

# Zombieland kills with laughter



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## "Zombieland"

★★★★★ R

BY ANDY MOORE  
Reviewer

Rule No. 1 for surviving the zombie apocalypse is cardio: Make sure you can outrun a zombie. Rule No. 2 is always shoot twice and don't worry about saving bullets.

"Zombieland" actually teaches you

those two important rules and more, as Hollywood now has a semi-educational film for surviving the zombie apocalypse. This is not in the spirit of the disturbing global pandemic overtones of "28 Days Later," or the British knee-slappers in "Shaun of the Dead." This film is informative. The zombie-survival rules are pretty standard, such as wearing a seat belt and checking the back seat for zombies, the most insightful rule being to "enjoy the little things."

"Zombieland" is a film that will attract those who are zombie genre fans as well as those people who find gore and the undead more amusing than funny. "Zombieland" is as exciting as it is hilarious, so in quoting my first review of the film *Inglorious Basterds*, "we're gonna' be doing one thing and one thing only: killin' zombies."

Woody Harrelson stars as Tallahassee, a man who might be the deadliest — and

most enthusiastic — zombie killer in film history. Harrelson is known more widely for his leading role in "Natural Born Killers" and as a supporting character in "No Country for Old Men." He is our cowboy hat and rattle-snake skin jacket wearing, Hummer driving, Twinkie eating, gun-nut hero. He said it best while firing an automatic weapon into the air: "Thank God for rednecks."

Harrelson works alongside a former college student and self-proclaimed loner named Columbus, played by Jesse Eisenberg, the young and talented actor from "Adventureland" and "The Squid and the Whale." He is our awkward golden boy that, for once, is not being played by Michael Cera. There is also a surprise cameo from one of Hollywood's funniest actors, but I can't tell you who it is or it wouldn't be a surprise.

The plot is pretty much the same as any zombie film — it begins with a few wandering survivors in a wasteland overrun by some kind of infection. The background to the story does

not matter much, as the movie is more about mere survival. The cast is very minimal, with only a few characters in the entire movie, but they all do a pretty good job.

Expect a lot of gore in this film: it's still a zombie movie. Both Eisenberg's and Harrelson's nonchalant attitudes about the situation somehow complement the impressive and gruesome special effects.

As pop culture has now become overrun by zombies, you might as well look at it from a humorous perspective. There is even a book in Pickler Memorial Library called "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies," which the cover says is co-written by Jane Austen. And let us not forget that the game "Cowboys and Indians" has now been replaced by the more politically correct "Humans Versus Zombies," in which Truman students often find themselves caught in the crossfire.

I suggest you watch this film for its educational value, because I know I learned a thing or two. It's all very basic.

## "Glee" offers cute fun

BY NICK FRUMSON  
Reviewer

Now they've done it. Finally, a TV comedy about show choir. It's a dream come true and, for me, one of the best shows on TV right now. I'm talking about "Glee" which is at 9 p.m., Wed. on Fox.

This show is the story of a high school show choir known as the Glee Club. The story is set in a fictional high school in Lima, Ohio. Mr. Shuster (Matthew Morrison) becomes the director of Glee Club, an unlikely and somewhat cliché group of high school students, and the magic ensues. Glee is a television program about high school — some parts are accurate and some are just stupid. But clichés have to exist somewhere.

The humor and witty replies from the characters sets the show apart from hit shows. Despite high school stereotypes Glee's writers have managed to break the molds and really give depth

to every character. The students are very diverse. The classic diva character, Rachel acted by Lea Michele, is pretty and very talented. Despite this, she isn't popular and is made fun of by the cheerleaders. She also has a cocky attitude that doesn't help either. She is talented, but not perfect.

The jock character, Finn played by Cory Monteith, is a jerk, but he has a pretty good singing voice. He is forced to join Glee as punishment for being caught with marijuana (and it's not even his). Finn doesn't walk around calling things "gay" and being mean to people. He gives the show choir a shot and really loves it.

Another member of the group is in a wheelchair. He also plays the electric guitar and gets pushed around in the performances to imitate dancing.

The token gay guy has depth as well. He is fashion-forward and sings and dances, but his dancing is better than his singing. For the audition, he sings "Mister Cellophane" and

not something predictable like "Everything's Coming up Roses." At one point, the group has a "pep talk," which is typical, but it still was sweet and inspiring. It was obvious most pep talks they have aren't as nice or inspiring. What was cute about it was that they all offered to bring a special talent or resource they could use to the group's advantage.

There is a mean principal and cheerleading coach, but who hasn't had one of those in their high school career? The ex-Glee Club director gets fired for touching a student. As a result of his doctor's consultation, he gets prescriptions for medical marijuana and starts peddling it to make money. How original is that? I would not have guessed it at all. Mr. Shuster is a deep character who is sweet and inspiring. Without being over the top, he motivates the kids to do their best in a charmingly pleasant way.

Mr. Shuster wants to quit being a teacher at one point because his wife is pregnant. To convince him to stay, a co-worker, Jayma May as

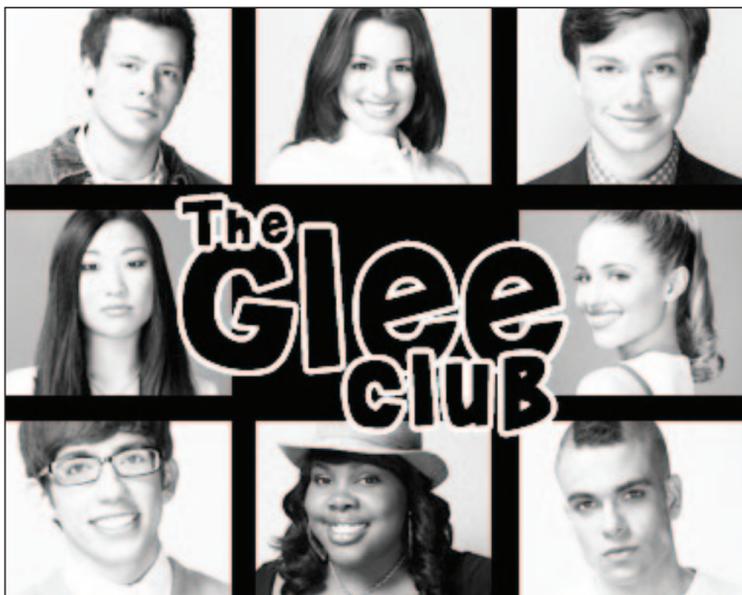


Photo provided by thetvaddict.com

Emma, shows him a video of his old show choir from high school. She asks him, "You know who that is? That's you happier than I have ever seen you." He responds, "That was the greatest moment of my life, because I loved what I was doing." I know it might seem sappy, but I love those lines. I

get all choked up. Emma was making the point that the only life worth living is the one you are passionate about. I thought it was the perfect motivator to get him to stick with his job as a teacher. When I'm performing with the Franklin Street Singers, the feeling is indescribable. I feel so great

and, I could conquer anything. You really see that effect in the show. They end the pilot with the group's rendition of "Don't Stop Believing" by Journey. If you've heard it, you'll know how good it is and how perfect it was for the ending of the episode. Glee is funny and inspiring, a great TV show.

## Fictional band releases album

### Pick of the Week

Dethklok

★★★★★

Paramore

★★★★★

BY COREY BOMMEL  
Reviewer

This week is all about guilty pleasures — those bands that you know you like a little bit, but you won't admit it to your indie-loving friend with the collection of 127 EPs from bands no one has heard of. So draw the curtains, put your headphones on and hide under your blankets. Paramore and Dethklok are coming your way.

Dethklok has been hailed as one of the world's most influential bands, and they strive to hold their goal to make the world as metal as possible. The mixed American/Scandinavian band consists of singer Nathan Explosion, bassist William Murderface, drummer Pickles and guitarists Skwisgaar Skwigelf and Toki Wartooth. Their unique style of death metal

leads to each song having a strong narrative component. Their immense popularity has caused riots, murders and the accidental raising of an angry Finnish lake troll. Did I mention that Dethklok is a fictional band, popularized in the Adult Swim cartoon "Metalocalypse?" It is the brainchild of Brendon Small of Home Movies fame, and Small almost single-handedly brings the band to life.

"Dethalbum II," the follow-up to the popular "Dethalbum," was released last week by Williams Street record label, Adult Swim's in-house label. Although I am not a fan of death metal, this band has always kept my interest, and "Dethalbum II" draws you in and murders your mind with metal. Small's vocals, an imitation of death metal vocalists, growl imposingly, making you forget this band does not actually exist. Layered guitars, wailing solos and throbbing bass lines are all provided by Small, proving he is a multitasking musician, animator and writer. The only other artist brought into the mix is drummer Gene Hoglan, who has played with several metal bands in previous years. Hoglan, along with Small's increasing music skills, makes this album much more polished than "Dethalbum," catering to metal fans before fans of the show. Many songs lack the satire that defined the band, although ridiculous song titles and content still litter the album, such as "I Tamper With the Evidence at the Murder Site

of Oden" and "Laser Cannon Deth Sentence." Standouts on the album include two songs not included in any of the show's episodes, "The Cyborg Slayers," narrating a Terminator-like future, and "Murmaider II: The Water God," the follow-up song to "Murmaider," the opening track to "Dethalbum." The lyrics convey social problems and concerns that parallel today's real-life issues, such as "To keep me alive it is costing me/National deficit times three" from "Deth Support."

Paramore, the power-pop rock band from Tennessee, also released their third album "Brand New Eyes" last week. Paramore, derived from the word "paramour," meaning "secret lover," shows just how much of a guilty pleasure this band is. Back from recent troubles following their last album "Riot!," members Hayley Williams, Jeremy Davis, Taylor York and brothers Josh and Zac Farro return with a bang. This more mature release shows the band has come a long way from their early beginnings in 2002. Only 13 years old when the band began to form, Williams and her status in the media as the band leader led to a near breakup of the band. The hurdles they overcame and the emotions that followed as they struggled not to be known as Hayley Williams but as Paramore are evident in "Brand New Eyes." Williams is a powder keg of energy, belting out impressive vocals from her tiny frame. The rest of the band

complements her perfectly with their edgy, driving sounds. Lyrically, they allow themselves to be emo but not whiny, and are very confessional in nature. In the song "Looking Up," they mention their near breakup with Williams crying "God knows the world doesn't need another band/But what a waste it would've been" and agreeing that their dreams were worth fighting for to stay together. The first two songs, "Careful" and "Ignorance," are the crunchier songs on the album, with great opening hooks. Sprinkled in are acoustic and softer songs such as "Misguided Ghosts" and the beautiful "The Only Exception," in which Williams sings about the only exception to her belief that love isn't real. The song manages to express her immense emotions, but never seems angry or whiny. The album is a new beginning for the band, therapy to keep them together and strengthen their bonds, readying them for the long career they still have ahead of them.

If you are a fan of fun music that isn't necessarily ground breaking but still manages to define itself, then you should pick up these albums. "Dethalbum II" is witty and proves to be a solid metal album, while "Brand New Eyes" delivers a more mature band while sticking to the catchy tunes that made them popular. Guilty pleasure or not, they deliver the musical goods that your ears crave.