

'Incubus Attacks' falls flat, lang lets love conquer all

BY ANDREW SHAW

"Invincible Summer"
Just from the packaging, I could tell that "Invincible Summer," k.d. lang's newest pursuit, would be the retro-happy album that it is.

The album's art shows lang in a number of innocently blissful poses, smiling shyly, rolling in fields of poppies in her wool sweater while the golden sun warms her soul.

This flowery exterior is mirrored in the music. Every song has an almost indistinguishable bottom layer of acoustic guitar covered over with playful drum beats, lavish string arrangements and lang's soft, descriptive voice.

The album would be unbearably hokey if it wasn't for lang's beautiful singing which, between the joyful lyrics, says to the listener, "Yes, these are cheesy, melodramatic love songs, but what's so bad about that?"

And I agree. This is an age where most music reflects no element of actual love.

Britney and her boys and girls clubs sing about crushes and shameless sexuality. Korn and their outcast groupie bands scream about pain and the morbidity of life. Eminem and his ignorant droves of apostles think music should be used to ruin other people's lives.

MUSIC REVIEW

k.d. lang

Title: Invincible Summer

Label: 2000 Warner Brothers

★ ★ ★ of 4 stars



Lang is providing a service with "Invincible Summer" for all who are sick of pointless sex and violence and want to escape to a world where love is still an acceptable emotion to express.

"When Incubus Attacks, Vol. 1"

If all else fails, put out an EP. Jump into the studio with your rhythm guitarist, give him an

acoustic and record three songs that have already been released.

Then get your sound guy to record a couple of live songs. Then, to tease the last seven dollars out of your loyal fans' sweaty palms, throw on a song that wasn't good enough to put on the album in the first place.

Incubus followed this formula with "When Incubus Attacks, Vol. 1" and fell flat on their faces.

Incubus, a 311 derivative, has realized commercial success through MTV, the Family Values and Ozzfest Tours and by loping off the lead singer's dreadlocks.

Yes, they are good at writing loud music with energy, singable melodies and effective sampling and scratching, but the acoustic tracks on "When Incubus Attacks" aren't a reversion of prior hits. They are simply a revamp of over-played pop-rock.

Incubus doesn't fare well in a stripped down fashion because the lyrics are bad, and the guitar player only knows how to play a fuzzed-out electric. Unplugged doesn't mean you have to scrap the rest of the band, guys; it means you need to find a new groove to fit everyone. Incubus doesn't do that.

Probably the best, and most "inspired," song is the hidden track where the band sings "We're smokin' / we're smokin' / we're

smokin' the herb again" until they pass out. I liked the song the first time I heard it, when it was called "Who's Got the Herb?" by 311.

Here's some advice, Incubus: Get your own gig. Quit stealing grooves from our Nebraskan brothers, and come up with something personally fulfilling and original. When that happens, I'll buy volume two.

MUSIC REVIEW

Incubus

Title: When Incubus Attacks, Vol. 1

Label: Immortal Records 2000

★ of 4 stars



Joslyn to find director soon, committee members say

BY BRIAN CHRISTOPHERSON

The Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha will soon be garnering headlines of bold type which will be very important to the museum's future.

Big discussions are currently in the works as the museum's committee is deciding on who should fill the void for the vacant director position.

Currently, the museum is under the directorship of William Donaldson, who is filling the position after the departure of Dr. John Schloder.

Schloder left the Joslyn to become the founding director at the new Naples Museum of Art in southwest Florida.

Donaldson will maintain the duty of intern director while the search for a full-time hire continues.

"I am delighted to be here and proud to be associated with this wonderful institution," Donaldson said in a Joslyn issued press release.

Donaldson takes on the duty while also maintaining his post as the director of the Omaha World-Herald Company.

Amy Krobot, Joslyn's media relations coordinator, said the committee has a lot of names to sift over.

"Right now the search committee is looking, searching over all the possible candidates," Krobot said. "It will take a little time, but it shouldn't be too long until a new director is named."

The museum has already made a big decision in recent weeks, selecting Audrey Kauders as the director of the Joslyn Arts Museum Foundation.

The Foundation is in charge of managing and furthering the endowments given to the museum to keep it running at a high quality. Meanwhile, the search for the top spot rolls on.

"I would speculate that it will take two to six months before the big announcement is made," Krobot said.

Sources within the museum had no speculation as to who the search committee is considering at such an early stage.

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