



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

Original Motion Picture Soundtrack
Moulin Rouge
Interscope Records

A truly original, yet entirely over-filled soundtrack accompanies Baz Luhrmann's jolting musical on acid. Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor lend their vocals to a majority of the tracks and are accompanied by artists such as David Bowie, Beck and Fatboy Slim. The over-played but well-produced remake of "Lady Marmalade" may be the one of the hottest songs of 2001, but it is far from the best track on the album. McGregor showcases a singing talent that many film actors cannot boast. On the track "Your Song," he wins over Kidman in the film and is



joined by opera singer Alessandro Safina on background vocals. However, he is more stunning in the pop music melting pot, "Elephant Love Medley," which features cuts from the songs "All You Need Is Love," "I Will Always Love You" and many more. Kidman joins him on this track, resulting in one of the movie's funniest moments. Surprisingly, Kidman does a fine job as the Moulin Rouge courtesan Satine in her rendition of "Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend." During this performance of "Sparkling Diamonds," she sings the famous hook from Madonna's "Material Girl," again adding a touch of humor to this tragic love story. The one song that should have been left off of this otherwise fun soundtrack is the Valeria rendition of "Rhythm of the Night." The Diane Warren dance tune should have been left in the '80s.

The movie and soundtrack's one original song, "Come What May," is a testimony of love by Kidman and McGregor that is destined to be nominated for best original song come Oscar time. The big question is, will the couple sing

it for the March telecast? (Grade: B+)

— Jeff Kempf



Missy Elliott
Miss E... So Addictive
Elektra Records

The unique, infamous, often replicated but never duplicated Missy Elliott comes out strong in her long-awaited third album, *Miss E... So Addictive*. She teams up with producers Timbaland, Bink & Nisan Stewart and Dante Nolan to generate innovative beats and eccentric rhymes to show the future of hip-hop.

The first single, chart topper "Get Ur Freak On," provided the hip-hop scene with a new style. She fused the sounds of jungle music and hip-hop to

construct an original song that left fans wanting more.

Elliott is well known for collaborating with other hip-hop artists on her albums. On this album, guest appearances include Jay-Z, Eve, Ludacris and Da Brat. On the track, "Take Away," Elliott does a duet with R&B artist, Ginuwine. This shows that Elliott does not only rap; she can sing too.

With every track, one gets a different flavor of music. "Old School Joint" is definitely a track that stands out. Again, she shows her vocal talents on this track. The beat can make one want to groove their way down the Soul Train line.

"Lick Shots" can influence one to go to the bar, take a couple of shots and head to the dance floor. Without a doubt, the track is definitely one of those songs where people scream out, "Hey! That's my jam!"

Although her lyrics may be outlandish, her beats are original and appealing. She is an innovator of imaginative music. Elliott has shown that her style gets better with age. (Grade: B)

— Dino Ramos

Travis
The Invisible Band
Epic Records

Many listeners recognize the tune of Travis' first hit single "Sing." While it has received plenty of airplay, Travis will be lucky if they get any airplay with the other tracks from their album, *The Invisible Band*.

In "Sing," Travis brings together the sounds of Coldplay and The Verve and, in the

process, creates a hit. However, the band uses the same formula in every one of their songs and is unlikely to find the same success for its other tracks.

"Dear Diary" sounds as mopey and cheesy as the title suggests, with lyrics like "Dear Diary, What is wrong with me?"

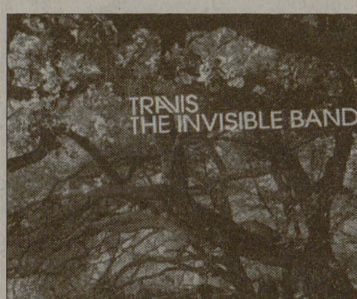
The following tracks continue the same "Woe is me" theme with more whining, weak rhymes and girly moans. Every song is reminiscent of childhood lullabies as the sounds of chimes, bells and tambourines accompany lyrics that advise listeners, "It's all right. Just follow the light, and don't be afraid of the dark."

The last track, "The Humpty Dumpty Love Song," features the lead singer bemoaning that his heart cannot be put back together again by "all the king's horses and all the king's men."

The band's Limited Edition CD includes two bonus tracks, but who cares when both tracks sound exactly like the previous twelve.

The CD has one redeeming quality; It is guaranteed to put any tired student fast asleep. (Grade: D)

— Lizette Resendez



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