

Boy meets, loses girl in romance videos

Video vault

by Brian Shelton

For some reason, I, the keeper of the Video Vault, had a great deal of difficulty thinking of a topic for this week's column, so I sought help from this girl I know and incidentally, have the hots for. The girl, who I'll call Laura, suggested I write about love stories in which couples live happily ever after.

I decided to take her idea and switch it around so that it fit my perspective on love. Here is a batch of movies that either have relationships that don't work or just basically show that love can suck sometimes.

The Fly (1986): Fly meets girl. Boy turns into fly and scares girl. Girl keeps coming back even though he crawls on the ceiling and hurls battery acid.

Jeff Goldblum and Geena Davis are both wonderful in this depressing, extremely graphic science fiction yarn.

The love story is tragic and the ending includes more violence than all the wars in the 20th century combined. It doesn't exactly leave a big whopping grin on your face. Great effects, direction and musical score, if you're into that stuff. (★★★)

Ghost (1990): Boy meets girl. Boy dies. Girl still has the hots for dead guy. Girl dances with Whoopi Goldberg who's really dead guy in disguise.

Simply put, the love story doesn't work in this because it's hard to maintain a relationship with a cadaver. Patrick Swayze is very convincing in the lead role as his emotionless blank look and monotone speaking voice really make us believe we're watching a walking corpse. Demi Moore is also convincing, showing a wide array of emotions that range from sad to very sad.

I thought this movie was vastly overrated and did not deserve the mega-bucks it made or the Best Picture nomination it garnered. (★★ 1/2)

Lucas (1986): Boy meets girl. Girl likes boy as friend but nothing more. Ends up liking some stupid jock. Boy joins the football team to impress her and gets the snot beat out of him.

Great movie starring a young Corey Haim as the geek and Kerrie Green as the babe who won't give him the time of day. This movie sums up how it feels to be just a buddy to a gorgeous female and is a great time waster. It's light and entertaining and right on the money. The only real weakness of the film is its "Rocky-esque" ending which basically casts aside reality to send everyone home happy. (★★★)

Batman Returns (1992): Batdude meets Catchick. Batdude spurns Catchick's advances while his alter ego makes time with her alter ego. Catchick seeks revenge on Batdude because he's infringing on her right to cause havoc. Batdude and Catchick seek therapy. Well, they should have anyway.

When Batman and Catwoman (Michael Keaton and Michelle Pfeiffer) interact, the film soars. When their alter egos show up, "Batman Returns" grinds to a halt. They never do get their love problems sorted out with each probably deciding the other is too screwed up to date. How the heck the Penguin (Danny DeVito) fits into all this is anyone's guess. (★★ 1/2)

Well, that's the end of this week's Video Vault. I hope I didn't sound too bitter about love, because I'm sure one day I'll meet the right girl and be suckered into it just like everyone else.

If by chance, you think you are that girl, get in touch with me immediately. For the rest of you, please be kind and rewind, and I'll see you next time.

'Prehistoric pop' singer to play Koger Center



Vinx will play the Koger Center Sunday.

By STEPHEN BROWN
Staff Writer

Vinx, the vocalist/percussionist who is the foremost purveyor of "prehistoric pop," will play at the Koger Center Sunday evening, October 4, at 7:30.

Combining elements of jazz, classic R&B, pop, and soul with a rich assortment of African tribal rhythms and exotic sounds, Vinx promises to deliver a one-of-a-kind performance.

Vinx, who was born Vincent De Jon Parrette, began his climb to

fame as an Olympic hopeful. At one time he was the second-best triple-jumper in the world. But because of the 1980 boycott of the Moscow Olympics and an injury he had a week before trials for the 1984 L.A. Games, his Olympic dreams were thwarted.

One fateful day, rock superstar Sting ducked into a small club to get-out of the rain. Alone on stage was a man with ribbons in his hair who was playing a wide array of African drums and singing songs of his life's journey. Sting was immediately impressed.

Sting produced Vinx's first album, "Room's in My Fatha's House," and featured him as the opening act for the 10-month "Soul Cages World Tour."

The music of Vinx, often dubbed "American ethnic" or "prehistoric pop," provides the essence of simplicity with layers of intricacy. Voices, drums, melodies, and rhythms are the main components of his wildly visceral juggernaut of

expressionism.

He has worked with artists ranging from Branford Marsalis to Herbie Hancock as his music has grown and developed, but the fundamental roots of his lushly colored percussion have remained constant.

Vinx's music is both festive and romantic. His talent is so rare that he has had the opportunity to set his own standards rather than adhering to all the hype of modern-day mainstream.

Vinx is able to clear his music of cluttering keyboards and guitars, allowing his dramatic vocals to do most of the work.

Aspects of his work have been

compared to that of Nat King Cole, Louis Armstrong, Bobby McFerin, and the Police. Despite an attempt to describe Vinx in a category or grouping of musicians, he is a new breed of artist who defies a label.

His 1992 release, "I Love My Job," chronicles his lifetime of experience. The reflective tunesmith once again gives a modern treatment to the tribal sounds of age-old percussion.

Tickets for Sunday's show are \$5 for USC students with an identification, and \$8 and \$10 for the general public. For more information, contact the Carolina Program Union at 777-7130.

Carolina Concert Calendar

Oct. 7	Jodeci Township Auditorium Columbia, SC 7:00 pm	\$20.00
Oct. 10	A Night of Black Comedy Township Auditorium Columbia, SC 8:00 pm	Tickets start at \$15.00
Oct. 17	Victor Borge Township Auditorium Columbia, SC 8:00 pm	Tickets start at \$19.75
Oct. 25	Kiss/Trixter and Faster Pussycat Carolina Coliseum Columbia, SC 7:30 pm	\$19.50
Nov. 7-8	James Taylor Koger Center Columbia, SC Tickets go on sale 9:00 am today	Tickets start at \$25.00
Nov. 22	Garth Brooks Carolina Coliseum Columbia, SC Ticket information to be announced	

Kristin Buehlman/The Gamecock

Homecoming Commission releases week's agenda

From Staff Reports

The Homecoming Commission has released event application instructions for several Homecoming Week activities.

Cockfest tryout registration forms are due Friday, October 16. Cockfest is the Homecoming pep rally which features skits performed by student groups. There is no fee required for registration. The master of ceremonies for Cockfest will be Carrot Top, the nationally-

known comedian.

The deadline for entry forms of Halftime Recognition, Displays, Carnival, and Marathon events is October 16. Display applications require two checks, a \$50 refundable security deposit and a \$20 entry fee. Carnival applications must be accompanied by a \$20 refundable deposit. Marathon and Halftime Recognition forms require no fee.

Contact Renee Peeler at 7-4174 for information.

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