

Lovett's recent divorce inspiration for songs on *The Road to Ensenada*

By Marcus Goodyear
THE BATTALION

When my brother-in-law heard the news that Lyle Lovett and Julia Roberts were divorcing, he said, "It's sad, but at least we can look forward to a new angst-filled 'I hate Julia' album."

While Lovett's new album *The Road to Ensenada* may not be hateful, it is certainly about his divorce with Roberts. Each song addresses the separation from a different angle in a different style — from the bossanova beat of "Her First Mistake" to the slide guitar of "Don't Touch My Hat."

The resulting eclectic but still country-western collection is the best effort of Lovett's career.

In "That's Right (You're Not From Texas)" Lovett has created a typical country song with a motown blues feel. It is just one example of the brilliant innova-

ALBUM REVIEW

Lyle Lovett
Road to Ensenada
MCA Records
★★★★ (out of five)



tions the artist has brought to country-western music.

The stark, moving "Promises," originally part of the *Dead Man Walking* soundtrack, takes on new meaning within the divorce theme of the album. Its style is vaguely reminiscent of Lovett's earlier work Joshua, Judges, Ruth, with Lovett's clear baritone accompanied by two guitars.

Of course, no Lovett album would be complete without the A&M graduate's wit. He rejoins Randy Newman in the farcical "Long Tall Texan." Lovett and Newman collaborated earlier

for the Disney movie *Toy Story*.

The climax of the album, however, is the hidden track "The Girl in the Corner." The song describes the party where Lovett and Roberts met, obviously in connection with the Robert Altman film, *The Player*. (Lovett even refers to Tim Robbins and Susan Sarandon by name.)

The song revives the singer's old style of storytelling and offers the listener a satisfying resolution to the highly publicized marriage.

Unfortunately, Lovett's new album will probably not be heard on the radio. Pop stations will find the music too country; country stations won't find it country enough. *The Road to Ensenada* doesn't fit into any genre. That is its greatest strength.

Make Your Mama Proud not on fast track to success

By April Towery
THE BATTALION

With influences ranging from Buddy Holly to AC/DC, it is obvious that Fastball is not your average band.

The three-man band tied for first place for best pop band in the Austin Music Awards. Fastball is unique because its sound is simple. The band consists of only one guitarist, bassist, and drummer. The guitarist, Miles Zuniga, and bassist Tony Scalzo take turns as lead vocalist, while drummer Joey Shuffield sings backup.

Formerly called Magneto USA, the band has been playing in Austin clubs and coffee shops for years.

Their debut album, *Make Your Mama Proud*, was produced by Jerry Finn, known for his work with Green Day and Rancid.

The album does have a good pop sound but something is missing. Or, rather, something should be missing — the lyrics.

The lyrics are poorly written, and detract from the music as a whole. "Eater" is a disgustingly realistic song that demonstrates the fine line between attraction and violence. "I'll fatten you up to wolf you down," takes the charm away pretty quickly.

And if that isn't enough, there's "She Comes Round," describing an obsessive infatuation.



ALBUM REVIEW
Fastball
Make Your Mama Proud
Hollywood Records
★★ (out of five)

"Seattle" begins with the singer worrying about his parking tickets, then switches gears to, "We're out of groceries again... so let's get high." Consistency is a problem for them.

"Boomerang," a song about small-town gossip, is just stupid. "He's going out with Kelsey. Kelsey went out with me before I broke up with Amy... Everybody's doing everybody." Hmm. Thought-provoking.

All the songs on the album are written either by Scalzo or Zuniga, but the two have not worked together lyrically.

Despite bad writing, the music does flow well. This would be a great instrumental album. The songs also have a problem with length. Great things do not come in small packages. Songs clocking in at 51 seconds and 1:59 are frustrating to the listener.

The shortness of each song leaves the listener wondering where the rest of it is.

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Downey arrested on drug charges

MALIBU, Calif. (AP) — Oscar-nominated actor Robert Downey Jr. was freed on \$10,000 bail after his arrest on charges he had cocaine, heroin and a gun hidden in his pickup when he was stopped for speeding.

Downey was driving 70 mph in a 50 mph zone on the Pacific Coast Highway early Sunday, sheriff's deputy Angie Prewett said.

A search of his truck uncovered crack and powdered cocaine, a crude type of heroin called Mexican black tar and an unloaded .357-caliber Magnum, Prewett said.

Downey, nominated for an Academy Award for "Chaplin," was booked for investigation of possession of a concealed weapon, drug possession and driving under the influence. He must appear in court July 26.

Downey most recently appeared in a film version of Shakespeare's "Richard III" and in last year's "Home for the Holidays."

There was no immediate comment Monday from his agent, Brian Hersh, who was not in his Beverly Hills office.

Late Gabor's Holmby Hills home sold

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Eva Gabor's former Holmby Hills home has sold for about \$2.5 million.

The Hungarian-born actress, who played a farm-bound socialite on TV's

"Green Acres," lived in the house for 20 years. She died last July at 74.

The house, built in 1938, also had been leased at various times by David Niven, Frank Sinatra and Audrey Hepburn.

It was bought by Margaret and Murray Black. She is a Dean Witter executive; he heads a drilling and blasting company.

Mystery Science Theater to return on Sci-Fi Channel

NEW YORK (AP) — The cult TV favorite "Mystery Science Theater 3000," canceled after seven seasons on Comedy Central, will return with original episodes on the Sci-Fi Channel in February 1997.

"We're thrilled to offer our viewers this Peabody Award-winning show," said Barry Schulman, the Sci-Fi Channel's top programmer.

"The series is a natural fit for us and has developed quite a loyal following over the years."

Thirteen new episodes, each featuring an old science-fiction movie lampooned by the silhouetted critics Mike Nelson, Crow T. Robot and Tom Servo, have been ordered, Schulman said Monday.

Comedy Central announced earlier this year that it is dropping the low-rated "MST3K," produced by Best Brains Inc. of Eden Prairie, Minn.

Sci-Fi Channel is seen in more than 30 million households nationwide.

Reeve among '97 Walk of Fame honorees

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Christopher Reeve, Penny

Marshall, Patrick Swayze, Alec Baldwin and Tom Petty are among the stars who will be underfoot along the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1997.

They will be honored with stars in the pavement.

"The 14 stars chosen represent an excellent cross-section of Hollywood's brightest luminaries, both classic and contemporary performers. I welcome them to the world's most famous sidewalk," Hollywood's honorary mayor, Johnny Grant, said Monday.

One of the 14 is actually a group: the Four Tops. Other 1997 recipients will be David Carradine, Clint Black, Patrick Swayze, Vanessa Williams, Carlos Santana, Don Cornelius and Clive Davis.

The Walk of Fame Committee selected the inductees during a closed meeting on June 17. Hundreds were nominated.

Mason advocates New York for 2008 Olympics

NEW YORK (AP) — Comedian Jackie Mason thinks New York — the city of sharp elbows — is the perfect place for the 2008 Olympics.

"Instead of high-jumping, we can have turnstile-jumping. We'd win that in a second," he said Sunday, referring to subway fare beaters.

A task force of city and business leaders met last week to begin studying the possibility of a bid for the 2008 Games.

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