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THE BATTALION



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Grammy Award winning British singer breaks in a new persona with reflective, mature second release

By Anas Ben-Musa The Battalion

"Seal" Seal

Pop Sire Records

Seal said in his 1991 self-titled, debut album, "I hope you enjoy the record. It's the best I had at the time

Well, what he had was enough to garner him a Grammy nomination for best new artist. Everyone was wondering what this new British pop sensation would do next. It seemed he wasn't

MUSIC REVIEW

finished with what he intended to do in his first album.

Two years, three months, one week and two days later, Seal finished his second album. Same name, same sound, but a bit more sophistication. "Seal II" (it's best to call it that for less confusion) symbolizes the singer/songwriter's musical maturity.

So, what makes this album worth listening to or even buying? Seal speaks softly to the unconscious mind the second-time around. He learned screaming the wrongs and pains of the world will not make

people listen. "How many times have you fallen in love with a lyric that you thought went 'Show me a day with Hilde Ogden and I'll despair,"

Seal says. "Only to find that it went 'Show me a way to solve your problems and I'll be there.'

It would be easier for Seal's fans if the songwriter would include his lyrics with his album. But, Seal believes, "the song is always larger in the listeners' mind because with it they attach imagery which is relative to

their own personal experience." Unfortunately, that is lost in "Seal II." He created mysterious persona with "Seal" that was rugged and very powerful

With "Seal II," Seal is mellow and smooth. His voice is clear, articulate; you have no problems understanding what he

sings. And the words are more personal. The mysterious persona is lost with each song. But, "Seal II" isn't any less potent.

The album begins with "Bring It On." Vibrant and sensual with Seal's characteristic husky, passionate voice singing the lyrics, "Don't wait until tomorrow/ Bring it on, bring it on." Seal's voice is in the forefront.

There is no need to yell, "In a world full of people/Only some are able to fly/Isn't that Crazy." Instead, in "Seal II" he sings of "Dreaming in Metaphors" with a stirring voice, "Love serenade

Soothe me with morning sun/ Help me find someone peaceful and non-judgmental." "Seal II" has much to offer. Each time you listen

Seal's compelling voice and words pull you into his per ception of the world — a world of ideals and hopes. A place not so crazy.

OVIE REVIEWS

Aggielife

SEAL

'The Crow' soars as Beverly Hills == OP fantasy masterpiece

By Paul Neale HE BATTALION

The Crow Starring Brandon Lee and Ernie Hudson Directed by Alex Proyas

Rated R Playing at Hollywood U.S.A.

"I heard a rapping at my door," and it turned out to be a hauntingly dark yet intriguing film — "The Crow." When Eric Draven (Brandon

Lee) returns from the dead to avenge the deaths of himself and his fiancée, "it's a bad day to be a good guy," as he so aptly put it.

Draven and his fiancée are brutally murdered by a group of vigilantes — reminiscent of extras in a Mad Max movie on October 30, or 'Devil's Night.' And when dead rock musician Draven rises from

an oppressive neighborhood harassed by urban ruffians. And from the looks of things the dry ice "fog" and the ever-present shadows — it's not far from Batman's hangout.

Expect to be entertained by this gloomy flick. Accompany-ing the visual effects and the ominous mood of "The Crow" is a soundtrack of equal gravity. Tracks from the Stone Temple Pilots and Nine-Inch Nails add an edge to the film, whereas the Cure contributes to the

film's grim suspense. At nearly two hours long, "The Crow" manages to fly by. The film was so entertaining the weakness of the plot was not noticeable until two-thirds of the way through.

So if you're up for a thoughtprovoking, happy-happy-joyjoy film, you may want to check out one of the other sumts with cowboys or

Eddie Murphy makes the third time the worst time in laughable 'Beverly Hills Cop III'

By William Harrison THE BATTALION

"Beverly Hills Cop III" Starring: Eddie Murphy, Judge Reinhold, Hector

Elizondo, Theresa Randle and Timothy

Carhart Directed by John Landis Rated PG-13 Playing at Hollywood USA

Each year there are a few films that revolutionize, entertain and set the standard for the film industry. And Beverly Hills Cop III isn't one of them.

Eddie Murphy returns for a third reprise of Axel Foley, a Detroit police detective who through irony of fate — always seems to find himself in Beverly Hills avenging the murder of

The pacing of the film is its only merit, moving quickly through action sequences and not getting bogged down in too much of that plot and acting stuff

But ridiculous is ridiculous. For example:

• The opening scene shows a chop shop where two fat, hair matted Detroit car thieves gesture like divas as they sing Diana Ross lyrics. Landis has succeeded playing old rock 'n' roll for comic effect in previous movies — "Animal House, "An American Werewolf in London" and "The Twilight Zone, The Movie" — but this scene doesn't work.

• After a gun fight in the chop shop, Foley holds his boss in his arms. His dying boss utters his last words, strangely in a full monotone, "Axel, are you on a coffee break? Go get that son of a bitch."

· Foley ducks behind a wooden, slatted park benc while armed gunmen stand directly across from him, shoot at Foley with automatic weapons and inexplicably miss. At one point Foley and two Beverly Hills policemen calmly hang out with several bullets blown into each of them and their blood spattered all over themselves. They smile, joke as if they are having too much of a good time to let the audience get down about a few, nigh-mortal wounds.

In his first album, he let the music carry him. But

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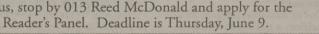
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One by one, the leather-clad Draven tracks down and murders his murderers using their own individual vices.

"The Crow" takes place in cult to top.

something.

But if you're ready for a forget-where-you-are fantasy film, "The Crow" will be diffi-

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TAMU

Murphy and Director John Landis combine to rewarm this theme and wield the irony like an assault with a blunt object.

> Bronson Pinchot is back pandering familiar shtick as Sergio or "Serge," an effeminate, foreign-accented snob which put him on the map in the first movie and in the sitcom "Perfect Strangers" for several forgettable years.

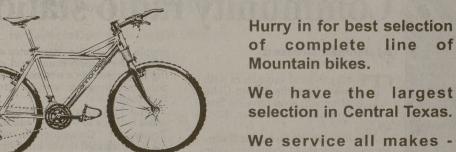
Serge was an art dealer in BHC I, but now "Serge" is a high-society personal protection arms dealer (again, note the delicious irony) who gives Foley all sorts of cute, neat toys

You've probably seen this sequel before - it includes a new-look villain (Timothy Carhart plays Ellis DeWald, a Dan Quayle look-alike, and appears about as threatening; a new girlfriend; ideas from several other movies; cooler guns and funkier gadgets.

Maybe you saw this sequel in the last Dirty Harry movie, when Clint Eastwood looked completely awkward firing a bazooka.

Or maybe this sequel was in one of those later James Bond movies, where the plot gets exponentially outlandish, as do the secret weapons given to Bond by M.

Except this time Bond is Axel Foley. And M is Serge. Can you feel the irony?



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