

Marty Stuart attracts own crowd with 'Love and Luck'

By Jennifer Gressett
The Battalion

"Love and Luck"
Marty Stuart
Country
MCA Records

In the title track of his latest release, Grammy award winner Marty Stuart says "Life's a treasure, so dig it up." Take a look at where he's been, and you'll see that these are words of experience.

He may not be a regular on the country music charts, but he's certainly no stranger to the business. In fact, when Garth Brooks was still riding around listening to 8-tracks of Journey in his brother's Firebird, 13-year old Stuart was already singing on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry.

Since then, he has toured with Johnny Cash and opened shows for legends such as Lester Flatt.

Now, with the release of "Love and Luck," Stuart seems to be attracting a crowd all his own. In this album, he combines the elements of country, gospel and bluegrass to create a sound that has come to be known as "Hillbilly Rock."

With lyrics that portray the thoughts of a proud country boy, Stuart's album is a collection of 11 songs, seven of which he wrote himself. It is in this collection that his unique perspectives and musical tastes become clear.

If you're in the mood to kick up a little sawdust, this is the album for you. Tunes such as "Love and Luck" and "Kiss Me, I'm Gone" are both good danc-

ing songs. But if you're in the mood for something a little faster, you might want to fast forward to "I Ain't Giving Up on Love." This upbeat tune is foot-tapping good — perfect for all you jitterbug fans.

Another jitterbug possibility is "Marty Stuart Visits The Moon." Yes, that's actually the name of the song. This instrumental piece was written by Stuart. Listen closely and see if you don't start humming "The devil went down to Georgia, he was looking for a soul to steal..." I did.

But if it's a slow two-stepping tune you want, try "That's When You'll Know It's Over." Yes, it's depressing, but isn't that a reoccurring theme in country music? As Reba McEntire puts it, "Country music and sad songs just seem to go hand in hand." So grab your partner and pull 'em closer, cause this is a light-dimming song.

A couple of other songs add to Stuart's variety on this album. One is "Oh, What a Silent Night." It opens with the sounds of crickets chirping in the night air. It'll make you feel like you're back home on the porch swing.

The other is "Shake Your Hips." No, this isn't for line dancing. But listen to the lyrics while you're dancing, and you may just learn how to shake those hips.

With such a collection, Marty Stuart seems to be doing well in the country music business. By drawing from his past and adding a little of his own touch, he has created a work that will shake and shimmy audiences.

Something

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"The album is sentimental and emotional," he said.

The title track, "Home," reflects the attitude the band wishes to portray in this work. It is a slower song that says home is where friends are, no matter where it is.

Pipes wrote the song after a weekend trip to New Orleans, where he and his friends got lost. He said he was relieved to be where he knew people and it provoked the writing of "Home."

Two of the songs are about solemn subjects. "I Can Wait" is about Dr. Kevorkian helping people commit suicides, and "Josey" is about a person waiting for the results of an AIDS test.

The last song on the CD, "Dear Prudence," a remake of a Beatles song, was recorded live last year. The harmony on the song is good and all four of the members sing in the song, which covers a large range of vocal talent.

"Home" is a good album for people who like different types of music. It is a collection of music styles that is pleasing to the ear.



Stewart Milne/The Battalion

Todd Pipes, Deep Blue Something's vocalist and bass player, is silhouetted by stage lights at the band's last show in B-CS. The band will return to the 3rd Floor Cantina tonight.

'Gilbert'

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Explanation. The film takes place in Endora, Iowa, which has a whopping population of 1,091. Everyone in the town knows everyone and the populants seldom stray from the usual daily activities.

The main character is, of course, Gilbert Grape (Johnny Depp) whose main task is taking care of his family.

May sound like an easy job to some, but it's not.

Gilbert's mother (Darlene Cates) weighs 500 pounds and is practically immobile. His mentally disabled brother Arnie (Leonardo DiCaprio) is not expected to reach his 18th birthday, his sister Amy (Laura Harrington) is an obsessive homemaker and his youngest sis-

ter Ellen (Mary Kate Schellhardt) often mistakes Gilbert for her abandoning father.

Besides taking care of his unusual family, Gilbert works as a clerk at the Lamson Grocery store.

These responsibilities are not easy for a young man to handle; so Gilbert numbs himself to reality in order to deal with his circumstances.

When an innocent young traveler named Becky (Juliette Lewis) and her grandmother become stranded in this town that runs like clockwork, life for Gilbert begins to change for the better.

The plot of the film is cleverly hidden among scenes of the day-to-day struggles of the Grape family. Their ultimate goal is to celebrate Arnie's quickly approaching 18th birthday.

If the constant struggles and triumphs of the Grapes don't get to you, the ending will. I left with a

lump in my throat and an overwhelming desire to gather all of my family together for a group hug.

The characters in this film are so real you find yourself being sucked into their daily dramas.

"People are hungry for stories about people that they could know and that they could be," said Peter Hedges, author of the novel and its screenplay. "This is a story about accepting your family, a story about real and real unusual people."

Leonardo DiCaprio certainly earns his Academy Award nomination for best supporting actor. He gives a stunning and very convincing performance of a mentally handicapped boy. You'll absolutely fall in love with him.

"What's Eating Gilbert Grape" will surprise you. Its simple plot about life and survival makes it a definite "feel good" movie.

JOE PESCI • CHRISTIAN SLATER

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Jimmy
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