and forcing people to think," Tetreault said.

Tetreault's own collaboration with Karen Libman, a former UNL professor of theater arts and dance, led to the formation of outreach theater groups on campus in previous

years.

Since Libman's departure, such classes for outreach theater have not been available. Tetreault feels "Crimes Against Nature" provides an opportunity for outreach theater to return to UNL.

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- 270 Ticket Exchange
- 290 Vehicles

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- 340 Entertainment
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- 365 Legal Services
- 370 Miscellaneous
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- 400 Roommates
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- 420 Rooms for Rent
- 430 Houses for Rent
- 440 Duplexes for Rent
- 450 Apartments for Rent
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- 520 Work Study
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600s Notices

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- 603 Spring Break Trips
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 Pentium 133. Multi-media system. Fast 56K modem. Internet ready. 32 mb RAM. \$340. 438-9894.

220 Furniture For Sale

For sale: bookcases, sofa, table, hutch, futon frame. \$40 each. 438-1335
 Full and Queen size mattress sets. New and in plastic. Never used. 10 years warranty. Retail for \$439 and \$639. Sell for \$165 for the Full, Queen \$195. 477-1225.
 Futon with brand new frame. Best offer. Call Nicole at 328-8095.
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