



WONDER BOYS (2000)

Director: Curtis Hanson
Writers: Michael Chabon, Steve Kloves
Stars: Michael Douglas, Tobey Maguire, Frances McDormand
Runtime: 107min

PLOT: An English professor deals with many problems in his life that includes his wife leaving him and the various issues that his friends and associates involve him in.
REVIEW: The movie is a very close repre-

sentation of campus life. This is not accurate because of the campus politics or intellectual debates, but rather because it shows two important facts; the first one being students will come and go and; the second, a lot of faculty members remain stuck in the graduate-student mode for many years. Michael Douglas portrayed the character of one such faculty, giving his best performance in many years. The rest of the characters have more or less equal importance that is especially since

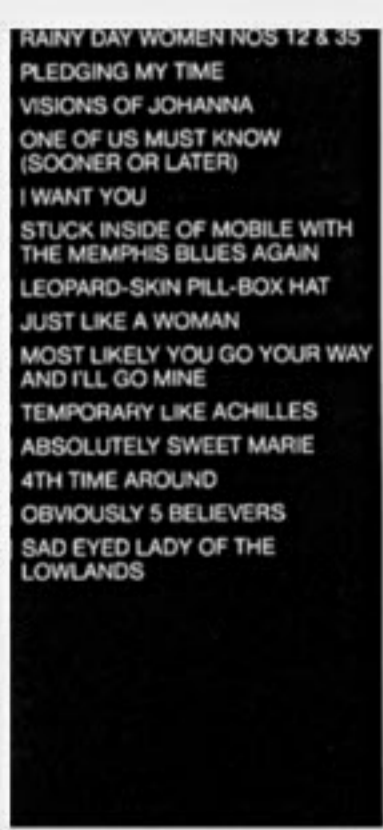
Grady is depressed and high on marijuana. What this means is that when Grady is looking at them, they are represented as problems, and when they are not around, he can forget about them. The legendary singer-songwriter Bob Dylan composed several soundtracks for the film along with nine other singer-songwriters. The songwriter provided one new composition for the film titled "Things Have Changed", which is undeniably the best song in the film and the

Academy Award for Best Original Song proves that. Overall, the film has a rather touching story about a person who is trying to be a good teacher. The movie included many things from memorabilia to guns and cops, but did not revolve around any of those. An honest story, with honest portrayal by the actors makes this film commendable.
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Reviewed by Syed Ahnaf Sadeed

BLONDE ON BLONDE

Number of Tracks: 14
Release Date: May 16, 1966

REVIEW: The album is one of the first double albums in the history of rock music, which starts with the song "Rainy Day Woman #12 & 35". The song is good enough to confirm the high status of the first disc. The boisterous stomp of this song unmistakably relates to the quintessential Dylan we all know. Another highlighting track in the CD is "Pledging My Time", in which Dylan plays the harp with the piercing punctuations on the abrupt outburst of the song. "Leopard Skin Pill-Box Hat" is a very bluesy song with neck-wrung soloing all over it. It is one of the most upbeat songs in the album. In "I Want You" and "Just Like a Woman" details of beautiful poetry and rhythm are synchronized with thoughtful



music, making these the best songs on the first disc. The second disc was somewhat elasticized due to the taut energy in the first one. The eleven-minute long song "Sad Eyed Lady of the Lowlands" is visionary poetry which is mesmerizing to listen to and in no way can be considered tedious, even though Dylan is utterly at ease with himself here. The backing crew is also to be credited in this song as their improvisational efforts throughout the composition acts as a part of the album's charm. Overall, the album is considered one of the best in the history of rock, and one of the pioneers of double-disc rock albums. A must-listen for Dylan fans.
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Source: BBC Music

BLOOD ON THE TRACKS

Number of Tracks: 10
Release Date: January 20, 1975

REVIEW: Starting from the opening track of the album "Tangled Up In Blue", Bob Dylan started a new journey of redefined work. The ten songs represent deception, heartache, regret and loneliness. The album teases with openness and emotions that are so raw and at times, so ambiguous that it is hard to know what Dylan is singing about. "Tangled up In Blue" provides a scattered narration filled with geographical references. The song with seven verses and zero choruses tell the story of a drifter kept from various women. Another impactful song in the album is "You're a Big Girl Now", which includes two acoustic guitars so melodiously arranged that



it becomes nothing short of one of the best in the album. The harmonica solo at 3:50 provides the complete essence of the song better than Dylan does. "Meet Me In The Morning" is a great blues track with music and lyrics containing a lighter feel. It emanates the heartbreak felt by a person who has been left by the women he loved. A nifty wordplay exists at the end of the song when he compares his heart to the sun and sun to a sinking ship. What makes this a timeless record is the nostalgic and poetic expressions used by Bob Dylan, which he is famous for. This is one of the best albums in music history and definitely one of Dylan's bests.
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Source: Billboard