



Benedict College Gospel Choir

Sentinel-Voice photos by John Broussard



Gospel Music Panel



Sister Cantaloupe

# Bolt features action, uplifting moral

By Kam Williams  
Sentinel-Voice

Bolt (John Travolta) is a normal dog who mistakenly thinks that he actually possesses the superpowers he displays as the hero of a TV action series.

The white German shepherd is clueless about the truth because, since he was a puppy, he's been raised on a set specially-rigged to trick him into believing that he really has the ability to perform amazing feats like subduing bad guys with his devastating bark and melting steel with his penetrating heat vision.

These delusions of grandeur have never been a problem for the pampered pooch, given that he's had no contact with the outside world. Consequently, the only real-

ity he's ever known is the insulated studio environment in which he's the pet of Penny (Miley Cyrus), the actress who pretends to be his crime-fighting partner. She resents the show's director (James Lipton) who goes to such great lengths to keep up the charade that he even denies her request to take her canine co-star home with her over the weekend.

Everything changes the day Bolt slips out of his cage and, after a comedy of errors, accidentally ends up in a box being shipped to New York City where a rude awaken- ing lays in wait.

For not only are the streets of Manhattan mean enough to begin with, but they prove to be tougher still for a dog who expects to have an array of extraordinary powers

at his paw tips. Thus unfolds "Bolt," an enchanting animated adventure that's fun for the whole family. Available for screening in either a flat or 3-D format, it is this critic's suggestion that you opt for the latter, if you don't want to miss an opportunity to appreciate state-of-the-art techniques offering a visually-stimulating experience that's substantially-enhanced by the investment in 3-D glasses. Just don't be surprised to find yourself ducking to avoid vehicles hurtling in your direction or reaching up to grab dangling objects that appear close enough to touch.

Special-effects wizardry aside, this uplifting tale, more importantly, has a bounty of heartwarming messages to share about honesty, loyalty,

humility, faith and other virtues. The tykes will learn an early lesson about what matters most in life watching frustrated Bolt adjust to his diminished status as a mere mortal.

He must grudgingly befriend a lowly alley cat (Susie Essman) and clumsy hot-house hamster (Mark Walton), enlisting their help to find his way back to Hollywood. En route, the unlikely trio bond while overcoming the host of ever-escalating calamities placed in the path between the home-sick hound and a teary reunion with the equally-inconsolable Penny.

Another instant kiddie classic from Disney! Excellent (4 stars). Rated PG for mild action and scenes of peril.

## Bits 'n' Pieces

Taylor Media Services

### South African musical legend Miriam Makeba dies at 76



Miriam Makeba

One of the world's greatest musical legends and political activists of the 1960s and 1970s has died. South Africa's Miriam Makeba collapsed while performing on stage in Italy. She never recovered. Makeba was 76. During her dazzling career and struggle against White minority rule in South Africa, Makeba was banned from her native land. But she built a career which saw her perform with world-class entertainers such as Nina Simone, Dizzy Gillespie, Harry Belafonte and Paul Simon. She also performed for American President John F. Kennedy and South African leader Nelson Mandela. Makeba was also briefly married to American Black Power advocate Stokeley Carmichael. Her death came this last week in a city near Naples shortly after performing her famous "Pata Pata" song. The only African woman ever to win an American Grammy was once quoted as saying, "I will sing until the day I die."

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### James Brown's son-in-law dies after being apparent victim of a "hit"

The son-in-law of the late soul singing icon James Brown was found shot to death last week outside his home in the Buckhead area of



Darren Lumar talking to Rev. Al Sharpton

Atlanta. Relatives of Darren "Chip" Lumar told several news organizations they believed his death was the result of a "hit." Police would not confirm that speculation but they did say the shooter was apparently waiting for Lumar to return home. Police added that when Lumar drove up to park there was a confrontation between him and the shooter and then Lumar was shot several times. The shooter also appears to have gotten away by jumping a fence and fleeing in a waiting get-away car.

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### Oprah takes the "Oprah Store" online

Television talk-show diva and businesswoman Oprah Winfrey has recently taken her "Oprah Store" online at [www.theoprahstore.com](http://www.theoprahstore.com). People desiring to buy Oprah products will no longer have to visit the store in Chicago. According to a press statement, "Ninety percent of the wares at the Oprah Store in Chicago are now just a mouse click away."

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### Princess Briana Royalty Club aims to build self-esteem among 6-12 year olds



The Princess Briana Royalty Club is a new online community for children ages 6 to 12. By joining the club, they will receive inspiring emails from Princess Briana, play games, and enter contests to win a wide variety of prizes. The announcement of the Princess Briana Royalty Club follows the recent news of Just Like Me, Inc. signing a distribution deal that will for the first time distribute the Princess Briana book in the United States, Europe and Canada. Princess Briana is the main character in a fairytale book and movie of the same name created to be as entertaining as other fairytales while inspiring children to value themselves and the unique talents they possess. Any child can sign-up from around the world at [www.princessbriana.com](http://www.princessbriana.com) for free.