

# THE LOST PLOT



Tyrannosaurus rex wreaks havoc in *Jurassic Park: The Lost World*. The movie, directed by Steven Spielberg is based upon Michael Crichton's novel and is the sequel to *Jurassic Park*.

## Jurassic Park uncovers weak, predictable sequel

BY JAMES FRANCIS  
 THE BATTALION

Once again the cast of the original *Jurassic Park* (minus Laura Dern, the children and their grandfather) find themselves on the island that man created and time will soon forget. With the other members of

the first film gone, Jeff Goldblum remains as the one character, Dr. Ian Malcolm, who will once again brave the untamed land before time. Joining Goldblum are the usual animal counterparts: Tyrannosaurus rex and family, Velociraptors, and a whole cast of new dino-stars.

This time, Goldblum's job is one of a rescue endeavor. His girlfriend, Dr. Sarah Harding (Julianne Moore), has been sent to the dinosaur island in order to do research on the continued behavior of the prehistoric animals and record some other scientific jargon the film never addresses.

Unlike the first film, *The Lost World* gets the audience in touch with the action immediately. There are the usual dinosaur-human chase scenes, followed by fatalities of both man and beast, and a few one-liners that make moviegoers laugh, cry or scream at the top of their lungs.

The only drawback, the biggest of many films lately, is that there really is no plot. Although the film attempts to give the audience a reason to understand why Goldblum is going back to the island, it would seem the film's only concern are the action sequences. But this also is the reason the film will do so well at the box office. This past weekend alone, *The Lost World* raked in \$32 mil-

lion, an impressive gross that surpasses all other top-ten films of the weekend grouped together.

Cinematography rules the film in every sequence the audience sees. From landscape shots to up-close filming of a tyrannosaurus rex mouth lashing out at main characters, the visuals of the film are stunning, breathtaking and a bit frustrating (in

**Jurassic Park: The Lost World**  
 Directed by **Steven Spielberg**  
 Starring **Jeff Goldblum** and **Julianne Moore**  
 Rated **PG-13**  
 Playing at **Hollywood 16**  
**★★★ (out of five)**

the sense that they deliver tense moments to the audience).

Another good aspect of this sequel is the acting. Goldblum is quirky as ever as the masterful doctor of chaos science. His screen demeanor

throughout the film is one of intensity and cautiousness, as other characters do not know the havoc the "friendly" dinosaurs can cause them.

Although many audience viewers will miss the smile and nervous countenance of Dern from the first film, Moore gives a suitable performance of a doctor who finds herself in awe about every aspect of the island and its inhabitants. She knows when to deliver a friendly smile and when to flash a moment of true terror.

*The Lost World* may not be the best movie showing at theaters, but it definitely deserves a one-time viewing for those individuals who could not get enough of the dinosaur thrills the first film presented.

And although the film has a definite ending (with a cliffhanger, it would not be worthy of a review), it will not be surprising if ticket sales and audience reactions prompt Spielberg to give another shot to dinosaur-mania to audiences across the world.

## Fantastic debut redefines punk music

BY APRIL TOWERY  
 THE BATTALION

Sounds can be deceiving. And, although the music of Bryan-College Station band Kid Fantastic sounds like punk, the quartet proves there is more to music than a loud electric guitar on its debut album, *Closer To The End*.

The growing trend of Texas punk bands consists of unfocused musicians targeting a young audience, because only skateboarding junior high punks will think these bands are talented. Austin punk band Gals Panic fit this stereotype, and thus, rarely started playing a show after 9 p.m., because its fans had a curfew. The band broke up last July.

Kid Fantastic, however, has a little more to offer. The members are all students, but instead of coming across as youngsters, they have broken the monotony of other punk bands and proved to be talented individuals on *Closer To The End*.

The album was recorded in early March at Malagro Studios in Houston. It includes 12 songs, each of which thrives upon lyrical interpretation, demanding to be picked apart and analyzed for meaning.

Vocalist, guitarist and songwriter Tim Austin is nothing short of a lyrical genius. The word combinations that sound like nonsense come to life after the album has been played a few times. The concise lyrics express in a few words what many artists could not say throughout an entire album. The music is happy, but, at the same time, the words inspire thought and reflection.

In the soul-searching tune "All Over Me," Austin sings, "And you all over me / And my mind can't believe this / 'Cause my eyes are on you / I'll lead you back /

**music** **Kid Fantastic**  
*Closer To The End*  
 Kid Records  
 ★★★★★ (out of five) **review**

I'll lead you back again / Into a strange hand / To find a soul again."

Only one song, "High School Meltdown," causes the album to fit the stereotypical punk release. Austin sings of sitting in class next to a girl whose "eyes cause a high school meltdown." Meaningless and elementary songs such as this give punk bands a bad reputation.

Ironically, this bubble gum pop song may be the one to gain Kid Fantastic its 15 minutes of fame. "High School Meltdown" is receiving local radio coverage on KHLL's Sunday evening program, Exposure.

Kid Fantastic experiments with levels of depth and intensity. The music forces listeners to explore mind and soul and to deal with such issues as love, hope, salvation and personal beliefs.

Although the band has existed for less than a year, the members mesh well with one another.

Drummer Adreon Henry, a Bryan native, has been in and out of local bands for years, but has found his niche with Kid Fantastic. Henry's perfect timing and speedy drum-rolls add an upbeat, funky element to the album.

Austin proves the versatility of his voice on the mellow songs on the album, but on the more upbeat songs,

the vocals occasionally sound weak and nasal. Although whining is often typical punk style, it detracts from the overall instrumentation.

Bassist Nathan McKown and guitarist Jason Schleiter equally contribute precision and tight instrumentation. However, the basslines are often dominant, and could be better incorporated into the music.

Whether it be solid strumming or well-timed beats, the individual talents of each band member combine to complete the sound.

*Closer To The End* has sounds that may remind listeners of anything from the strung-out vocals of Tripping Daisy's Tim DeLaughter to the toe-tapping pop flavor of Weezer to the melodic rhythms of Fountains of Wayne. Any way the music is observed, it is moving.

It is evident that these four young musicians have talent and a future in making music. The band has the experience, the stage presence and determination to succeed as a Texas punk band.

The music of Kid Fantastic is not purple mohawk punk. It is fun, sing-a-long punk, the kind that makes listeners smile.

*Closer To The End* explodes with originality and creativity. And the finished product is, well, fantastic.

## FIDDLIN' AROUND

### Bluegrass Festival offers down-home fun

BY JENNY VRNAK  
 THE BATTALION

A walk in the park this weekend might include some out-of-the-ordinary activities.

This Friday and Saturday, the fiddle players come to town for some down home country fun at the 8th annual Bryan Bluegrass Festival.

Musical performances will begin on Friday evening and feature such acts as Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder, High Stakes Rollers and The Lone Star Bluegrass Band.

Laurie Connally, special events programmer for the Bryan Parks and Recreation Department, said she is excited about the diverse lineup of bands this year.

"We have some very unique bands coming," she said. "I think that there is definitely something for everyone in the family."

Bluegrass music is a combination of different types of music that evolved over 200 years ago in the Appalachian Mountains.

Jimmy Eller, a member of the bluegrass band Cedar Creek, said that many of today's country music stars began their careers playing bluegrass music.

"Bluegrass music is true American music, and it is also the basis of modern country music," Eller said. "Vince Gill, Garth Brooks and Dolly Parton are just a few examples of country music singers that got their start in bluegrass."

Eller has been attending the Bluegrass Festival since its beginning, although his band formed last February. He said he has always enjoyed sitting under the trees at the Festival and playing music with the other bands.

This year the Festival is featuring a variety of bands. Red Eye, Bluegrass, Etc. and Blue Highway, which won the International Bluegrass Music award for newcomer of the year, are a few of the bands scheduled to perform.

The Festival will also be offering special activities for children, such as face painting booths and a barrel train ride. Arts and crafts, fishing, swimming and various snacks will be available.

Visitors can bring their own camping equipment and rent a tent space. The event will sponsor 24-hour security services for persons who stay at Lake Bryan Park.

Eller said he believes that this year promises to be better than the last.

"Without a doubt, this is the best year the Festival has had as far as quality music goes," he said.



Ricky Skaggs will perform at the Bryan Bluegrass Festival.

The Festival will be held Friday and Saturday at Lake Bryan Park. Tickets can be purchased through the Bryan Parks and Recreation Department at 361-3656.

## A taste of SUMMER

3rd & 4th, 11-1pm 10th, 7pm 11th, Noon-4pm 17th, 7-10pm	A Taste of Summer--free lemonade MSC L.T. Jordan Institute: The People and Customs of New Zealand MSC Town Hall: Beach Party--live music, swimming, free CDs! MSC Nova: Gaming Night at Hullabaloo --free bowling, games, refreshments MSC Black Awareness Committee: Juneteenth Celebration --featuring the Shiloh Area Youth Choir MSC Visual Arts: Campus Art Tour --a walk through of various exhibits	Rudder Fountain MSC 321 Rec Center Pool (A&M ID req'd.) MSC Hullabaloo
18th, 12:30-1:30pm 18th, 5pm	MSC Film Society: Clue MSC Town Hall: Listening Party--free CDs! MSC Great Issues: The Ethics of Cloning MSC Visual Arts: Art in the "Real World" --a "field trip" to Houston	MSC Main Lounge Meet at MSC Forsyth Center Galleries MSC 201 Rudder Fountain MSC 206 Meet at MSC Forsyth Center Galleries
24th, 8:30pm 25th, Noon-1pm 25th, 4pm 26th, 1pm	MSC Film Society: Attack of the Killer Tomatoes MSC Town Hall: Listening Party--free CDs! MSC Nova: Gaming Night at Hullabaloo --free bowling, games, refreshments MSC Visual Arts: Campus Art Tour --a walk through of various exhibits MSC Town Hall: Listening Party--free CDs! MSC Political Forum: Current Political Events Lecture MSC Film Society: Animal House MSC Town Hall: Rich Ames, Hypnotist MSC Visual Arts: Art in the "Real World" --a "field trip" to Houston	Rudder 601 Rudder Fountain MSC Hullabaloo
1st, 8:30pm 2nd, Noon-1pm 8th, 7-10pm	MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society: Broadway Cabaret MSC Town Hall: Beach Party--live music, swimming, free CDs! MSC Political Forum and Film Society: Absolute Power Rudder 601 MSC Town Hall: Listening Party--free CDs!	Meet at MSC Forsyth Center Galleries Rudder Fountain MSC Main Lounge MSC 201 Rudder Theater Meet at MSC Forsyth Center Galleries
9th, 5pm 16th, Noon-1pm 16th, 4pm 17th, 8:30pm 22nd, 8:30pm 24th, 1pm	MSC Film Society: Clue MSC Town Hall: Listening Party--free CDs! MSC Great Issues: The Ethics of Cloning MSC Visual Arts: Art in the "Real World" --a "field trip" to Houston	Rudder Fountain
25th, 8:00pm 30th, Noon-4pm	MSC Political Forum and Film Society: Absolute Power Rudder 601 MSC Town Hall: Listening Party--free CDs!	Rudder Fountain
4th, 8:30pm 6th, Noon-1pm	MSC Political Forum and Film Society: Absolute Power Rudder 601 MSC Town Hall: Listening Party--free CDs!	Rudder Fountain

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