

R.E.M. highlights MTV's best video nominations

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP) — R.E.M., the rock band whose dense lyrics once garnered it mainly a cult following, pushed further into mainstream pop Wednesday with a leading nine nominations for the 1991 MTV Video Music Awards.

The Athens, Ga., group's "Losing My Religion" video from its best-selling "Out of Time" album was nominated in categories including best video, best group, best direction, best editing and best cinematography.

Funk-dance group C&C Music Factory and plaintive soloist Chris Isaak tied for the second-highest number of nominations, six each. "Gonna Make You Sweat" got a bid for best video, as did Isaak's "Wicked Game."

Nominations were announced by talk show host Arsenio Hall, who will be the

host of the Sept. 5 awards broadcast from the Universal Amphitheater. Also appearing in the 8th annual awards presentation will be the rock group Van Halen and rap star LL Cool J.

The nominations are made by 1,200 members of the music industry, including journalists who cover it. Nominees in 22 categories are:

VIDEO OF THE YEAR: R.E.M., "Losing My Religion"; Chris Isaak, "Wicked Game"; Queensryche, "Silent Lucidity"; Divinyls, "I Touch Myself"; Deee-Lite, "Groove Is in the Heart"; C&C Music Factory, "Gonna Make You Sweat (Everybody Dance Now)."

MALE: Jon Bon Jovi, "Blaze of Glory"; Chris Isaak, "Wicked Game"; George Michael, "Freedom"; Gerardo, "Rico Suave."

Bill and Ted take off on another 'Bogus Journey' of mishap, misfortune and mischief

By Julia E.S. Spencer

Bill S. Preston and Ted "Theodore" Logan, those loveable air-guitar-playing goofballs who converse in their own bodacious brand of Southern Cal-speak, are back from their previous "Excellent Adventure" and about to set forth in their new movie, "Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey."

Movie Review

This latest installment has a lot more high-tech special effects, but despite a slightly darker plot line (its original title was "Bill and Ted Go to Hell"), maintains the child-like innocence of the first film.

It cheerfully plunders other movies and TV shows, from "The Terminator" to "The Exorcist" to Bergman's "The Seventh Seal," with a healthy dose of Fellini and a rib-tickling "Star Trek" sight gag thrown in for good measure.

Nevertheless, the film's cleverness is honest and unaffected, and doesn't get in the way of its good-natured sense of humor. "Bogus Journey" has a great deal of fun with its clownish protagonists' naivete, and kids in the audience enjoy feeling mentally superior to the most non-sagacious Bill and Ted. In the end, however, the film's sympathies are definitely with its heroes, and we laugh with them rather than at them.

This time the excellent duo are old enough to drink beer, and have moved into their own digs, but alas for their band, Wyld Stallyns, they still haven't really mastered the art of playing electric guitar.

Unfazed by this small detail, they are determined to play in the Battle of the Bands, so they can win the prize money and marry their girlfriends, the comely English princesses they brought back with

and Bill and Ted die. They escape the Grim Reaper (William Sadler) long enough to discover the truth about the robots, and to realize that that their girlfriends will be history, and their band won't be history.

Death soon catches up with them, and this time they end up in hell. There they encounter all sorts of demons from their past, from a vindictive Easter Bunny to a hor-

rible hag of a grandmother (played by Winter in make-up) to a military school drill sergeant insistent on their doing infinity push-ups.

Death has told them previously that the only way to get out of hell is to challenge him to a game. If they win, they live. If they lose, they stay in hell. In one of the most hilarious sequences, a play on the aforementioned Bergman film, where Max von Sydow played chess with Death, they take him up on the offer, playing children's board games instead.

The rather sullen, spoiled Death has "something to learn about sportsmanship" as Bill and Ted remark, but turns out to be an all-right dude. He tags along on the rest of their misadventures, helping the two get out of their predicament and into the history books.

Sadler really gets into his performance as the "man with no tan," imbuing him with a gleeful childishness that both kids and adults will love. George Carlin is back from the first film, playing the small role of Rufus, the future sage and professor at Bill and Ted U.

Winter and Reeves have gotten their portrayals of the wide-eyed Bill and Ted down to an extremely amusing science; each seems to be one half of the unassuming whole, as each alternates playing straight man while the other utters profound statements like, "We're dead, dude." Their unflappable demeanor and blissful innocence in the face of adult reality is what makes this film so charming. At one point Ted queries, "After we're married, do you think they'll let us sleep over?" This infectious, good-hearted spirit sustains the film, and Pete Hewitt's direction keeps it all moving, so that this extended game of make-believe doesn't linger too long on any one joke or situation.

The soundtrack, featuring bands like Megadeth, Faith No More, Winger, Kiss and King's X, is more unobtrusive this time around, with only a couple of songs pumped out full blast. Axe-man extraordinaire Steve Vai is responsible for the tasty incidental air guitar licks and the Stallyns' solos.

All in all, this engaging little time travel fantasy is indeed most righteously entertaining, for both the young and the young-at-heart.

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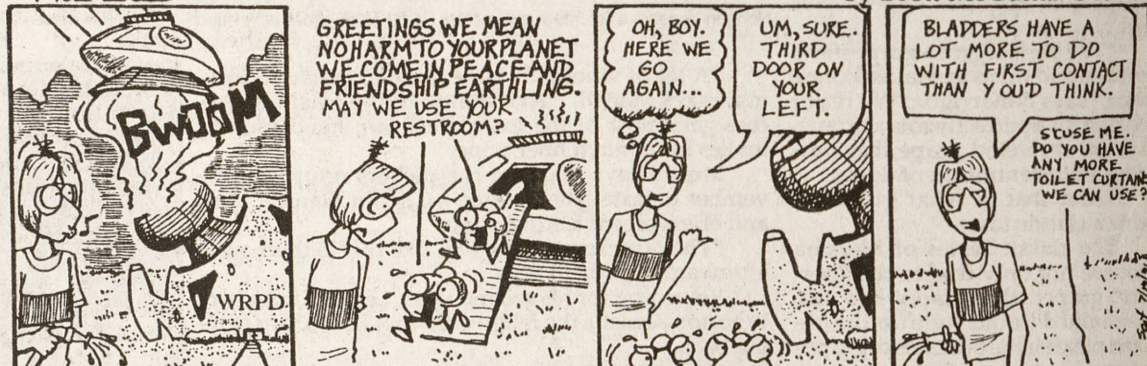
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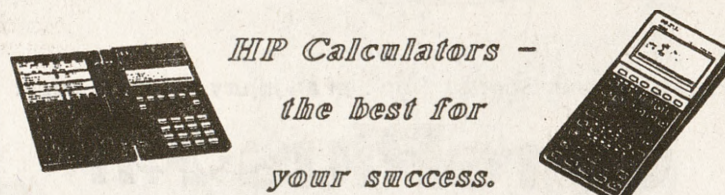
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