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The Gamecock  
section

**SPICE WORLD**

(PG) starring The Spice Girls: Melaine Brown, Emma Bunton, Melanie Chisholm, Geraldine Halliwell and Victoria Adams. Also starring George Wendt, Claire Rushbrook, Mark McKinney, Richard O'Brien, Steven O'Donnell and Roger Moore. Directed by Bob Speirs.

**SYNOPSIS:** Pump up your platforms and fasten your seatbelts because the Spice Girls (Baby, Ginger, Scary, Sporty and Posh) have gone from the airways to the big screen. The film follows the all-girl British band as they try to overcome the trials of stardom to make it to their first live performance at Albert Hall in London. The Spice Girls signed with Virgin Records in 1995, and within seven days their single "Wannabe" went to No. 1 on the U.K. charts. They also were the first British band whose debut album went to No. 1 in the United States. To date, they have sold more than 10 million copies of their debut album, *Spice*.

gamecock critic **SARA LADENHEIM**

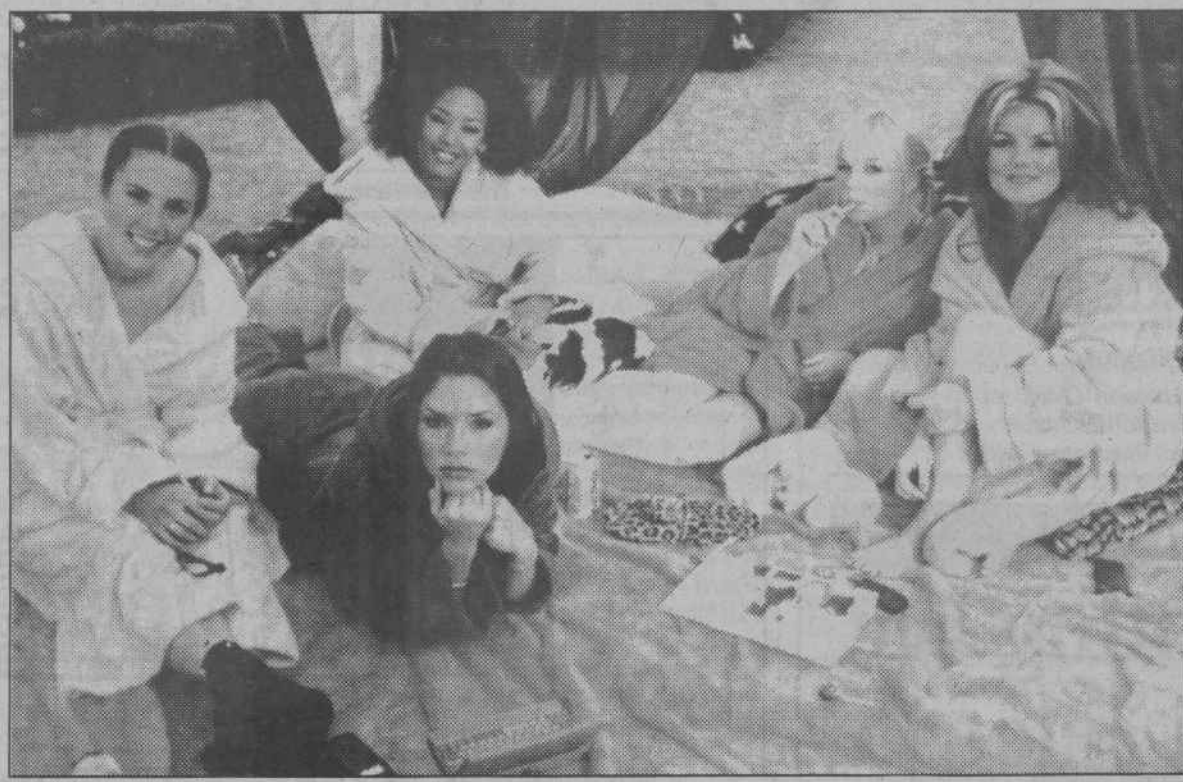
★★★

Okay, I needed an excuse to buy the ticket, but truthfully, I wanted to see the Brits' big screen debut. Scary, Baby, Ginger, Posh and Sporty really poured their hearts out and tried to act. It isn't their fault that Stanislavsky wasn't around to give the proper instruction. The girls deserve a little credit for actually making a pretty funny movie. Some memorable moments of toilet paper flying all over and of the thick Liverpoolian accents trying to explain what image is really makes me chuckle. Even if you claim not to know their names or listen to their music, their movie actually will surprise you. While the concert for what seemed like 30,000 screaming 13 year olds wasn't the highlight of the movie, the British accents are enough to make you see *Spice World* anyway. The Beatles invaded America in the same way in the 1960s with their series of films that included *A Hard Day's Night*, *Magical Mystery Tour*, *Help*, and the infamous *Yellow Submarine*. People also said that they would break up and that their music was pop-music. The only difference is back then, it wasn't an insult to be happy when you sang your songs.

gamecock critic **ALI FREEMAN**

★★★★

So tell me what you want, what you really, really want. If you want high culture, cinematic splendor, sensitive portrayals of real people and deep meaning, see *Spice World*, the cinematic event of the year. "Spice Up Your Life" with a movie so self-consciously dumb it is cleverly funny—preferably see it as I did, at midnight with 20 or so of your easily amused pals dressed as their favorite or least favorite Spices. Celebrate the wonders of girl power. No startling documentary to explore the depth of Geri, Mel B., Mel C., Victoria and Emma. *Spice World* is a playful romp with Baby, Sporty, Posh, Scary and Ginger/Sexy. As a character in the movie says, "They're young. They're cute. They're spunky. Let's make a movie about them." Why are the Spice Girls so fa-



mous? It's not their amazing musical talent, they are sassy, charming, quirky, well-marketed, wear fun clothes and are in British tabloids daily. The movie capitalizes on and pokes fun at all of these aspects, which is what makes it hysterical and enjoyable. Well, that and the kitsch aesthetic. Like the Spice Girls themselves, there are no particularly startling or amazing moments in the film, but the work as a whole was still riotous fun. The musical director character sums up the movie and the Spice Girls best when he interrupts a song and says, "That was absolutely perfect without actually being any good."

gamecock critic **ROB LINDSEY**

★★

It is very difficult to tell what the creators of *Spice World* were thinking. Either they were trying to establish a cult following based on the intentionally poor quality of their movie, or they sincerely believed a movie about the Spice Girls' misadventures on tour was a worthy project to tackle. Regardless of their intentions, they failed.

With four separate plot lines, several cameos from B-list 80's stars and the Spice Girls in the leading roles, *Spice World* is a muddled mess. Sure, the waning British pop sensations are cheeky and can deliver minimally funny one-liners at times. But when their dominant form of humor is self deprecation, they evoke more pity than true hilarity.

The only redeeming quality of this movie is that it never claims to be anything other than what it is: mindless fluff. The fluff, however, is grating, the jokes are stale, and the story is extremely boring. Even though they may be slightly talented at churning out sugar-coated pop hits and posing for paparazzi, the Spice Girls should keep their "girl power" away from movies.

gamecock critic **MAURA DAWSON**

★★

Do not attend *Spice World* and expect to find enlightenment. This movie is obnoxious, but that is what makes it so great. The first half hour is painful-



SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

The Spice Girls (top, left Sporty, Posh, Scary, Baby and Ginger) make their screen debut in *Spice World*.

ly slow. I have witnesses that can attest to the flickering indiglo on my watch as I tried to pass the time. Once you pass this hurdle, however, the next hour and a half is hilarious and cheesy. How can I tell you that a bad movie is good? We all know there is no way they could have made a heart-warming story about five young British women trying to make it in show business. Instead, each Spice Girl was made by the caricature of the identities that have made them wealthy. Despite my praise for the film, I can only give it two stars. I suffer from intellectual snobbery.

**CONCERTS**

- Gran Torino w/ Dag, 10 p.m., Jan. 28, Elbow Room. Over 21, \$5; under 21, \$7.
- Aerosmith w/ Kenny Wayne Shepherd, 7:30 p.m., Jan. 29, Carolina Coliseum.
- Albert Hill w/ The Goodies and Love Seed Mama Jump, Jan. 29, Elbow Room
- Pegboy, Jan. 30, Hunter-Gatherer
- Cravin Melon, Jan. 31, Elbow Room
- Elliott & the Untouchables, Jan. 31, Hemingway's
- Polvo w/ Spatula, Feb. 1, Elbow Room
- 2 Skinnee J's w/ Spidermonkey, Feb. 2, Elbow Room
- Spidermonkey w/ 2 Skinnee J's, Feb. 3, Elbow Room
- Bio Ritmo, Feb. 4, Elbow Room
- Superchunk w/ Lady Bug Transiste, Feb. 5, Elbow Room
- Jump Little Children, Feb. 6, Elbow Room
- The Soul Mites, Feb. 7, Elbow Room
- Guster, Feb. 10, Elbow Room
- Muses Night Out presents Fiction Reading, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Feb. 11, McKissick Museum.
- Sourwood Honey, Feb. 13 to Feb. 14, Elbow Room.
- Edwin McCain w/ Angie Aparo, Feb. 19, Elbow Room

**EVENTS**

- Georgian State Ballet Company, 7:30 p.m., Jan. 28, Koger Center. Public, \$20; students, \$16. Tickets are available at the Carolina Coliseum box office and all Capital Tickets outlets. To charge, call 251-2222.
- *Shook Foll* by Kwame Dawes, reading and book signing reception, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Jan. 29, McKissick Museum.
- Cigar Store Indians and Bottle Rockets, Jan. 30, Elbow Room
- Columbia Classical Ballet presents Life Chance, 8 p.m., Jan. 31, Koger Center. Silent auction and reception will be held beginning at 6:30 p.m. Black tie optional. Call 782-8847 for more information.
- Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Feb. 6 to Feb. 8, Carolina Coliseum. Tickets available at the Coliseum Box Office and all Capital Tickets outlets or purchase by phone (251-2222).

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