

## LIGHTS! CAMERA! REACTION!

### APT PUPIL

(out of five stars)

Todd Bowden (Brad Renfro) is a typical American 16-year-old — until he uncovers a deadly secret. Nazi war criminal Kurt Dussander (Ian McKellen) has been quietly hiding out in Todd's hometown. Todd blackmails the old man, and in exchange for the teenager's silence, Dussander must reveal his evil past.

Starring Brad Renfro, Ian McKellen and David Schwimmer. Directed by Bryan Singer. Written by Brandon Boyce and based on the novella by Stephen King.

gamecock critic **KATIE ROWEN** ★★★★★

"Apt Pupil" made me think like a movie has not made me think in a long time. The movie is

chilling, engrossing, and sometimes nearly impossible to watch. Director Bryan Singer has made a powerful film that keeps the audience's attention.

The story opens in 1984 with Todd Bowden riding on a bus. With a jolt, he realizes the elderly man sitting a few rows behind him is a former Nazi commander, Kurt Dussander.

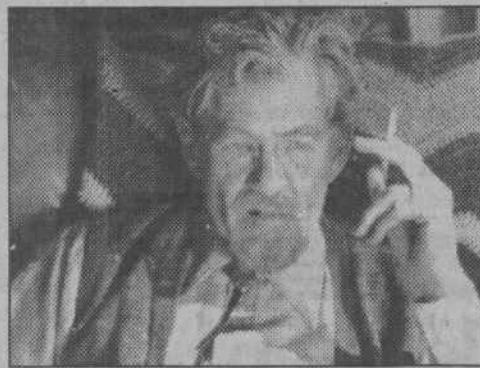
Bowden has been obsessed with the Holocaust since learning about it in his history class and blackmails Dussander into telling him all the details of the Holocaust. "The stuff they don't tell us in school," he says.

Although at first doing it reluctantly, as months pass, Dussander seems to enjoy telling Bowden about the Holocaust and a relationship develops between them. Slowly it seems that Dussander's evil is being passed on to Bowden and we see the boy as an example of how easy it would be, and was, to program people to do evil deeds. Nowhere is this more evident than in a scene with Dussander and Bowden both taking part in the

death of a homeless man. Bowden has truly become an "apt pupil."

One of the movie's strengths is its acting performances. McKellen is mesmerizing as the former Nazi general. One of the most chilling scenes in the movie is when Bowden forces Dussander to try on a Nazi uniform and march. At first, Dussander grudgingly moves his feet up and down, but then, as if possessed, he pumps his legs and it is like he is back in training at the Third Reich. Renfro also does a wonderful job in that he makes the audience hate him and question who is actually the worse person: Bowden or Dussander.

Some might criticize "Apt Pupil" for not focusing more on the torture inflicted during the Holocaust. In fact, the only truly difficult scene to watch is the scene involving the homeless man. Instead, "Apt Pupil" is more of a character study and shows the results of the Holocaust. In a heart-breaking scene, Dussander's hospital roommate



SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

A local teenage boy reawakens disturbing thoughts in former Nazi war criminal Kurt Dussander (Ian McKellen)

starts to sob upon recognizing his former concentration camp torturer.

"Apt Pupil" is an incredible movie and should be seen. If for any reason, to make us think.

### EVENTS

•"Mexican Masks of the 20th Century: A Living Tradition," through Nov. 8, McKissick Museum. For more information, call (803) 777-7251.

•Dr. Kary Mullis (South Carolina's third Nobel Prize winner), 7-9 p.m., Oct. 28, South Carolina State Museum. Free.

•Music! (bands will be playing throughout the museum as part of the South Carolina Celebration of Blues and Jazz), 8 p.m. - 12 a.m., Oct. 30, South Carolina State Museum. For ticket information call (803) 898-4935.

•Scarecrow Making for children ages 5 and older, 1-3 p.m., Oct. 31, McKissick Museum. \$5 per child of McKissick Museum members. \$7 for non-members.

•"The Rocky Horror Picture Show," 9 p.m., Oct 29 and 30, Russell House.

### CONCERTS

•"Stellar Jazz," 7:30 p.m., Oct. 28 and 29, School of Music. Free.

•Jump Little Children (with Marvelous 3), Oct. 29, Music Farm (Charleston). For ticket information, call (803) 577-4500.

•"Imeneo," by Handel, 7:30 p.m., Oct. 30 and 31; 3 p.m., Nov. 1. Columbia Music Festival Theatre. \$10 general admission, \$5 senior citizens and students.

•"USC Wind Ensembles," 7:30 p.m., Nov. 2, Koger Center.

•"St. Petersburg State Symphony Orchestra," 7:30 p.m., Nov. 3, Koger Center. \$22.50 adult, \$12.50 student.

### NOW PLAYING

•"Rocky Horror Picture Show," 8 p.m. Thursday and 2 p.m. Friday, Russell House Theatre.

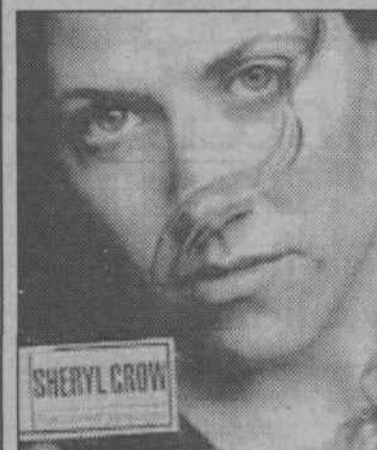
•"Drowning By Numbers," 8 p.m. Thursday and 2 p.m. Friday, Russell House Theatre.

•"Daughters of the Dust," 8 p.m. Thursday and 2 p.m. Friday, Russell House Theatre.

•"School Daze," 8 p.m. Thursday and 2 p.m. Friday, Russell House Theatre.

### SOUND ADVICE

staff writer **MARCUS AMAKER**



SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

### Sheryl Crow. The Globe Sessions

Sheryl Crow has always been a fan of country music. Traces of this can be heard on many of the songs on her first album, *Tuesday Night Music Club*. Crow returns to her roots on her newest CD, *The Globe Sessions*.

"My Favorite Mistake" is the best song on the album, but the rest of the *Globe Sessions* is just as good, with a few minor mistakes. "Riverwide" is a powerful ballad that leans more to-

wards folk music. "The Difficult Kind" is a heart-wrenching tune in which Crow goes deep within to add something new to the usual "I love you but you don't love me" subject matter. Two of the other country-inspired songs are just as powerful. Crow vents with the best of them on "Am I Getting Through," a song that's sure to be appreciated by anyone who's ever felt isolated from love.

*The Globe Sessions* would have been much better without "There Goes the Neighborhood" or "Member's Only," two songs that would have served better as obscure B-sides. Still, *The Globe Sessions* is a solid disc from Sheryl Crow, and should once again establish her presence on the radio. Rating: B

### Hooverphonic. Blue Wonder Power Milk

Whenever a new band comes out with a sound based in electronic music, they usually get compared to Portishead, especially when they have a female lead singer. This is what happened to Hooverphonic when they debuted two years ago with *A New Stereophonic Sound Spectacular*, even though their sound resembles the Cocteau Twins more than any trip-hop group.

Hooverphonic's second disc, *Blue Wonder Power Milk* is a lot like their first album — a lot of dreamy, ethereal, slow songs that feature a lot of strings and orchestral music in the background. Even though Hooverphonic has a new singer on this CD, nothing is lost, because *Blue Wonder Power Milk* is just as good as the first album.

Some of the highlights on this CD are songs that any listener can get lost in. Hooverphonic is a true listening experience, musically deeper and more challenging than most bands with the "trip-hop" tag. Rating: B+

### Joni Mitchell. Taming the Tiger

More than 30 years in the music business, an induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and countless other awards would be enough for most musicians to hang it up and end their careers. But not Joni Mitchell. Her 17th album, *Taming the Tiger* comes four years after 1994's classic *Turbulent Indigo*, and the 55-year-old Mitchell sounds as fresh as ever.

Mitchell debuts some new guitar techniques on this album, and at times it's hard to distinguish her guitar from the keyboards. The subject matter on this album deals mainly with what has happened to Mitchell since the last al-



SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

bum, including her encounter with the daughter she gave up for adoption a long time ago.

*Taming the Tiger* would not be the smartest choice for new Mitchell fans. It is far from the brilliance of 1976's *Hejira* or 1974's *Court and Spark*. It takes a while to fully appreciate these songs, and as a whole, the album is a little stale when thrown in with Mitchell's body of work. But then again, Joni Mitchell has put in her time and is definitely one of the only true legends the music business has left. This new album is just one of the weaker links in a brilliant career. Rating: C

### A Tribe Called Quest. The Love Movement

The hip-hop world is losing one of its most innovative elements when A Tribe Called Quest breaks up after they finish touring for their fifth album, *The Love Movement*. They have always been ahead of the pack, and one of the trendsetters for groups like The Roots and Black Eyed Peas.

The *Love Movement* is a low-tempo, bass-heavy excursion that deals with love in every aspect. Relationships are explored in several songs.

Other songs show the incredible lyrical skills of Q-Tip. Phife has only one little moment in "Common Ground," and doesn't add much to the song. When he does show up, like on "His Name is Mutty Ranks" and "Find a Way," the results are classic A Tribe Called Quest.

Other than the absence of Phife, *The Love Movement* is an excellent hip-hop record, and one of the best this year. Too bad it is the last one for A Tribe Called Quest. This CD proves that they were on top of their game right up until the very end. Rating: A

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