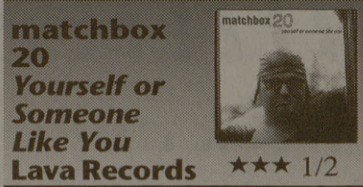


music review

Matchbox 20 offers strong set of emotional short stories on *Yourself or Someone Like You*



By BRANDON TRUITT
THE BATTALION

Listening to matchbox 20's debut album *Yourself or Someone Like You* is like reading an anthology of short stories.

In a press release, singer/songwriter Rob Thomas said he always wanted to tell stories.

"I never had the patience to sit down at a typewriter and write short stories or anything like that," he said. "I started writing songs as a way of communicating ideas the best way I could."

The band's debut album was

produced by Matt Serletic, co-producer of the Collective Soul albums.

Yourself or Someone Like You sounds similar to Collective Soul's work in that it explores the line between what is pop, rock and alternative.

They are as hard as Collective Soul, as crisp as Hootie and the Blowfish and as emotional as The Cure.

Matchbox 20 sounds most like Spacehog, but the chances of hearing matchbox 20's first single "Long Day" on the radio is probably better than the chances of hearing Spacehog, so let's just say the band sounds like matchbox 20.

Every song is a three minute vignette of someone else's life.

The first song, "Real World," is a personal narrative of a man wondering how it would feel "to be the rainmaker," "a super hero" and "the head honcho."

In the last song, "Hang," the

short story elements shine in the eyes of an omniscient narrator looking down on a melancholy world. There is a woman, "She grabs her magazines, she packs her things and she goes/She leaves the pictures hanging on the wall/She burns all her notes and she knows/She's been here too few years to feel this old."

Her man smokes his cigarette and thinks, "If anybody ever had a heart, he wouldn't be alone/He knows she's been here too few years, to be gone."

There is a novelty to this album as a whole that reminds the listener of Pearl Jam's *Ten*.

The most poignant story on *Yourself or Someone Like You* is about a man named "Kody." The song could be matchbox 20's answer to Pearl Jam's "Jeremy."

"Kody sat down on the avenue / He watched the light shine down on the broken glass, and thought, 'I don't got no reasons,'

yet there it is and there it was was clear to all of us: we kept hat of broken dreams and we pulled them out, when we needed them around/So please let me the bottle, I think I'm long now, and please give me direction, I think the hurt set in, and don't feel nothing."

Each story is unique and thought-provoking in its own way. One of matchbox 20's strongest talents is the ability to sing about Kody — someone who is in a different stage of — and still offer their listeners enough insight and meaning into his condition.

Matchbox 20 does not live lyrics and stories alone. Musically, they are both educated and talented.

While *Yourself or Someone Like You* is far from a perfect work of art, it is a strong first album that does its best to paint as many interesting pictures as possible.

► **What's Up?**

Tuesday

Men's Lacrosse Club: Practice will be held from 4-6 p.m. at the Zachry fields. Everyone is welcome and no experience is necessary. For details, call Todd Hendreks at 764-8561.

Women's Lacrosse: There will be practice from 4-6 p.m. at the Zachry fields. Beginners are welcome. For more information, call Monica at 694-6915.

Aggie Toastmasters: Our weekly meeting will be held at 8:30 p.m. in the MSC. Check screens for location.

Aggie Lutherans: There will be a Treehouse meeting at 7 p.m. in 504 Rudder. For more information, call Allison at 693-5137.

Catholic Students Association: There will be a general meeting at 7 p.m. in 504 Rudder. For more information, call Gus Rios at 694-2174.

Pre-Vet Society: Dr. Herman will be speaking on wildlife and exotics at 8:30 p.m. in 292 A MSC. For details, call Marcia Homann at 764-6492.

Study Abroad Programs: An informational meeting to promote the Spring '98 Italy Program will be held from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. in 358 and 161 Bizzell West.

MSC CAMAC: An informational table on the 10th Annual Southwest Student Conference on Latino Affairs will be set up in the MSC Hallway. For additional information, call Lorena at 845-1514 or e-mail LIR8554@acs.tamu.edu.

Off Campus Aggies: A general meeting will be held at 8:30 p.m. in 301 Rudder. Contact Rustin at 845-0068 for more information.

Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA): A general meeting to finalize plans for the Career Fair Feb. 11 will be held at 8:30 p.m. in 410 Rudder. Contact Kendra Voigt at 696-8750 for more information.

Ex-Tech (AWHIP): There will be a general meeting for students interested in exercise technology at 7 p.m. in 167 Read.

Hispanic Journalists Association: There will be a general meeting at 7 p.m. in 003 Read McDonald. For more information, contact Robert at 847-6864.

Undergraduate Women's Studies Group: There

will be a presentation of "The Effects of Pornography" by the Brazos Valley Rape Crisis Center at 8 p.m. in 156 Blocker. For more information call Kelly at 847-0240.

Orthodox Christian Fellowship: There will be a Divine Liturgy at 5:30 p.m. in All Faiths Chapel. For more information, call Stavros Megas at 847-6584.

TAMU Kung Fu Club: Faculty, staff, and students come try out a highly effective workout program that is hundreds of years old from 5 to 7 p.m. in 263 G. Rollie White. For more information contact Tye Botting at 845-1411 or tye@leper.tamu.edu.

TAMU Waterski Team: There will be a general meeting at 8:30 p.m. in 707 Rudder. For more information, call Mike Coyle at 265-5926.

Wildlife Biology Society: There will be a guest lecture by Deborah Cowman at our first general meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 113 Kleberg. For more information, call Mariah Guild at 690-6561.

Institute of Industrial Engineers: There will be a speaker meeting featuring Dr. Kuo at 7 p.m. in 304 Zachry. For details call Yvette at 694-0227.

Texas Student Education Association (TEAS): There will be a general meeting from 7 to 8 p.m. in 301 Rudder. For more information, call Carolyn at 847-2136, Cathy at 696-1252 or Amy at 694-2676.

Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship: A celebration of Black History Month with special speaker Pastor Maurice Green from Lily of the Valley, Church of God in Christ, will take place at 7 p.m. in 101 Heep. For more information, contact Nathan at 260-9143.

Graduate Student Council: A general meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. in the Governance Room in Koldus. Contact Blake at 862-4240 for more information.

The English Club: Dr. Mary Lenn Dixon will be speaking on editing and book publishing at 7 p.m. in 110 Harrington. For more information, contact Jami Castillo at 779-1351.

Circle K International: A general meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in 146 Koldus. For details, contact Amy at 847-5783.

College Republicans: A general meeting and club elections will be held at 7 p.m. in 601 Rudder. Contact Kim at 696-3301 for more information.

Career Center: There will be a co-op orientation

at 4 p.m. in 510 Rudder.

Career Center: There will be a placement orientation at 4 p.m. in 111 Klodus.

Career Center: There will be a Behavioral Interviewing Seminar at 12 p.m. in 111 Klodus.

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Women's Lacrosse: There will be practice from 4-6 p.m. at the Zachry fields. Beginners are welcome. For more information, call Monica at 694-6915.

Wesley Foundation: There will be an informational meeting at 7 p.m. at 201 Tauber Street (behind AggieLand Credit Union). For more information call at 846-4701.

Catholic Students Association: There will be a challenge group at 11:30 a.m. For details, call St. Mary's office.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes: There will be a time of praise and worship, small group studies and guest speakers at 9 p.m. in the Hall Film Room. For details, call Bryan Wagner at 693-1226.

Life Savers Bible Study: There will be a worship service from 6-7:30 p.m. at All Faith's Chapel. For more information call 260-9803.

Student Counseling Service-Minority Student Walk-In: There will be walk-in counseling services for students of color. No appointment needed. Students seen on first come, first served basis. For more information, call Dr. Riker at 845-4427, ext. 134.

Texas A&M Fencing Club: Beginners come to the fencing club at 7 p.m. in 267 Read. Call by Thornton at 691-2296 for details.

What's Up is a Battalion service that lists profit student and faculty events and activities should be submitted no later than 10 days in advance of the desired run date. Submission deadlines and notices are not events will not be run in What's Up. If you have any questions, please call the newsroom at 845-3333.

Organizational Meeting of the
Texas A&M Home Brew Club
Wed., February 5
at 8:30 PM
MSC Rm. 292-B
If you have an interest in brewing science and history you should definitely attend.
For more information call
764-8486 or e-mail smg@acs.tamu.edu

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