

Disney's 'Beast' a masterpiece

by Richard Munson

In the tradition of old animated greats like *Cinderella* and *Sleeping Beauty* and the new hit *The Little Mermaid*, Walt Disney Pictures has created what could be its greatest love story yet, *Beauty and the Beast*. It is the studio's 30th full-length film dating back to *Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs* in 1937.

The classic fairy tale tells of a Prince who has a spell cast upon him transforming him into a hideous looking beast. He must love and find someone who will love him back before a magical rose dies, or he will remain trapped as the beast forever.

The story shows how Belle (Paige O'Hara) must see beyond the appearance of the hideous looking beast

(Robby Benson) to find the love they both desire, to break the spell.

Along the way, Belle dodges hungry wolves, her suitor Gaston, and must prevent her inventor father Lumeiere, from being put

MOVIE REVIEW

Beauty and the Beast (★★★★)

Voices of Paige O'Hara, Robby Benson, Angela Lansbury, Richard White & David Ogden Stiers.

Directed by Gary Trousdale

into an insane asylum. She meets several servants of the castle who have been transformed into common household objects by the same spell that has transformed the Prince into the beast. The household items are reminiscent of the characters in

the Disney classic *Fantasia*.

Angela Lansbury, as the voice of Mrs. Potts, along with David Ogden Stiers as the voice of Cogsworth, give touching performances as they try to help the two come together and fight off the villagers who are out to kill the beast.

The emotional story is heartbreaking, funny, romantic, scary and bound to become a Disney classic. Disney may be crossing a new plane when the two characters experience the most passionate kiss—this side of Touchstone.

Disney has created all new characters and music for the movie. The musical score is written by the award winning team of Howard Ashman and Alan Menken, the Oscar award winning composers of *The Little Mermaid*.

'Beauty comes from within'



picture courtesy of Disney. All rights reserved.

Beauty and the Beast, a five star hit from Disney.



Gin Blossoms proudly sported some flannel at their concert last week in Las Vegas

Gin Blossoms flourish wildly in Las Vegas

by David Hare

What do you get when you cross the Byrds with Husker Dü, throw in a dash of '70's nostalgia and add a generous dosage of raw, drunken nerve?

If Friday's show at Sneaker's served as a clue, then A&M recording artists Gin Blossoms are such a blend of jangling '60's guitar with a deep garage punch, a bad episode of the Partridge Family and an energy as wild and wire-haired as a meeting of frustrated frat boys. In other words, these guys are pretty damn good.

Hailing from Tempe, Arizona, the Gin Blossoms pit stop into Las Vegas was part of the band's grueling tour to promote their newly released EP, *Up and Crumbling*, a wonderfully hopeful clip of sweet, serious melody

and plaintive force that plays as well live as it does on record.

Headed by vocalist Robin Wilson, the band includes guitarists Jesse Valenzuela and Douglas Hopkins, bassist Bill Leen and drummer Phillip Rhodes. Together, these gentlemen share a common love of performance and musicianship that is unmistakably... well... just a... unmistakably... that is... these guys are pretty damn good.

From their boundless anthems of soul searching, "Just South of Nowhere" and "Clairvoyance, Mrs. Rita," to their blinding distortion of the Archie's "Sugar Sugar," the Gin Blossoms gave a live show that left behind a thin trail of smoke with a faint whiff of promise. An erratic set of grungy guitar noise that left bones crunching and nerves frayed, yet to be saved by their perfect pop

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element.

Wilson's singing is a smooth, pleasant range that somehow manages to stay above the watermark of the other band members drowning discord. While their seemed to be enough commotion to send the floodgates wide open, this band chooses a method to their muddle, always keeping the music an imminent threat that remains enjoyable to the ear.

With a full length LP on the way with producer John Hampton (Replacements, Robert Cray), the Gin Blossoms promise to stay around for awhile and keep the fun coming, which is what best describes this band as a live act, fun. Not wholesome, but fun.

The Glenn Miller Orchestra to perform in Las Vegas

The Glenn Miller Orchestra, with conductor Larry O'Brien, will perform at 8:15 p.m. Monday at the Stardust Hotel Convention Ballroom.

Glenn Miller disappeared on Dec. 15, 1944. The band leader went down over the English Channel on a flight from London to Paris at the height of his career.

Now, over 50 years since the public first embraced the Miller sound, The Glenn Miller Orchestra is one of the most sought after big bands in the world today. The Miller Estate formed the present Glenn Miller Orchestra in 1956 following strong popular demand. The band has been touring consistently since, playing an average of 300 live dates a year.

The Glenn Miller Orchestra is a fully self-contained group consisting of the leader, five saxophone players, four trumpeters, four trombonists, three rhythm musicians and two vocalists.

Larry O'Brien became the leader of the orchestra in November of 1988. It was the second time that O'Brien has held the position, the first stint from June 1981 through September 1983 when he was called away by other commitments.

O'Brien was playing trombone in the Dunes Hotel production of *Casino de Paris* when Glenn Miller Productions, Inc., first asked him to front the band.

"It was a great surprise to

even be considered for such a job and was definitely a step up for me," O'Brien said. "I was flattered and apprehensive, too. I was following some very fine leaders and I hoped I could uphold the fine Miller tradition."

O'Brien does have a direct link back to the Glenn Miller sense of performance. He first performed with the Miller Band in the early '60's, when Ray McKinley was the band leader. McKinley served in Europe with Glenn Miller's Army Air Force Band and then acted as its unofficial leader after Miller's disappearance.

O'Brien has been involved with big bands most of his career. He performed with the orchestras of Sammy Kaye, Buddy Morrow and Ralph Marterie. In 1962, he was the featured soloist/lead trombonist with the Sam Donahue/Tommy Dorsey Orchestra.

"I'm only somewhat amazed about the Miller Mystique," O'Brien said. "It's many faceted. There's more than one reason for the continuing popularity of the band. For one thing, Glenn Miller gave up a lucrative band business when he was at his zenith to join the service when he didn't have to. He was immensely popular when he entered the service. The band has sold more records in a year, I think, than Elvis or The Beatles ever did," he said.

For tickets and information call 791-5100.