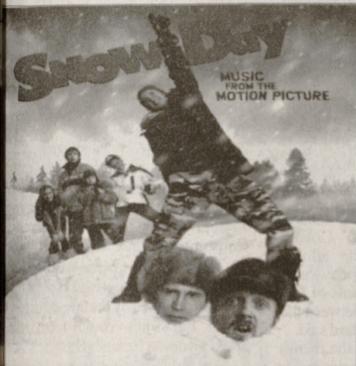


Volume Control



Various Artists
Snow Day —
Music from the Motion Picture
Courtesy of Geffen Records

The *Snow Day* soundtrack features a wide variety of songs from a wide range of bands and singers — from The Hippos to The Mighty Mighty Bosstones. With these acts and several other solid bands, including Sixpence None the Richer, one might expect a fairly solid album. In reality, what one gets is a very lame album. There are two, or maybe three songs, on the album that are not about love or do not mention love less than twice.

It seems like the album's producers took the absolute sappiest songs from every artist and combined them on one album. From the trailers, the movie looks like a juvenile comedy, complete with adolescent humor, so it seems odd that the whole album is slow and lovesick.

The only exceptional songs on the soundtrack are Smashmouth's high-energy song, "Come On Come On" and Sixpence None the Richer's cover of The La's "There She Goes."

For every good song though, there are five annoyingly sentimental pieces which all begin to sound the same after awhile.

The movie *Snow Day* is probably destined for a lackluster performance at the box office, and the *Snow Day* soundtrack hopefully won't do any better at the music store. To be blunt, don't waste your time on this album. (Grade: D)

— Matt McCormick



Various Artists
The Beach Soundtrack
London Records

The Beach Soundtrack is a great collection of unique and diverse tracks.

Everyone from Sugar Ray (who has a surprising good track) to Moby to All Saints are featured on the album.

Each song offers a different and interesting aspect to the album. From the mysterious, exotic beats of Leftfield's "Snakeblood" to the tropical summer sound of Sugar Ray's "Spinning Away," this album just plain rocks.

The moods range from somber to aggravated with everything in between. Songs like "Porcelain" by Moby keep a smooth and relaxing pace while "On Your Own (Crouch End Broadway Mix)" by Blur maintains an intense rhythm.

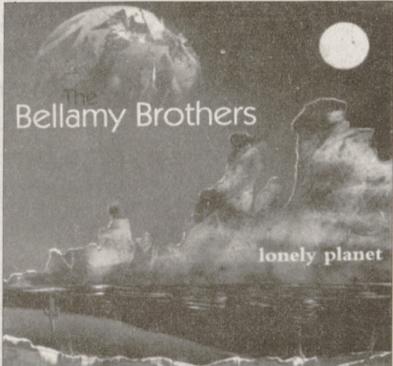
All the songs on the album keep the exotic feel of the film.

Not since *The Matrix* has a soundtrack been released that was as good as this mix of tracks. Most soundtracks offer a range of B-sides and weak, pointless songs that were played for several seconds in the film.

However, this album has a mysterious and exotic feel that makes its way through many musical genres and experimental styles.

Trust me, this album is paradise. (Grade: A-)

— Kyle Whitacre



The Bellamy Brothers
Lonely Planet
Courtesy of Blue Hat Records/
Bellamy Brothers Records

The Bellamy Brothers have been around for a number of years and they have definitely had their ups and downs. They are on one of their musical ups with *Lonely Planet*.

At a time when country music incorporates styles from every genre of music short of blatant heavy metal, it is refreshing to hear some country music that actually sounds like country music of the past.

Lonely Planet does just that, weaving great dance rhythms with infectious melodies in an effortless manner. From the clever word plays in "The X-Files," to the old-fashioned honky tonk flavor of "Houston, I Have a Problem," The Bellamy Brothers have come full circle and returned to a style of music they helped to define.

Featuring a variety of styles and flavors of te-jano, this music is nothing fancy, just good music for dancing to or even to just sit and drink. It is definitely their best in album in several years.

Any fan of The Bellamy Brothers' earlier works will definitely enjoy this album, as will just about anyone who is a fan of good old-fashioned country music. (Grade: C+)

— Matt McCormick

A = instant classic B = a cut above C = average
D = don't buy it F = burn in effigy

OSCARS

Continued from Page 4

It was Streep's 12th career nomination, bringing Katharine Hepburn for the most acting nominations.

The other supporting actor nominees were Tom Cruise in *Magnolia*, Michael Clarke Duncan in *The Green Mile*, Jude Law in *The Talented Mr. Ripley* and Haley Joel Osment in *The Sixth Sense*.

The supporting actress nominees were Toni Collette in *The Sixth Sense*, Angelina Jolie in *Girl, Interrupted*, Catherine Keener in *Being John Malkovich*, Samantha Morton in *Sweet and Lowdown* and Chloe Sevigny in *Boys Don't Cry*.

The other director nominee was Spike Jonze for *Being John Malkovich*.

Other omissions included perennial Oscar favorite Tom Hanks for *The Green Mile*, Emily Watson for *Angela's Ashes*, and Stanley Kubrick's last movie, *Eyes Wide Shut*.

Washington's acting nomination was the only one for *The Hurricane*, which had been a leading contender for best picture.

The Talented Mr. Ripley, which had been a strong contender for best picture, lead actor Matt Damon and director Anthony Minghella, was shut out of those categories. Besides Law, the movie got nominations for adapted screenplay, original score and two technical awards.

Being John Malkovich, a favorite among critics, received just three nominations while another critics' favorite, *Topsy-Turvy*, got four bids, including original screenplay by director Mike Leigh.

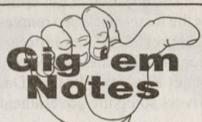
The year's biggest blockbuster, *Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace*, received three nominations for sound, sound effects editing and visual effects.

The foreign film nominees were *About My Mother* from Spain, *Caravan* from Nepal, *East-West* from France, *Solomon and Gaenor* from the United Kingdom, and *Under the Sun* from Sweden.

The nominations were announced in an early morning ceremony by actor Dustin Hoffman at the academy headquarters.

The Oscars will be presented March 26 from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles and broadcast on ABC.

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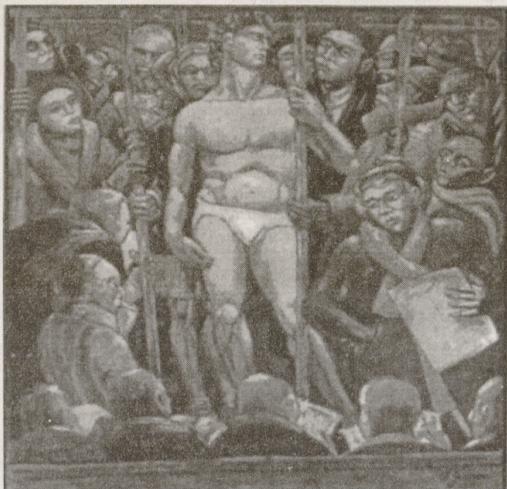
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