

Reviews by:
April Howard

Rock-n-Reel



CRASH Lion's Gate Films,
Rated: R

In a world of confusion, intolerance, and fear, the intersection of everyday people's lives does not always paint a perfect or elegant picture. **CRASH** ventures into this realm, revealing the often suppressed and ugly side of society in contemporary Los Angeles. Juxtaposing racism, strained relationships, and post 9/11 xenophobia, **CRASH** is the story of a racially diverse group of people simply going about their daily routines. These daily routines, however, run deep with fear and anger, causing the characters to lash out through dehumanizing rhetoric and actions. **CRASH** shows how the effects of intolerance and misunderstanding can ripple through every part of society, creating a culture of fear that is ignorantly passed down from one person to the other. This must-see Oscar Winning film boasts a star-studded cast including Terrence Howard, Matt Dillon, Don Cheadle, Sandra Bullock, Thandie Newton, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, Brendan Fraser and more.

Official site: <http://www.crashfilm.com/>



IN THE MIX
Lion's Gate Films, Rated: PG-13

Now available on DVD, **IN THE MIX** stars Usher as Darrell, a successful club deejay that becomes a bodyguard to protect the daughter of a mob boss after a failed assassination attempt. The doting patriarch Frank (Chazz Palminteri) enlists Darrell to watch over Dolly (Emanuelle Chriqui), his headstrong and beautiful daughter, until he can unravel a potentially deadly conspiracy involving a rival crime family. Not long after Darrell becomes Dolly's bodyguard, unexpected romance begins to bloom, complicating existing bonds between Dolly's boyfriend and father. **IN THE MIX** is the perfect guilty pleasure to watch on a lazy Saturday afternoon.

Official site:
<http://www.usherinthemix.com/inthemix>

Tuesday night is a TIVO must.....



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Commander and Chief

ABC, Tuesday nights 9pm

When the sitting President dies, the Vice President is sworn in becoming the first female U.S. President. Geena Davis won a Golden Globe earlier this year as Best Actress, proving she is the perfect choice for this role, as she possesses the brains, confidence, authority and even-keeled temperament we only hope the real first woman president will have. The show shows the complexities the female President faces due to rancor from some cranky old-school politicians, which makes her job the challenge of a career. Or maybe the issues this fictional President faces will end up helping the real one someday.

In Sept 2005, *Commander and Chief* came was #1 in its time slot, garnering 16 million viewers. When production problems kept it irregularly on and off the air, ratings tanked. On April 18th, *Commander and Chief* deservedly returns to the air and we can hardly wait for that Tuesday to get here!

Geena Davis, Donald Sutherland, Kyle Secor, Ever Carradine, Harry J. Lennix, Caitlin Wachs and Matt Lanter star.



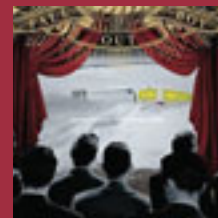
BOSTON LEGAL
GENIUS! GENIUS!
I TELL YE!!

ABC, Tuesday nights 10pm

From the creative genius of David E. Kelley comes *Boston Legal*, which in my opinion is one of the best shows on TV today. Superbly written, riveting episodes reveal ethically challenged cases, courtroom chaos, legal and non-legal horseplay between attorneys, interns, staff and clients as well as a look at what is probably the norm in law firms all across the country –smarts, sass and sauciness served up all in the name of the law.

Boston Legal stars an award-winning cast; William Shatner, James Spader, Candice Bergen and Julie Bowen as brilliant attorneys at a high-priced Boston law firm. William Shatner as Denny Crane gets away with anything and every-

thing because "Denny Crane founded the firm." Shatner has created an incredibly loveable character that can do no wrong – or if he does, there are always justifiable means. James Spader's character is perfect. The dark, mysterious air is mixed with extreme intelligence and a vulnerable quality that makes you keep coming back for more. I wonder if people in the legal profession are watching this show for fresh ideas?

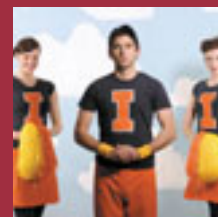


Artist
Fall Out Boys

Album
From Under the Cork Tree Island

Label
The Island Def Jam Music Group

Love 'em or hate 'em, Fall out Boy is a sensation that is rocking America's youth. With their indie-rock sound and animated on-stage presence in concert, Fall Out Boy is a band to watch. Hailing from Chicago, bassist Peter Wentz, guitarist/vocalist Patrick Stumph, drummer Andrew Hurley, and guitarist Joseph Trohman formed Fall Out Boy in 2000 and are now signed to Island Records. From the underground indie charts, FOB has managed amazing success with their sophomore album, *From Under the Cork Tree*. With tunes, "Sugar We're Going Down", and "Dance, Dance", singing along is just not an option, it's mandatory.



Artist
Sufjan Stevens

Album
Illinois

Label
Asthmatic Kitty

On his second state-inspired album, *Illinois*, Sufjan Stevens spouts lyrical poetry laced with a folksy musical vibe. His soft, thoughtful rhythms are often accompanied by a piano or banjo, which makes his sound unique and enjoyable. His opening piece, entitled *Concerning The UFO Sighting Near Highland, Illinois*, softly leads into a set of small journeys through Illinois on this 22-track album. Track number seven, "Decatur", illustrates the whimsical storytelling that Sufjan Stevens does so well. As he heads out on the course to make 48 more state themed albums (his first was entitled *Michigan*), Sufjan Stevens will undoubtedly please if he continues with his eclectic use of instruments and delicate melodies.