

# Reviews

## Julian Lennon struggles through 'sophomore slump'

By Keith Spera  
REVIEWER

Julian Lennon is at a critical juncture in his career, and he knows it. His first album, 1984's *Valotte*, was a decent-sized hit, especially for a debut album. It sold more than a million copies and yielded two top 10 hits.

Album No. 2, 1986's *The Secret Value of Daydreaming*, however, was plagued by the "sophomore slump," which has affected more than a few new artists.

The scenario goes like this: A group's first album comes out, they get a whole lot of publicity, people are interested in them because they're something new, and the album sells.

Buoyed by this success, the group quickly records a follow-up album. But now the novelty of the new band has worn off, and unless the second album is really strong (it often isn't, due to the haste in which it is made, and because the band might be tempted just to copy its earlier successful formula), it won't sell nearly as well as its first.

Because Julian is the son of a musical legend, the hype surrounding his first album was greater than usual. Music fans and critics alike couldn't wait to hear how the "son of John" would sound on an album of his own.

By the time *The Secret Value of Daydreaming* rolled around, everyone already knew what a Julian Lennon album sounded like, and its sales were not as terrific as *Valotte*'s.

With his third album, Lennon is out to prove that his first hit album was not a fluke, and that he is worthy of a reputation as an artist and not just somebody's son.

No doubt about it — he gets an A for effort. He took no chances with this project. Julian called in a whole mess of talented people to do guest shots on this record, among them Peter Frampton, Timothy B.

Schmidt (formerly of the Eagles), Marilyn Martin, and Fiona. He worked on the record for more than a year and a half, putting together 25 songs from which to choose. No fewer than 29 people are credited as having performed on at least one track of *Mr. Jordan*. Therein lies its problem. Instead of the "rough sound" Lennon has said he was hoping to achieve on this album, he has produced a 10-song collection that is more craft than excitement.

Still, at times Lennon displays both talent and daring. The biggest chance Lennon takes, and the most noticeable departure from his previous work, is his vocal performance on *Mr. Jordan*. We discover that not only can he sing in a smooth, high voice reminiscent of his dad's, but that he is capable of descending into much lower vocal territory and sounding like David Bowie.

Lyrical, *Mr. Jordan* is at times clever and emotional, but it can turn around and suddenly become riddled with cliches. "Angillette" is Lennon's statement that he has done all he can to try to persuade a friend not to kill herself, and that now she most help herself. "Have a nice day with your Stoli and Gillette," (Stolichnaya vodka and Gillette razor blades), Lennon sings as he throws up his hands in frustration. "Can't you save her Lord 'cause I can't go on like this/ there's only so much one

can do to save a friend/ I've given her my all it's useless to the end."

A couple of songs later, however, in "Make It Up to You," we get the same old story about the musician having to leave his love to go out on

guitarist and writing partner) and John McCurry provide a guitar sound that never really cuts loose. The guitar licks are flat, chopped-up and boxed, and are usually coated by too much keyboard sound.

With as many as 12 people contributing to a single song, you can either have a tune marked by a whole lot of standout performances, or one in which nothing stands out and everyone just blends into the general blandness of the song. Unfortunately, the latter is generally the case. Lennon mistakenly assumed that the more parts he put into the songs, the richer they would be. But that is not the case — they offer nothing to latch onto anywhere, just an even flow of sound.

The album's title refers to an old movie in which a musician is taken to heaven before his time, and Mr. Jordan intervenes to allow the musician to complete and fulfill his life on earth.

Lennon is trying to say that his career is not washed up just yet, and that he still has more to offer. Next time around, maybe he should try to give us less.

Justin Clayton (Lennon's longtime

**B**ecause Julian is the son of a musical legend, the hype surrounding his first album was greater than usual. Music fans and critics alike couldn't wait to see how the "son of John" would sound on an album of his own. With his third album, Lennon is out to prove that his first hit album was not a fluke, and that he is worthy of a reputation as an artist and not just somebody's son.

## Directors' triple-bill anthology 'dream come true' for film enthusiasts; 'New York Stories' a winner

By Shane Hall  
REVIEWER

"New York Stories" Starring Nick Nolte, Rosanna Arquette, Heather McComb and Woody Allen. Directed by Martin Scorsese, Francis Coppola and Woody Allen. Rated PG.

A movie that pools the talents of

Martin Scorsese, Francis Coppola and Woody Allen, three of America's best directors, is like a film buff's dream come true.

In "New York Stories," an anthology of three short films, the dream not only comes true, but is satisfying as well. "New York Stories" is one of the few great movies to be released so far this year.

The common thread running through these films is New York City. All three directors have done



some of their best work in New York, so the city is the perfect setting for the anthology.

Scorsese's contribution, "Life Lessons," is the first and best of the three. In fact, "Life Lessons" alone is worth the price of admission.

In this film, Scorsese shows us the darker side of New York City's fashionable art scene. It is familiar territory for Scorsese, who presented a nightmarish vision of the Soho art district in his 1985 film, "After Hours."

"Life Lessons" stars Nick Nolte as

Lionel Dobie, a middle-aged painter, and Rosanna Arquette as Paulette, Dobie's live-in assistant and girlfriend. Paulette is an aspiring artist.

Actually, their relationship is one of convenience more than anything else. Dobie uses their constant friction for inspiration in his work. For Paulette, Dobie is her passage into the art world.

Both Nolte and Arquette are memorable in their respective roles, presenting the tension between their

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# Around Town

### Live Music

**Brazos Landing**  
Brazos Landing is at Northgate. Everyone is admitted. Beer, wine and mixed drinks are served. For more information, call 846-3497.  
Thursday — Moments Notice. Rock. \$3 cover.  
Friday — Alison Rogers and Andy Van Dyke. Folk. \$4 cover.  
Saturday — Spy Vs. Spy. Reggae. \$5 cover.  
Sunday — Arson. Jazz. \$5 cover.

**Cow Hop Annex**  
Next to the restaurant at Northgate. Those 18 and older admitted. Alcohol served to legal drinkers. Call 696-5522 for more information.  
Thursday — The Killtones. Rock/blues. Cover.  
Friday — Flesh Harvesters. Rock 'n' roll. Cover.  
Saturday — Agent Orange. Dance rock. Cover.  
Wednesday — Singalong with Sneaky Pete. \$1 cover.

**Emiliano's**  
In Bryan at 502 W. 25th St. Beer, wine and set-ups served. Call 775-9539 for more information.  
Friday — Al Chavarria y Grupo Mayo. Spanish. Cover \$5.

**Frank's Bar and Grill**  
In College Station at 503 E. University Drive. All ages are admitted. Beer, wine and liquor are served to legal drinkers. Call 846-5388 for more information.  
Saturday — Don Pope and Friends. Jazz. \$2 cover.

**Kay's Cabaret**  
At Post Oak Mall. Those 18 and over are admitted. Beer, wine and liquor served to legal drinkers. For more information, call 696-9191.

Thursday — Hank Townsend. Soft rock. No cover.  
Friday — For Crying Out Loud. Rock/comedy. \$2 cover.  
Saturday — Stonefish Square. Rock 'n' roll. \$2 cover.

### Movies

All movies and showtimes are provided by the theaters and are subject to change.

**Cinema Three**  
Located at 315 College Ave. in the Skaggs Shopping Center. Call 693-2796 for more information.  
**Fletch Lives.** Rated PG. Showtimes are 7:15 p.m. and 9:15 p.m.  
**Lean On Me.** Rated PG-13. Show-

times are 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Ends Friday.  
**Cyborg.** Rated R. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.  
**She's Out of Control.** Rated PG. Showtimes are 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Opens Friday.

**Post Oak Three**  
Located in the Post Oak Mall. Call 693-2796 for more information.  
**Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure.** Rated PG. Showtimes are 7:20 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Ends Friday.  
**Chances Are.** Rated R. Showtimes are 7:10 p.m. and 9:20 p.m.  
**Dream Team.** Rated PG-13. Showtimes are 7 p.m. and 9:25 p.m.  
**Say Anything.** Rated PG-13. Showtimes are 7:15 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

**Schulman Six**  
In Bryan at 2002 E. 29th Street.

Call 775-2643 for more information.

**Twins.** Rated PG. Showtimes are 7 p.m. and 9:45 p.m.  
**The 'Burbs.** Rated PG-13. Showtimes are 7:10 p.m. and 9:25 p.m.  
**Her Alibi.** Rated PG. Showtimes are 7:15 p.m. and 9:35 p.m.  
**The Fly II.** Rated R. Showtimes are 7:05 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Ends Friday.

**New York Stories.** Rated PG. Showtimes are 7:20 p.m. and 9:55 p.m.  
**Sing.** Rated PG-13. Showtimes are 4:45 p.m. and 9:50 p.m.  
**Troop Beverly Hills.** Rated PG. Showtimes are 2:15 p.m. and 7:25 p.m. Ends Friday.  
**Mississippi Burning.** Rated R. Showtimes are 7:25 p.m. Opens Friday.  
**Working Girl.** Rated R. Showtimes are 7:05 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Opens Friday.

**Plaza Three**  
In College Station at 226 Southwest Parkway. Call 693-2457 for more information.

**Rain Man.** Rated R. Showtimes are 7 p.m. and 9:40 p.m.  
**Leviathan.** Rated R. Showtimes are 7:20 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. Ends Friday.  
**Major League.** Rated R. Showtimes are 7:10 p.m. and 9:50 p.m.  
**Disorganized Crime.** Rated R. Showtimes are 7:20 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. Opens Friday.

**Manor East Three**  
In Bryan in the Manor East Mall. Call 823-8300 for more information.  
**Dead Calm.** Rated PG-13. Showtimes are 7:15 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.  
**Dangerous Liaisons.** Rated R. Showtimes are 7:20 p.m. and 9:45 p.m.  
**The Rescuers.** Rated G. Showtimes are 7:05 p.m. and 9 p.m.



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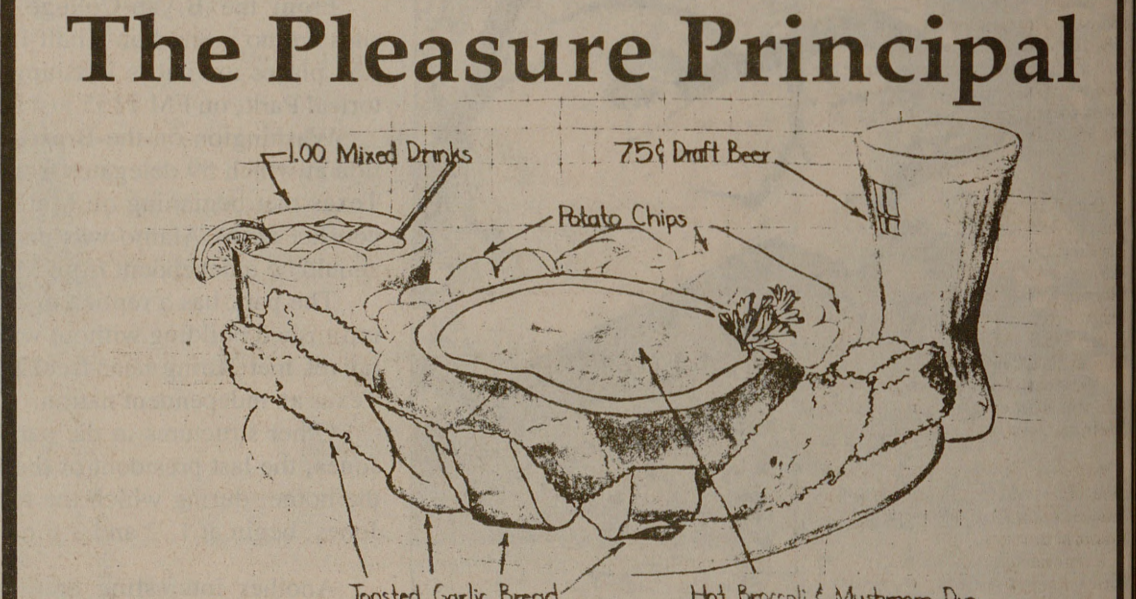
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## Stude

By Stacey Babin

ENTERTAINMENT W

Leisure time and h... an important reflect... omalities, says Dr. Ed... tion and parks de... fessor, who emphasize... quality free time to a... His classes focus on v... ate the outdoors an... ame.

"We have twice... time, but we are not... Heath says. "Studen... courses on how to live... The "professional... ears, he says, are son...



## History

Continued from page

campus of the original... sity, which was four... here, surrounded by t... thebonnets and other...

can be found the ruin... old school buildings... the university merged... university in 1886.

Also on the site is... Zales house, the old... Washington County... independence are in... county, but Brazos Co... share of historical lan...

For a brush-up on t... Brazos County, first... Bryan County Courtho... section of Texas and... feral historical man... south side tell the stor... the most important peo... County, including V... Bryan, for whom t...

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## Etc.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

• Hertz and Avis m... to worry yet, but son... tive hotel operators ar... some unusual transp... their own.

The Westin Lenox... lanta has a 1961... Phantom V at the di... guests, who can rese... for trips throughout t...

The 20-foot limo... scribed as "sapphire... silver mink top." It... from a private collect... mond, Va., accordin... spokesman, and has a... Italian burr walnut, L... and Wilton carpet.

While it's not unus... els to have their own... or vans meet guests at... The Westcourt in the... hilltop conference... Tempe, Ariz., sends... taxi to meet its guest... the Phoenix Sky Ha... port.

One of the resort's... taxis is a 1962 diesel, b... the Central Automot... London, says C.V. He... manager of the pro... other two came from... Coach, USA, a Detroit... talizing in British cars... "We wanted some... tive and immediately... ble for our guests," say...

• Privacy. An inn w... pied bed and firepla... cluded beach. Places t... a favorite person... Romantic hideaway... hidden anymore, n... newsletter of that titl... travelers find them.

The small hotel in... Oscar Wilde died or... New Orleans where... Audubon lived and... detailed in the newsl... and published by Bar... an entrepreneur wh... sensed a need for ro... for vacationers.

She said a survey o... ers showed that abou... want "romance" or a... destination" for thei...