

## Yuma's weak plot saved by acting

BY FRANKLIN CLINE  
Reviewer

"3:10 to Yuma" is not the serious, down-and-dirty Western it seems to be. Sure, the movie features blazin' guns, sweat-stained Stetsons, cavalries and posses, but it lacks a slow-burn element necessary to the genre.

Like the "Wild West" itself, a good Western flick is dry, hot, tense and slow. "Yuma," the latest movie from "Walk the Line" director James Mangold, disregards those criteria in favor of fast-paced action sequences sandwiched between scenes filled with well-delivered but poorly-written dialogue that leaves the audience wondering when the next cool gun battle is going to take place.

The film centers around the conflict between Dan Evans (Christian Bale), a dirt-poor, crippled Civil War vet turned small-time rancher, and Ben Wade (Russell Crowe), a notorious outlaw who earns his pay robbing armored carriages crossing the Plains.

The two meet when Dan and his two children stumble upon the bloody aftermath of Ben and his gang's latest robbery. Dan tries his best to stand up to Ben, but between Ben's unnerving calmness and his ability to control every situation (not to mention Ben's posse backing him up), his efforts are futile. The bad guy gets away, and with Dan's horses at that.

They meet again later that afternoon in the small town of Bisbee. Through a series of fortunate events, Dan winds up the potential recipient of \$200 in exchange for escorting Ben to the small town of Contention and putting him on the 3:10 train to Yuma Prison. This is easier said than done because Ben's rowdy and devoted posse members are fast on their heels and ready to save their beloved leader.

It's a long way from Bisbee to Contention, and not all of Ben's guards make it there alive. In fact, it seems the only one with the resolve to finish the job is Dan, but it's unclear whether the source for his dedication to put the infamous Ben Wade on the train is a moral one or a financial one. True, Dan won't take Ben's dirty money, but he never says it's wrong, only that he wouldn't know how to explain how he got it.

Though the film often suffers from trying too hard to make all of its characters sound like cowboy bad-asses, the actors do a fine job making the best of what they have. Charlie Prince (Ben Foster) does an excellent job playing surrogate leader to

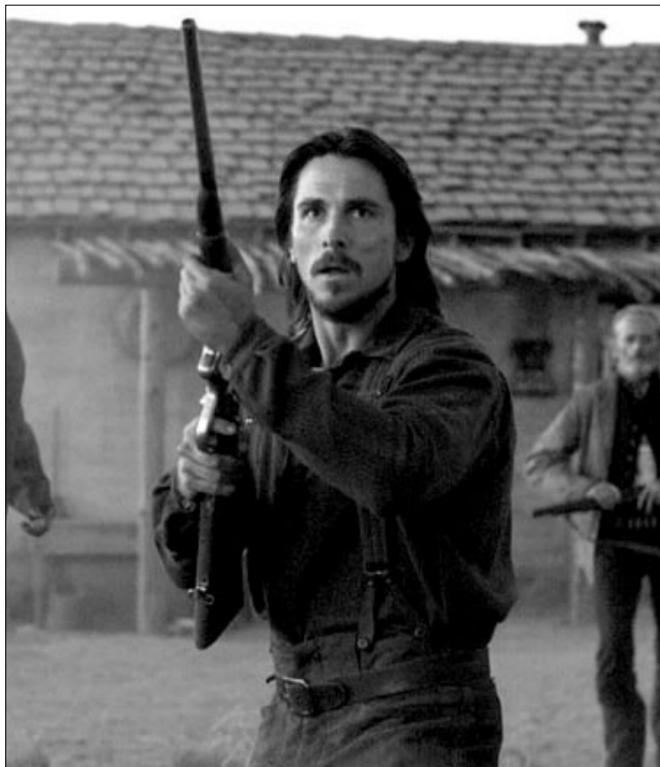


photo courtesy of Lion's Gate  
Christian Bale plays small-time rancher Dan Evans in the Western film "3:10 to Yuma." Bale has previously starred in "Batman Begins."

Ben's gang with the fire of love in his eyes. Charlie's affection for Ben is one of the most interesting parts of the film because it is so subtle. The director allows plenty of room for motivation, and Foster takes it home by displaying genuine anguish at his leader's impending incarceration.

Likewise, Dan's older son William Evans (played by 15-year-old Logan Lerman) does a great job displaying general teenage distrust for authority figures and respect for those who do what they want, when they want. It's ironic that in a movie about men (and make no mistake, this movie is about men: The two female characters aren't given anything to do other than cook, serve, screw and look pretty and scared), the most layered, conflicted and interesting character has barely started puberty.

"3:10 to Yuma" lacks an element of tension because it tries too hard to involve

viewers in its hazy morality and lackadaisical approach to heroism. Despite this, the movie is very well-acted, and the cinematography perfectly recreates America still in its infancy.

### Movie Review

#### 3:10 to Yuma

Directed by James Mangold

Lions Gate Entertainment

Released: Sept. 7

#### Rating



## Harping on the classics:

## Artist's album proves timeless

BY LAURA PRATHER  
Features Editor

With the debut of his 11th album, Ben Harper throws fans – new and old – a lifeline and reels them in.

Harper and his band, The Innocent Criminals, have been producing albums for 15 years and, boy, are they good at what they do. Most recently, they recorded their newest album, "Lifeline," in the City of Lights, Paris.

According to their Web site, benharper.net, the album was "recorded and mixed in seven days on a 16-track analog tape machine."

Using analog tape instead of digital recording gave the artists no room for fancy fixes. The analog equipment produced an elementary yet avant-garde sound almost unheard of in our generation.

I mean, let's face it – it's the 21st century. It's all about now. Very rarely do we see people producing classics, be it cars, movies or music. Unless our current generation suddenly, and shockingly, decides to one day reminisce around a campfire with their favorite rendition of "Crank That" by Soulja Boy (currently the top song on iTunes), there is little hope of furthering the good ol' music genre we used to know as classics.

However, Harper does provide listeners with a glimpse of hope by transcending our on-the-go, need-it-now society.

Listening to the album in the car for the first time made me want to slow down, take a step back and evaluate why I was in such



### Music Review

#### Ben Harper

"Lifeline"

Capitol Records

Released: August 31

#### Rating



a rush. The first track to help me do this was "Paris Sunrise #7." Instrumental songs can be boring, but this one peaked my interest at once with the unusual, ethnic blend of instruments featuring the lap-slide guitar. After hearing this song, I immediately added it to my iPod shuffle playlist because it's perfect to listen to while

doing yoga or while stretching after a hard workout or dance class.

Some of my other favorite tracks include "In the Colors," "Having Wings" and "Fight Outta You." Harper really wins me over with these songs because of his soothing voice and extensive range, ephemeral yet enlightening lyrics and his unique blend of folk, reggae, blues, funk and rock.

The title track, "Lifeline," took a little bit more listening time before I was able to appreciate its lyrics and underlying meaning. "I don't want to wait a lifetime/not yours/not mine/can't you see me reaching/for the lifeline." Harper is referring to a time in which he can no longer float in the water by himself. He has waited too long, and now he needs to grab onto the lifeline to pull him in and help him continue on his way.

My only real criticism of this album is that its 11 tracks only add up to about 41 minutes of listening time. Regardless of the fact that the entire thing was recorded in seven days, I was hoping for a longer escape when relaxing to this CD. The quality is top-notch, but the lack of playing time left me a little disappointed.

Despite the brevity of the album, it will become my default playlist while doing homework or that CD in my car that I will have on repeat for the next, oh, eight months at least. By the time I have worn it out to the point where every track is skipping, Harper will probably have come out with a new album, and "Lifeline" will have been shelved with his other 10 albums in the classics music section for our generation.

## What's on your

# iPod?



Design by Andrea Bailey/Index

## UPCOMING CONCERTS

### Shows in Columbia:

**Elton John**  
Oct. 5  
Mizzou Arena

**Wilco**  
Sept. 19  
The Blue Note

**Elliott Yamin**  
Oct. 16  
The Blue Note

### Shows in other surrounding cities:

**Arcade Fire**  
Sept. 28  
Starlight Theatre  
Kansas City, Mo.

**Girl Talk**  
Oct. 6  
The Picador  
Iowa City, Iowa

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## ETERNITY ...

### WHERE WILL YOU SPEND IT?



You do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while then vanishes away.  
James 4:14

150,000 people die every 24 hours. Sadly, most will not be ready.

What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?  
Mark 8:36

Jesus said, "I am The Way, The Truth, and The Life; No one comes to The Father, but through Me."  
John 14:6

TIME IS PASSING ...  
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## DON'T WASTE YOUR LIFE