

Was that really necessary?

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M.I.A. releases top-rate electronica

By Andrew Young

Sri Lanka is a tiny South Asian island nation largely ignored by the rest of the world, with the recent exception of December's tragic tsunami. Now there's another reason for Sri Lanka's repeated mentions in the press: native daughter Maya Arulpragasam, performing under the moniker M.I.A.

On the heels of her debut album, Arular, released this Tuesday, M.I.A. is already being hailed as the future of electronic/dance music. A lively mix of U.K. garage, dancehall, hip-hop and other exotic influences, M.I.A. simultaneously combines and transcends her influences to create something totally fresh and unique.

Maya's biography is as interesting as her music: Her father was a leader of the Tamil separatist militia movement, which was locked in a bloody 20-year struggle to achieve independence from the Sinhalese majority in Sri Lanka. The title of her debut album is an homage to her father, whom she hasn't seen in 10 years.

Like many ethnic Tamils, Maya and her family fled Sri Lanka, eventually ending up as refugees in a London ghetto. Maya learned English and forged her iden-

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tity by listening to early-'90s hip-hop. Later, she became an accomplished artist, graduating from London's Central St. Martins Art School and pursuing a career in visual art.

In 2002, she filmed the band Elastica on its American tour,

where she met opening act Peaches, the mulleted Canadian electro-clash diva known for her pornographic lyrics and grungy electronic beats.

Maya was introduced to the Roland MC-505 groovebox sequencer, a tool that planted the seed of inspiration to pursue music.

M.I.A.'s first two singles, "Galang" and "Sunshowers," both included on *Arular* – sparked a firestorm of inter-

GRANG-SUNSHOWERS-PIRE PIRE-PURL UP

est from the U.K. music scene (and disc jockeys worldwide) last year, and a slew of advance press has already crowned her as the next big thing.

M.I.A.'s sound could be best described as Peachesmeets-Dizzee Rascal, combining Peaches' raunchy vocals and beats with Dizzee's dancehall-inspired hip-hop. Maya delivers her vocals in a jump-rope-tempo dancehall style – flavored

M.I.A.

'Arular'

XL Records



(out of four stars)

with Tamil and British street slang – over a bed of gurgling synths, bass, samples and exotic percussion.

Arular crackles with sexual innuendo, revolutionary politics and streetwise attitude, all delivered in a refreshingly unconventional voice. M.I.A.'s music seeks to break stereotypes and addresses the plight of the world's poor and oppressed — a message spoken from experience and the kind that is lacking from music these days.

M.I.A. brings a fresh sound and a unique voice to today's music scene, a distinction that will definitely earn Arular the honor of being the first great album of 2005. *



Band Calendar:

TH 3/24: Biffs Deville FR 3/25: Solidarity Benefit, feat, CMX SA 3/26: Ballistic Whiplash Reunion WE 3/30: Live Salsa TH 3/31: Kixelsyd FR 4/1: Page 80 & Dr. Dook SA 4/2: Hotpipes & De Novo Dahl WE 4/6: Kristen's Sultry Jazz Ensemble. TH 4/7: The Carry-Ons. Stuck Lucky & Eggrollers. FR 4/8: The Whole Fantastic World. SA 4/9: Skullkin TH 4/14: Lopan & Roosevelt's Plan FR 4/15: Sneaky Felix. SA 4/16: UWC Benefit Glossary, Apollo Up & The Velcro Stars



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Looking for a good horror movie? Don't stop at 'Ring Two'

By Forrest Sanders

Love it or loathe it, no other horror film of the 21st century has made quite the impact on the general public as The Ring. Sure, there were a ton of questions unanswered by the end credits, but it's hard to deny the film's gloomy elegance. brooding score and handful of skillfully crafted jump scares. Go ahead and strike up a conversation on horror movies with a group of friends. See if someone doesn't bring up The Ring.

Now comes The Ring Two, a film so bad it's all but guaranteed to be sharing bargain bin space in a few years with the likes of Exorcist 2: The Heretic. Poltergeist 2: The Other Side, and Blair Witch: Book of Shadows. Forget the pedigreed cast and crew, this film is a blatant cash-in on a popular name that makes its inferiority to the original clear no more than

The Ring Two

Naomi Watts, David Dorfman

Directed by Hideo Nakata

PG-13

(out of four stars)

two minutes into the film.

The story picks up a few years after the original left off with intrepid reporter Rachel (Naomi Watts), and her weirdo son, Aidan (David Dorfman), relocating from their dreary Seattle home to the more sunny Astoria, Ore. However, no sooner has the small family unit finished unpacking boxes than a local teen turns up dead, his face contorted into a hideous grimace.

Rachel figures that the hair-challenged girl-ghost Samara Morgan is

back to her old shenanigans, and this time she's got her sights set on possessing young Aidan (though, come to think of it, Dorfman looked somewhat possessed already).

What ensues are rampaging deer attacks, flooded ceilings and some mind control antics that break into dabbling into Omen territory. The problem is that these supernatural encounters are delivered like a tedious assembly line with Ehren Kruger's screenplay letting most of the bizarre-o happenings go unexplained.

Only adding to the mess is director Hideo Nakata, the man hired to take the reins after The Ring's director. Gore Verbinski, decided that one Ring film was enough for him (I concur). Nakata, the horror maestro who may have felt for a Ring Three. helmed the first two Japanese Ringu films, delivers his first American feature as if he's a newly graduated film student, eager to put all his tricks to use. Nakata is trying hard

to impress in this outing, but his film's "Aren't I neat-o?" visual gimmicks quickly become a distraction.

Watts is solid in a role that requires her to constantly switch gears between scared and confused, and her performance here is just another testament to what a reliable actress she is.

I enjoyed the first Ring movie with it's surreal imagery and the way it employed unlikely subjects to generate scares (TV static, a phone ringing, etc.). However, the filmmakers of The Ring Two seem oblivious to what made the original a genre favorite, and this sequel is so devoid of scares it should effectively dash any anticipation old fans

So go ahead and strike up that conversation on horror movies with a few of your best buds. I'll bet no one even mentions The Ring Two. *



Was that really necessary?

Story by Wendy Caldwell, Erika Davis, William C. Fancher and Brandon Morrison

arlier this month, Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* was re-released into theaters for the Easter holiday season. This new, unrated version had six minutes cut out of the movie to make the movie more palatable to the viewing masses. In the spirit of Mel's latest frolic into the cinema, .:flash has picked out some other movies that should also have a scene or two ripped out of them.

S1m0ne

This Al Pacino vehicle had the potential to be one of the best films in 2002. Writer and director Andrew Niccol crafts the story about a movie agent who lands the talent of his lifetime through a computer program called Simulation One, or S1mOne. Pacino gets tired of running his sham and deletes S1mOne, which leads everyone to believe that he killed her, which, technically, he does.

Pacino's in jail, about to be executed, and the Oscar for best writing is being mailed to Niccol when he goes and does a stupid thing like extend the movie for 15 minutes. Pacino's daughter, now a computer expert, un-deletes S1mOne, has a public announcement about her disappearance and has the fake actress undergo a complete career change to allow Pacino's character to never have to work again.

The whole tagline for the ending of the film, straight from the daughter's mouth, is "It's OK to be fake, as long as you don't lie about it," which comes across about as convincing as those advertisements saying "Free iPod." –BJM

The Matrix Reloaded

One of the great, defining aspects of *The Matrix*, other than the often-copied special effects, is the abundance of violent action and the lack of unnecessary sex scenes and nudity.

However, the second installment in the trilogy more than made up for the lack of this in the first movie. The Morpheus-inspired half-naked tribal dance party is one of the biggest abominations on screen as of late. And I could've done without Neo and Trinity getting it on with their spinal-plugged bodies. –WKC

Rocky II

I'm willing to forgive the fact that the last half hour of *Rocky II* plays exactly the same as the last half-hour of the first *Rocky*, because let's face it, the entire movie plays exactly the same as the first one. What I will not forgive is the almost shot-by-shot recreation of the famous

scene in which Rocky bounds up the steps and raises his arms in triumph. Yes, he does it again in Rocky II, only this time he is joined by every child in Philadelphia, jumping and cheering around him. We could all live without that scene. I would also cut any training montage that ends in a freeze-frame. –WCF

Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace

While there are many out there who would like to see Jar Jar Binks wind up on the cutting room floor, I would cut out, or at least cut down, the excessive and completely unnecessary "pod racing" sequence.

Clocking in at nearly 10 minutes, it is the definition of special effects for the sake of special effects as little Anakin Skywalker outraces a bunch of over-designed aliens across a CGI desert. Whatever excitement the sequence might create is destroyed by the dreadful ESPNlike commentary by a two-headed alien voiced by comedian Greg Proops. –WCF

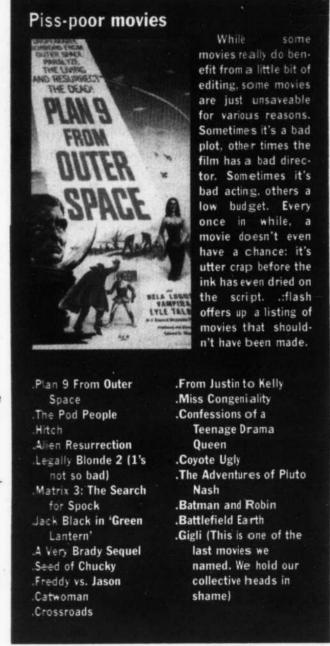
Scent of a Woman

The story of blind Army colonel AI (Hoo-ah!)
Pacino and his weekend in New York with young caretaker Chris O'Donnell is book-ended by a subplot involving an elaborate prank at O'Donnell's prep school, which culminates in Pacino delivering a speech in front of the entire student body on O'Donnell's behalf. I suppose this was thought a more crowd-pleasing climax than the attempted suicide of Pacino's character.

Though this prep school plot does treat us to an early performance by Philip Seymour Hoffman, it comes across as if the filmmakers had the idea after watching Dead Poet's Society.—WCF

Scary Movie II

In the sequel to the 2000 summer, director
Keenan Ivory Wayans worked double-time by
mocking supernatural and slasher movies. It didn't do as well at the box office as the first. There
was one scene in the movie they could have



completely left out: the part where Marlon Wayans' character was sitting in the kitchen at the table and the butler with the premature nasty-looking hand was standing next to him.

The butler removes his afro, revealing a short man who looked deformed inside of Marlon's head

I guess the butler was demonstrating how Wayan's character didn't have a brain and that was the only thing in his head. —ELD

Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers

Like all long movies, The Two Towers has that boring part where you can get up to refill your popcorn or visit the bathroom. The whole talking tree thing is neat, but after countless painful visits of hearing two wee hobbits trying to convince a tree that they're not Orcs, you just wish someone would shoot something with an arrow. —WKC *

#flash

concert calendar * - .: flash pick of the week

Thursday, Mar. 24

- · Will Jones: 10 p.m., All American Sports Grill, \$5
- Charles "Wigg" Walker: 8 p.m., B.B. King's Blues Club, \$5
- . The Early Evening with Weatherspoon: 9 p.m., The Basement, \$5
- * Biffs DeVille: 9 p.m., The Boro Bar & Grill, \$3
- · Brenda Best: 8 p.m., Bunganut Pig, Murfreesboro

Friday, Mar. 25

- . Dogs Die in Hot Cars with Clem Snide: 9 p.m., Exit/In, \$10
- · Victor Furious, Destroy Destroy Destroy, and Page 80 Friday, March 25th @ Wallstreet on the Square 9 p.m. \$5.
- * Victor Furious with the Murder of Men: 10 p.m., Wall Street
- Anthony Gomes with 3 a.m.: 9:30 p.m., The Mercy Lounge
- · The Tragedy Kings with the Golden Sounds & Moth: 9 p.m., The End, \$5

Saturday, Mar. 26

- . The Privates: 9 p.m., The Basement, \$5
- · Ballistic Whiplash Reunion Show: 9:30 p.m., The Boro Bar & Grill, \$5
- · Peter Karp: 9 p.m., Bunganut Pig, Murfreesboro,
- · Disciples of Loud with The Dusters: 9 p.m., Exit/In, \$5
- 3 a.m: 9:30 p.m., Lipstick Lounge, \$8
- · Trace Adkins: 4 p.m., Tower Records, Opry Mills * Glossary: 10 p.m., Wall Street

Sunday, Mar. 27

- · Penetrator: 9 p.m., The 5 Spot, \$5
- * Anisette, Haduken, & Godchild: 9 p.m., Hair of the

Dog, \$5

* L.P.: 7 p.m., 3rd & Lindsley Bar & Grill, \$8

Monday, Mar. 28

- . Ellis Hooks & The Little Kings: 8 p.m., B.B. King's Blues Club, \$10
- . Joe Silva: 7 p.m., Beyond the Edge
- · Bulb CD Release Party: 8:30 p.m., Bongo After Hours Theatre, \$5
- . Lenny & 3 Run Lead: 9 p.m., Exit/In, \$5
- · Juke Joint Monday: 9 p.m., The Mercy Lounge
- · Clint Ingersoll: 6 p.m., 3rd & Lindsley Bar & Grill, \$7

Tuesday, Mar. 29

- Jackson Hill: 8 p.m., B.B. King's Blues Club, \$5
- · Dead Rebels Society with Crystal Armentrout: 9 p.m., The Basement, \$5
- · Open Mic with Chet O'Keefe: 8 p.m., Douglas Corner Cafe
- · Alston with Adrenaline Theory & Malekai: 9 p.m., The End. \$6
- · Redstick Ramblers: 9 p.m., The Mercy Lounge
- · Rob Giles: 10 p.m., The Mercy Lounge
- * The Sidemen: 9 p.m., The Station Inn, \$7

Wednesday, Mar. 30

- * MTSU Salsa Band: 9:30 p.m., The Boro Bar & Grill,
- · Soul Sweet: 8 p.m., Bunganut Pig, Murfreesboro
- · Darryl O'Donnell & Tommy Townsend: 6:30 p.m., Rippy's Smokin' Bar & Grill
- · Aaron Winters CD Release Party: 8 p.m., 3rd & Lindsley Bar & Grill
- · The Wooten Brothers: 9:30 p.m., 3rd & Lindsley Bar & Grill
- The Black Diamond Heavies: 10 p.m., Wall Street

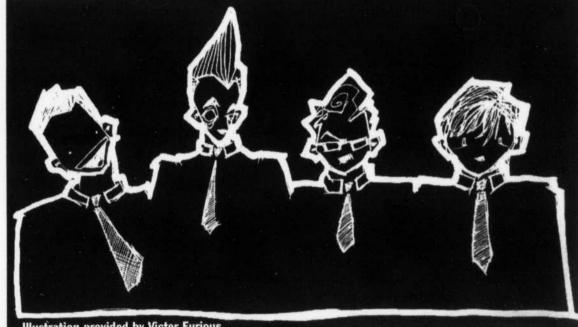


Illustration provided by Victor Furious

.: flash Pick of the Week - Victor Furious

Are you a big fan of guitar-heavy music? Then Victor Furious is for you. The local band hits up Wall Street with Destory, Destory, Destory, Page 80 and The Murder of Men this Friday at 9 p.m. Cover is \$5.

WMTS Playlist

- 1. Bang Up "Bang Up"
- 2. Mattoid "Eternifinity"
- 3. Bloc Party "Tulips [single]"
- 4. Kings of Leon "Aha Shake Heart ... "
- 5. Kills "No Wow"

- 6. De Novo Dahl "Cats and Kittens"
- 7. Regina Spektor "Soviet Kitsch"
- 8. Coralie Clement "Bye Bye Beaute"
- 9. Decibully "Sing Out America!"
- 10. Decemberists "Picaresque"

Compiled by WMTS-FM 88.3 music director Jason Jones.

Top 10 Gaining Google Queries

- 1. st patricks day
- 2. terri schiavo
- 3. ncaa
- 4. scott peterson
- 5. the incredibles

Compiled by Google Zeitgeist.

- 6. easter
- 7. lil kim
- 8. demi moore
- 9. robert blake
- 10. regina lasko

flash

Brandon Morrison Flash Editor

Emily Nance Flash Co-Editor Kristin Hall Editor in Chief

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"To accurately reflect all aspects of life through the eyes of arts & entertainment."

'Boro Arts & Entertainment Calendar

· Oedinus Rex (Opening) March 24-April 4 at the Roxy Regional Theatre, Clarksville. 7 p.m. Thurs.; 8 p.m. Fri.-Sat.; Saturday matinee 2 p.m. March 26, For information, call (931) 645-7699, \$5-\$15,

• Frog Prince - An original marionette show based on the classic Brothers Grimm fairy tale, through March 26 at the Nashville Public Library, 9:30, 10:30 & 11:30 a.m. Fri.-Sat. For information. call 862-5785. Free.

· Silence of the Hamms - an interactive murder mystery & Southern-style buffet dinner. through June 25 at White Trash Cafe. 7:30 p.m. Sat. For information & reservations, call 361-8836.

· Double Trouble -Presented by Mystery.COMedy Dinner Playhouse, through July 14 at Ellendale's Restaurant, 7 p.m. every other night. For information, call 391-2345.

· Godspell - Through April 16 at the Boiler Room Theatre, the Factory at Franklin, 8 p.m. Tues. & Thurs .-Sat.; Saturday matinees at 2 p.m. March 26 & April 16; For tickets, call 794-7744.

· Different Strokes Art Gallery - "Tramp Lamps" by Kelly Butler, sculpture by Dr. Debra Gonzalez & more. Hours: 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.; 10 a.m.- 8 p.m. Fri.-Sat.

 Downtown Artists Co-Op Gallery "Abstracts," black-&-white, mixed media & digital color photographs by multiple artists. through April 2. Hours: 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. Wed.; noon- 8 p.m. Thurs.-Sat.

 Open Mic: 10:30 p.m., French Quarter Cafe - Kudos to MTSU Jazz faculty members Aliquo (sax) and Simmons (trumpet) for taking the lead in establishing a regular gathering place for aspiring players.

· Jack Scott's Writers' Showcase Feat. Curt Stacy's Good Friday Show, Shannon Cain, Rachel Williams. Michelle Gilligan, & More: 6 p.m., French Quarter Cafe

· Jazz at the Workshop Performance feat. Donna Mcelroy, Bobby Militello and Kirk Whalum: 8 p.m., Belcourt Theatre, \$20. For tickets, call 242-5299

 Mike Henderson Band with Michael Rhodes, Kevin McKendree, & Pat O'Conner: 9:30 p.m., Bluebird Cafe · Barnes & Noble Booksellers - Tanya Tucker signs 100 Ways to Beat the Blues, 6 p.m. at 1701 Mallory Ln., Brentwood, 377-9979

· Debi Champion's Writers' Night feat. Billy Austin, Wide Range, Queenie Mullinex, Kat Hunter, Patrick Wilson, John Russell, & more: 6 p.m., Commodore Lounge

 Americana Tonight hosted by Mark Wehner feat. Jimmy Barret, Walt Wilkins, Stoll Vaughan, Michael Kelsh & Tina Mitchell Wilkins: 8 p.m., The Sutler,

Bar & Club Scene

3rd & Lindsley. 818 Third Ave. S. 259-9891

The 5 Spot. 1006 Forrest Ave. 650-9333

Alleycat Lounge. 1008-B Woodland St. 262-5888

B.B. King's Blues Club. 152 Second Ave. N. 256-2727

The Backyard Café. 4150 Old Hillsboro Road, Leiper's Fork. 790-4003

Bar Nashville. 114 Second Ave. S. 248-4011

Bar Twentv3. 503 Twelfth Ave. So. 963-9998

The Bar Car. 209 10th Ave. S. 259-4875

The Basement. 1604 Eighth Ave. S. 254-1604

Bean Town Coffee Shop. 2181 Hillsboro Road. 591-2326

Bluebird Café. 4104 Hillsboro Road. 383-1461

114 N. Church St. Murfreesboro. 907-1115

Boardwalk Café. 4114 Nolensville Road. 832-5104

Bongo After Hours. 2007 Belmont Blvd. 385-1188

Bongo Java Roasting Company. 107 S. 11th St. 777-3278

The Boro. 1211 Greenland Road. Murfreesboro. 895-4800

Bourbon Street Blues & Boogie 220 Printers Alley. 242-5837

Bunganut Pig (Murfreesboro). 1608 W. Northfield. 893-7860

Café Express. 4065 Mt. Juliet Road. 758-7101

1516 Demonbreun St. 259-4993

Courtyard Café. 867 Bell Road, Antioch. 731-7228

Crush Dance Club. 174 Second Ave. N. 256-5808

Curb Café. 1900 Belmont Blvd. 460-8507 Double E Bar & Grill. 4957 Lebanon Pike. 885-3400

The End. 2219 Elliston Place, 321-4457

909 1/2 Church St. 255-4331

Exit/In. 2208 Elliston Place. 321-3340

The Family Wash. 2038 Greenwood Ave. 226-6070

Flying Saucer. 111 10th Ave. S. #310. 259-7468

French Quarter Café. 823 Woodland St. 227-3100

Gas Lite Lounge. 165 Eighth Ave. N. 264-1278

Hurricane Station. 2209 NW Broad St., Murfreesboro. 907-1111

Hair of the Dog. 1831 12th AVe. S. 386-3311

It's All Good Café. 411 51st Ave. N. 297-1717 Johny Jackson's Soul Satisfaction. 209 10th Ave. S. 259-4875

Kiiiii Coffee House. 1207 Jefferson St. 321-0403

Kiss After Hours. 508 Lea Ave. 259-3223

Kung Fu Coffee. 835 Fourth Ave. S. 251-0190

Lady Godiva Pub. 300 N. Maple St., Lebanon. 453-3900

Lipstick Lounge. 1400 Woodland St. 226-6343

Mercy Lounge. 1 Cannery Row. 251-3020

Mojo's Coffeehouse. 2243 Fairview Blvd., Fairview. 799-9779

The Muse. 835 Fourth Ave. S. 251-0190

131 Second Ave. N. 242-7007

Portland Brew. 2605 12th Ave. S. 292-9004

Prizm. 15128 Old Hickory Blvd. 837-8608

Rektwn 401 Sixth Ave. S. 843-4000

Red Iguana. 306 Broadway. 742-9078

Stampede Dance Hall & Saloon. 2146 N. Thompson Lane (Murfreesboro), 893-3999

Station Inn. 402 12th Ave. S. 255-3307

2608 Franklin Road. 292-5254

The Trap. 201 Woodland St. 248-3100

Tootsie's Orchid Lounge. 422 Broadway. 726-0463

Two Doors Down. 1524 Demonbruen St. 780-0020

Wall Street. 121 N. Maple, Murfreesboro. 867-9090

Wildhorse Saloon. 120 Second Ave. N. 902-8200

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