

Choice Cuts

CD: **Aaron Lines**
Living Out Loud
By Julie Veinot

He's 24 and he's already going on tour with country superstars Brooks and Dunn. Not bad for a Canadian singer who has just put out his CD *Living Out Loud*. Albertan Aaron Lines has had two top singles - impressive for a CD released in January.

The two songs *Living Out Loud* and *You Can't Hide Beautiful* are both songs that will be around for a long time and it's quite possible a few more singles off the disc will be too, though some fall flat and sound like any other song from any other singer - rather boring.

And one of my pet peeves - too many background voices - is evident on the album and I won't go into the fact about how annoyed I get when I buy a disc to hear a specific singer's vocals and end up hearing a bunch of other voices chiming in. Still, the track *Love Changes Everything* will probably hit the top ten too, and another called *I Can't Live Without Your Love* hearkens back to the days of rock ballads from metal bands.

Overall, this is a good album, remarkable for a newbie. Aside from the misplaced background vocals, most of the tracks are solid, with good riffs and interesting lyrics. The song *You Can't Hide Beautiful* is heartening to any woman wondering why a man sees a woman as a sex object when she is more worried about losing five pounds. Awesome.

Film: **Adaptation**
By Brodie MacRae

"Adaptation" did what I thought no movie would do. It gave me a great amount of respect for Nicolas Cage's acting abilities. Seriously.

"Adaptation" reunited the creative team who gave us 1999's "Being John Malkovich," screenwriter Charlie Kaufman and director Spike Jonze (as well as film scorer Carter Burwell, for those of you who pay attention to those things). It is sort of an adaptation of Susan Orlean's bestselling non-fiction book *The Orchid Thief*.

In reality, Kaufman uses the book as a springboard to jump off into many unexpected directions and to explore a myriad of themes. Kaufman turns the adaptation into a complex story about himself, trying to decide how he can possibly turn the novel into a movie and eventually deciding to turn the adaptation into a story about himself, trying to decide....you get the picture.

Kaufman's initial problem with the book is that, while it is a beautiful celebration of orchids and the passion that surrounds them, it is completely without a narrative structure and seemingly defies adaptation.

What results, however, is a movie that is incredibly clever, addressing not only the themes of the book but also commenting on subjects such as the acceptance of one's self and an exploration of the writing process, offering a delightful look into the mind of a writer and ending with a

parody of the Hollywood formula.

Nicolas Cage stars as the insecure and self-loathing Charlie Kaufman, as well as his optimistic, good-natured and entirely fictional twin brother, Donald Kaufman. Cage does such a great job with both of these characters that you can always tell them apart, despite their identicalness.

Meryl Streep plays Susan Orlean, the author of *The Orchid Thief* with the intelligence, sensitivity and passion required for the role. Chris Cooper plays the character central to Orlean's novel and her passion, the orchid aficionado John Laroche. This was the first time I've seen Cooper and well, anybody able to make a dirty toothless redneck into the charismatic, intelligent individual that charmed himself into Meryl Streep's pants and made it believable must be a pretty damn good actor.

This is one of those movies that's really good on many levels. I think it will appeal to writers especially who will appreciate and identify with the voice over thoughts of Kaufman while he tries to begin writing that ever-arduous first page.

I don't think everyone will enjoy it. Some people find the predictable, well-worn structures Hollywood manufactures comforting. This movie might not sit well with those people. However, if you liked the bizarreness and unconventionality of say, "Being John Malkovich," you're sure to enjoy "Adaptation" as well.

CD: **Susan Tedeschi**
Wait For Me
By Julie Veinot

Aside from me rhapsodizing

about the fact there is song with nothing more than vocals and piano - *Wrapped in the Arms of Another* - this is a solid disc, with strong vocals and traditional instruments - few artificial ones. With saxophones and trumpets, this rock disc goes beyond the border of rock music I usually listen to.

Songs like *Alone* and *The Feeling Music Brings* are perfect bar tunes. You can almost smell the smoke and hear the guitars as a songstress belts out songs that are both moody and bright while you sip at a drink. And again, I love the song *Wrapped in the Arms of Another* because that are not enough songs that focus on simple things like a beautiful voice and talented pianist. And of course, you have probably hear the song *Don't Think Twice, It's All Right*. Just like this CD.

Take in a movie at
City Cinema

Playing this Week:

**Talk to Her
and
Adaptation**

Times and Descriptions at
www.citycinema.net
368-3669

**BOOK EARLY.
SAVE BIG!**

CANJET
FLY SMART

Another Way to Fly.

Book early for warmer days ahead with these incredibly low fares!

FROM MONCTON
ONE WAY SPECIAL WEB
FARES STARTING AT:

TORONTO
\$74

ST. JOHN'S
\$64

canjet.com • 1.800.809.7777
or call your travel agent

FLYHALIFAX.COM
The Smartest Route to Fly.