



PIRATE SEASON: Despite a critical drubbing, "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" swung a third week as the No. 1 film. Meanwhile, the fantasy "The Lady in the Water" and the comedy "My Super Ex-Girlfriend" went down in flames.

Entertainment

The Living Dolls

Glam proto-punks the New York Dolls reunite — sort of

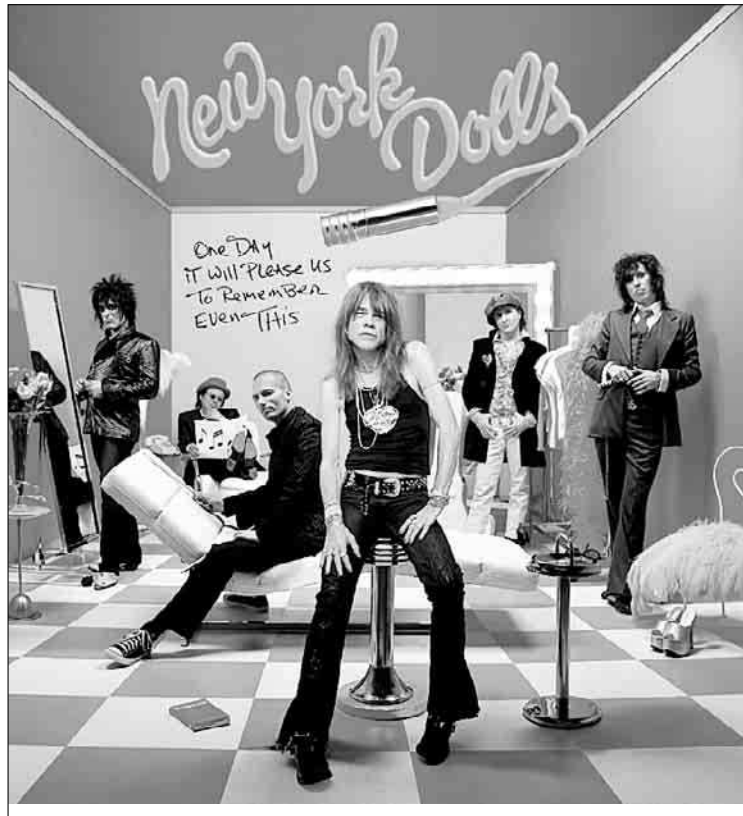
LEGENDS | David Johansen, 56, returns to his musical beginnings as the re-formed New York Dolls release their first studio album since 1974. Though the group disbanded in 1975, remaining members Johansen, Syl Sylvain and Arthur "Killer" Kane (who died in 2005) reunited to play a set at a 2004 London festival at the behest of the Dolls fan club's former president — Morrissey.

One gig turned into another and eventually yielded recording a new album. Packaged with a "making-of" DVD, "One Day" and its supporting tour may gauge, for Johansen, the Dolls' legacy.

What took so long?

To be honest, the thought of getting back together never occurred to me. When Morrissey got in touch, we had so much fun. It's like we were living out his idea.

How do you think the Dolls came to



ARE YOU A BOY OR A GIRL? The Dolls' favored androgyny and sloppy rock energy.

have such a loyal fan base from the gay community?

We had this all-inclusive vibe. We

wanted everyone to get together in the same room and realize that we're all the same person ...

Petty's Country Roads

Tom Petty takes a slow, introspective tour of the South

MUSIC | Taking on the role of traveling buddy for his third solo venture, "Highway Companion" (American Recordings), Tom Petty, sans Heartbreakers, clearly is more interested in the journey than the destination.

In the album's dozen songs, on which he plays most of the instruments, he cruises slowly down the back roads of what most often feels like the South of his youth, making this a journey of considerable self-assessment. It's also a



SECOND HALF: The baby-boomer icon addresses a mature set of questions.

more writerly exercise than typical of his concise and straightforward Heartbreakers hits. In "Down South," he sings about pretending to be Samuel Clemens to impress

the girls, but more often than not he taps the melancholy reflection of a Reynolds Price.

He touches on themes of aging, going home, making amends, giv-

We had something that everybody could relate to.

In 2005, First Independent Pictures released a documentary about Arthur Kane, "New York Doll," shortly after he died. How do you feel about the movie's portrayal of the band?

I thought it was really great. They almost got him, almost fully captured him. It's great to have that artifact, that document of Arthur. He was one in a . . . a . . . planet.

You've influenced bands from the Sex Pistols to the Smiths to the Donnas. Are rock bands today getting rock done right?

A lot of bands sound the same. They're singing about the same kind of nonsense with a lot of negative energy and hatred — a lot of songs about stabbing your friend in the eye with a ballpoint pen. With this record, we kept our original philosophy and wanted things to be more positive than that.

What's the best part about being back in the New York Dolls?

When I was with [blues band the Harry Smiths], I'd sit on a stool and play acoustic guitar. It was pretty esoteric. With this band, it's more aerobic and invigorating. It's very satisfying to get up and start running around.

KATIE HASTY (BILLBOARD)

Today's **Top Stops**

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Danielson: All of the Above

It's hard to know what to make of Daniel Smith. Is he a post-modern rocker? Performance artist? A man moved by faith? The founder of the Christian art-rock ensemble Danielson Famile, now just Danielson, plays dress-up and makes nigh-inaccessible music in his quest to spread the Good News.

State Theatre, 220 N. Washington St., Falls Church; 8 p.m., \$8; 800-551-7328. (East Falls)



Daniel Smith founded the experimental Danielson Famile to spread the gospel.

Goapele: A World of Soul

Goapele Mohlabane's global neo-soul is a soaring, inspiration thing — smart, romantic and deeply felt, with a bright South African edge.

Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; 7:30 p.m., \$29.50; 703-549-7500.

Katharine Weber Reading: The Shape of Misery

Weber's novel "Triangle" centers on the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, in which 146 workers, mostly women, perished and which provided a catalyst for sweatshop reform. The book fictionalizes the workers' lives, but the suffering it depicts is a sad fact.

Politics & Prose, 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW; 7 p.m., free; 202-364-1919. (Tenleytown-UDC)

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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ing and receiving forgiveness. Those subjects tend to be thorny and complex, and his lyrics are oblique, snatching imagery and memories at will.

The result resembles impressionistic tone poems rather than the sing-along choruses with which the musician first made his mark three decades ago. His classic-rock references are woven into the musical fabric: hints of Bob Dylan, the Kinks, Neil Young and John Lennon.

As a guided tour of Petty's autobiographical American South, "Highway Companion" represents musically time spent cogitating next to a gurgling brook in a hidden meadow rather than standing in awe in front of Niagara Falls. It's a less spectacular vista, but one with the potential for more deeply felt rewards for the right traveler.

RANDY LEWIS (LOS ANGELES TIMES)