

This Summer's Box Office Bomb

By Alexandra Morrison



Summer is the best time to see great movies. However, Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck recently released their summer movie, *Gigli*, and the critics have been all over it, calling it “the worst movie of the summer.”

Ben Affleck plays Larry Gigli; a mobster who has been told to kidnap a prosecutor’s mentally-challenged brother. When Gigli messes up the job, Ricky (Lopez) is called in to help. Gigli falls for Ricky, but she is unavailable because she is in a relationship with her lesbian girlfriend. In about the middle of the film, Ricky falls for Gigli’s charms and a romance begins. *The Onion*, an online newspaper, went so far as to say, sarcastically, that Gigli and Ricky should have died in the end due to a violent explosion or after being shot. That was how bad they thought *Gigli* was.

Many movie critics have said *Gigli* is probably the worst movie ever done by Affleck and Lopez. As they say in Hollywood, “You’re only as good as your last movie.”

Good Charlotte at the Video Music Awards

Based on information found at <http://www.goodcharlotte.com/BA10.php>

by Helen Cooney

A lot of you are fans of, or have at least heard of, the punk rock band *Good Charlotte*. Recently, they walked away with Video Music Award’s (VMA’s) Choice Award for their well-known music video “Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous.” When they received their award, the band’s story was told.



“The history of our band is pretty easy,” said Joel. “We started the band in April of 1995. We recorded a bunch of stuff from ’95-2000, which you can find somewhere on the internet. Only a few real copies of each record really exist, but if you find one, could you make me a copy?” asked Joel sarcastically.

Twin brothers Benji and Joel (born 3/11/79) grew up in a lower-middle-class family in the town of Waldorf, Maryland. Their family, they said, was dysfunctional and just plain weird. **“Luckily, Joel and I always had each other. When things started to fall apart, we just got into the music,”** said Benji.

The twins’ older brother, Josh, turned them onto influential albums by *Rancid*, *Minor Threat*, *The Cure*, *The Smiths*, and many more.

Benji then began teaching himself guitar at age 16; Joel gravitated toward lead vocals. **“Right away, Joel and I started thinking up songs,”** Benji recalls. **“We’d go straight to our room after school, singing**

and playing for hours a day.” After Paul (bass) and Billy (guitar) joined, they took the name for their band from the children’s book *Charlotte’s Web*, and played their first gig in a neighbor’s basement for an audience of 20.

The brothers dedicated themselves to their music, although they had almost no money for equipment and no connections in the industry. They cut their first demo, wrote their own bio, and began mailing packages off to a list of record companies obtained from a magazine. In 2000, they released their first CD entitled *Good Charlotte*. The name and band caught on fast and soon everyone was talking. In 2002 they were able to release their second CD, *The Young and the Hopeless*, which quickly became their most well-known CD. **“We’ve done a hundred tours, written hundreds of songs, and played hundreds of shows in a lot of different places. I can honestly say, though, we are just getting to know our fans—and ourselves,”** said Joel.

Good Charlotte claims they are happier than they’ve ever been. They are having a great time meeting kids all over the world who feel the same way about music as they feel. Their goals right now are to make the music they want to make and return to their fans what their fans have given them: dedication, loyalty, hope, truth, and a place to belong. They hit it big, and are now one of the most popular punk rock bands today. **See them in concert here in Jacksonville—they’re coming to the UNF Arena on Friday, October 31!!**