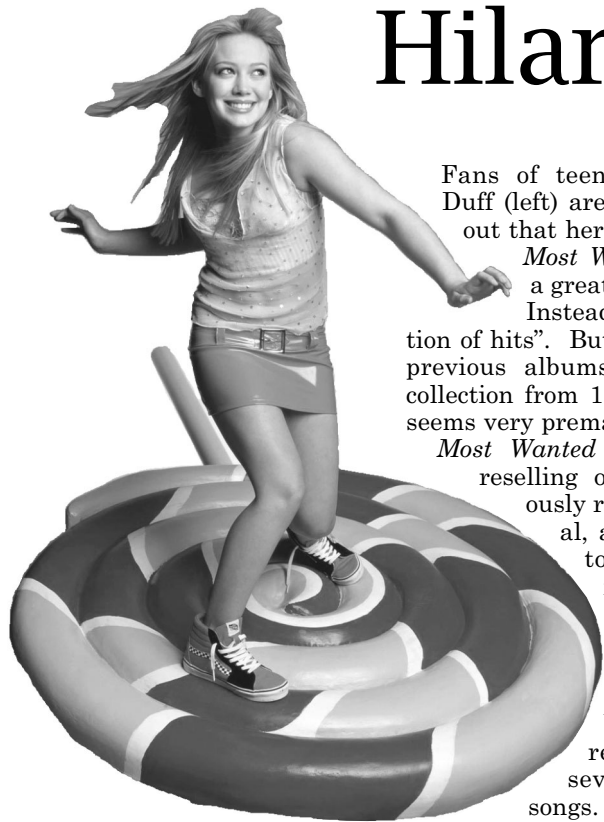


Hilary Duff's not so greatest hits



Fans of teen-queen Hilary Duff (left) are quick to point out that her latest offering, *Most Wanted*, is NOT a greatest hits album. Instead it is a "collection of hits". But with only two previous albums, this bizarre collection from 18-year-old Duff seems very premature.

Most Wanted is basically a reselling of Duff's previously released material, a lame attempt to suck more money out of Duff's pre-teen fans.

Three new tracks sit beside three remixed and seven untouched songs. It is a strange

Music
Most Wanted – Hilary Duff
In stores now
Review by Zoe Walker

hybrid of bubblegum pop and mall-rock, which reflects Duff's changing image from a do-gooder Disney star to pop-rock princess with a rock star boyfriend (Joel Madden from Good Charlotte).

But despite trying to roughen up her image, squeaky-clean Duff is still the most irritating person in Hollywood. No one can be that perky, good and wholesome – especially if they're famous.

While Duff flirts with the idea of being a bad-ass (by dating a pop-rock singer, wearing vintage rock tees and having guitar riffs

in her songs), she still has an annoying naivety about her. This inevitably comes through in her music, with her thin sugarc-coated voice and embarrassing lyrics like "if the light is off then it isn't on".

Come Clean is the only Hilary Duff song I can muster up any enthusiasm for, but the remix on *Most Wanted* makes it sound like a cheap and nasty dance mix from the 90s.

New track Beat of my Heart is the most hideous song on the album, with Duff repeating the lines "the beat of my heart, the beat of my heart, the beat of my heart, it tears us apart. The beat of my heart, the beat of my heart, the beat of my heart, now I'm back to the start."

Whoever writes this crap should be shot.

Admittedly I did find myself singing along to some songs, but repetitive beats and lyrics mean the songs begin to blend into one. It's pure no-brainer pop at its best.

Duff is annoying, but musically she is just as good (or as bad) as her contemporaries, Ashlee Simpson and Lindsay Lohan. All three are heading down the Avril Lavigne pop-rock princess path, but none have the genuine angst to pull it off. As much as Duff tries to move away from her do-gooder image, it still shines through.

Duff can't sing but she can do karaoke, a formula that seems to win over many pre-teen American girls.

If you want nothing more than a collection of no-brainer fluff, *Most Wanted* is for you.

Mama mia! Che buona la pasta!

It was a shock walking into Gina's after jogging up Symonds St to make it by eight.

A raucous noise, the chatter from 20 tables, full swing into their meals and wine, hit me in the face as we walked through the door.

We were ushered to our table with curt efficiency, Italian style, and a wide smile from the waitress. At a large table for two, covered in the clichéd red and white chequered table cloth, she read out the specials in a heavy accent, barely audible above the din.

"It's like being back in Europe," said Sarah, the sophisticated French girl who was hav-

Restaurant
Gina's
209 Symond's St, City
Review by Britton Broun

ing dinner with me.

Distracted with talking, we finally ordered a bottle of merlot and an entrée on the waitress' third return. The starter, a plate of plain garlic pizza bread, was tasty but dry, being more bread than garlic.

Sarah grimaced at the first taste of wine. "It's strong," she drawled, but the waitress interrupted in a firm motherly tone: "It's not that strong."

Gina's is a humble place with

a warm attitude. Watercolours and reproductions are mounted on the grey walls and a large glass frontage looks out onto the street, but the simple surrounds are brought to life by the variety of customers.

Despite being packed it has a casual feel and the noise seems to subside as you acclimatise and slip into the mood.

The service was fast, but a little too pushy, especially for someone wanting to relax at the end of a long day.

The linguine con pollo I had was subtle and well priced at \$17. Pieces of roasted chicken floated amidst linguine just past *al dente*, slick with a mushroom

and carbonara sauce. My friend's penne con pollo – penne with roasted chicken, toasted pine nuts in a basil pesto sauce was a little too oily.

Overall the food was simple and served in healthy portions. Thankfully it wasn't drenched in sauce like so many other Italian restaurants in New Zealand, a sure sign of authenticity.

The dessert was excellent. Sarah ordered the traditional Italian dessert, tiramisu. The coffee biscuit and mascarpone cream were perfectly balanced and it was neatly presented with patches of chantilly on the side and fresh strawberries.

But the atmosphere at Gina's

overrides the cuisine. The manager spends the night yelling pleasantries, kissing guests and gesticulating widely. He is also ringmaster of its well known birthday celebration. The room seems to go quiet as he carries a small cake to the recipient's table, singing "Compleanno a ti" to the familiar birthday tune.

On cue the other staff join in, creating an almost operatic chorus that builds to a crescendo with applause and the chef hammering on the tin ventilator above the stove.

It's chaos for a moment, but the room is energised and people return to their meals and conversations contented.

What's on

festivals

Boost Mobile Aotearoa Hip Hop Summit 2005
Aotea Square
October 7 - 8

A packed free programme that showcases the unique style of Aotearoa hip hop culture with some of New Zealand's top artists and emerging young talent.

Mooncake festival and China national day celebration
Aotea Centre
October 1

One of the most important dates on the Chinese lunar calendar. Nearly 100 young performers will participate in a programme featuring singing, dancing, comedy, acrobatics, a fashion show and more.

comedy

Raw Comedy Night
The Classic, 321 Queen St
September 26, 8pm
New faces have a go at entertaining the crowds with a guest host. Students enter two for one.



Rove McManus Stands Up
St James Theatre, Auckland
September 29 - 30

Australian TV host and comedian Rove McManus (above) returns to his roots as a stand-up comedian with two Auckland shows.

exhibitions

John Gregory
Te Tuhi: the mark, Manukau City
September 24 - November 2
Installation artist Marcus Williams merges the everyday and the fantastic in an installation, using mixed media, which explores the inner life of a made-up character John Gregory.

S.M.A.K
Spiral Gallery
260 Queen St

September 30 - October 8
Three artists confronting issues concerning the dynamics of contemporary urban society in New Zealand.

Loaded presents: THE BEST KEPT SECRETS

Disrupt Gallery, K Rd
September 23 - October 4
Disrupt Gallery's first husband and wife exhibition: Phat 1 & Diva.

BROAD SPECTRUM: From the Cradle to the Grave
Disrupt Gallery, K Rd
October 7 - 25

Second instalment of the first annual all Kiwi and all female graffiti and street art exhibition.

Just Water – Paintings by Felicity West, Video Installation by Catherine Garet
Corban Estate Arts Centre, Henderson
October 7 - November 13
Artists Felicity West and Catherine Garet use water to explore the articulation of their sense of identity.

theatre

The Winslow Boy
Dolphin Theatre
12 Spring St, Auckland
Now until October 9

A powerful and moving drama, based on the celebrated Archer Shee case of 1908 which nearly brought down the British Government.

Disgrace
Maidment Theatre, Auckland Uni
Now until October 15

An absorbing and compelling story of Lear-like proportions charting a man's journey from blind arrogance to understanding.

music

Auckland Underground Festival 2005
Kings Arms Tavern, 59 France St
October 1 - October 2

Featuring Not Quite Right, The Cinix, The Offbeats, State Of It, Cobra Khan & The Managers, We Dunno, Kitsch, Missing Teeth, Masters Of Metal, This Night Creeps & The Mint Chicks.

Anika Moa and the plastic tiki band

Herald Theatre, Aotea Centre
October 7 - 9
Anika Moa takes to our highways next month, on an extensive tour throughout the country following the release of her critically-acclaimed second album *Stolen Hill*.



Ben Lee
Kings Arms Tavern, 59 France St
October 6
Australian singer/songwriter Ben Lee is set to make his first trip to New Zealand this October to play for us lucky Kiwis.