

Lifestyles

Don't give up your day job

New Prince movie a royal bomb

By CRAIG HOWARD
Features Writer

For those of you that are waiting for a good solid sequel to "Purple Rain," you're going to have to keep waiting. "Graffiti Bridge" seems more like either a long music video or a Broadway musical in which the characters use every chance possible to belt out a song. The only thing similar to "Purple Rain" is Prince's character, the Kid, and his rivalry, Morris Day.

The storyline is pretty basic: Day owns all the clubs in the city except for the Glam Slam, which he co-owns with the Kid, of course. Day wants all the clubs, and tries everything possible to get the Glam Slam, including a battle of the bands. Throw in a beautiful angel (literally), played by Ingrid Chavez, to give Prince and Day something else to compete over, and you've got the basic plot of this movie.

It is hard to explain why this movie is bad. I, myself, am a Prince fan, but even that doesn't make this movie good.

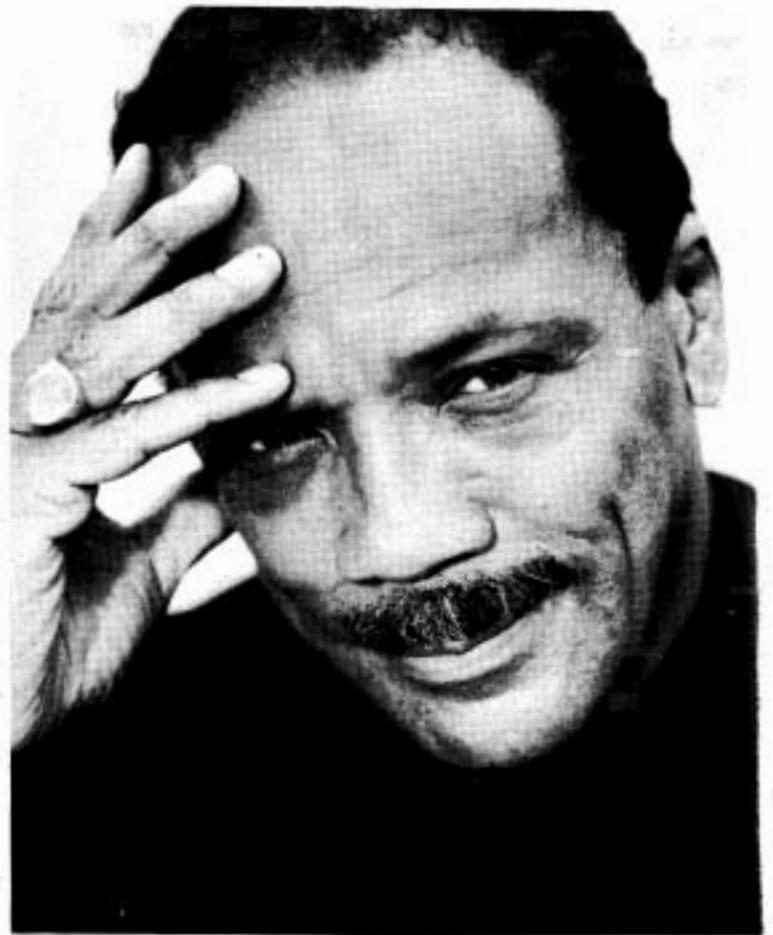
Prince would be better off if he didn't have to control every aspect of the film. He is a great musician and performer, but he has yet to prove himself as a good director, writer, or even actor. (Keep in mind that somebody else directed and produced "Purple Rain.")

So, you may be asking yourself "what makes this movie bad?" First of all, I didn't find Ingrid Chavez as sexy as she was supposed to be, Appolonia made a much better femme fatale in "Purple Rain." Secondly, when Prince wasn't perform-

ing, he was preaching. The movie was supposed to have a big religion message, but that premise was especially foggy. Finally, the sets really cheapened the mood. You could tell that the buildings were cardboard and it gave it a kind of "soap opera" feel.

It's hard to explain why this movie is bad. I, myself, am a Prince fan, so I tend to be more biased towards him, but even that doesn't make this movie any good. It did have some good moments, though, like when Day and his protege, Jerome Benton, stole the show with their Laurel and Hardy antics. The music wasn't bad, either. Prince is first and foremost a stage performer, which he proved without a doubt in "Graffiti Bridge." The newly reformed Time also jammed with the best of them.

As a long-form music video, "Graffiti Bridge" is excellent, but as a theatrical release, well, it just doesn't cut it. Maybe next time.



'Listen Up: The Lives of Quincy Jones' is due out in theaters soon. Based on the history-making life of one of the greatest musicians of our time, the movie's selling point is his enormous following and talent.

Journey regroups... 'Supreme' reunion?

By CRAIG MORRISON
Columnist

♪ Rockline ♪

Another splinter group has formed from the recent turmoil in the Journey camp. Keyboard player Gregg Rolie, bassist Ross Valory and drummer Steve Smith have formed a band. While they don't have a name for the new band, they have signed a recording contract and plan to head into the studio in January with producer Beau Hill. Guitarist Josh Ramos and vocalist Kevin Chalfant will round out the lineup of the band, who, after early rehearsals, have been compared with the sound of early Foreigner.

Sixties soul masters The Supremes are rumored to be considering the prospects of a reunion. Pressure may mount since Diana Ross has returned to her old record company, Motown Records. Said former Supreme Mary Wilson, "I'm not advocating it, but, I would be willing."

The Traveling Wilburys' new album is out, but don't look for them to tour. Wilbury member Tom Petty has reunited with his backup band The Heartbreakers in the studio with fellow Wilbury-mate Jeff Lynne producing.

Todd Rundgren has reformed his old band Utopia, and is scheduled to release an album with Utopia and as a solo act in early 1991.

1991 looks like a big year for metal music, also. Badlands, Skid Row, and Ace Frehley are all hard at work on new projects due out later in the year. They hope to join the current successful trend or hard rockin' hits from bands like AC/DC ("The Razor's Edge"), the Scorpions ("Crazy World"), and Cinderella ("Heartbreak Ridge").

Much congratulations going out to two Atlanta-based bands that are taking the music industry by storm. The Black Crowes have added to their string of hits with "Hard to Handle," and the Blonz are causing a buzz with the release of their debut album and single, "Last Call (For Alcohol)." Both bands have a definite connection to Jacksonville; the Blonz have played here in the past, and the bassist from the Black Crowes, Johnny Colt, played at Brothers in his old band, The Law. Who would have known that a small town like Jacksonville

could have an impact on the music world? Something to think about next time you're deciding whether to stay home and watch The Simpsons, or go check out the latest

band on the local club scene.

Stay tuned to Rockline for details on upcoming shows by AC/DC, Ratt and Robert Plant.

On the local scene, a trio of local

bands, including Mad Alice and the Dead Next Door, will play a concert tonight at the Solid Gold in Jacksonville. Admission is only \$2 per person.



Tom Petty