

SONG OF THE DAY



Fahad AlSabah
Staff Writer

Song: So Close
Artist: Jon McLaughlin
Album: Enchanted OST
Genre: Pop

In short: I remember watching the movie and forgetting all about the plot and focusing on the song, it stole the show. It's truly beautiful.

E-mail your suggestions or
feedback to falsabah@alwatandaily.com

Nicole Richie hospitalized for pneumonia



FILE - Nicole Richie. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Nicole Richie has been admitted to a Los Angeles hospital and is being treated for pneumonia. Her representative says she's doing well.

Publisher Nicole Perma said Wednesday the 28-year-old actress checked herself into Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

Richie was in a Los Angeles courtroom earlier this week after asking for a restraining order against two celebrity photographers. A judge granted that request. Richie costarred with Paris Hilton on the television show *The Simple Life* and is the daughter of singer Lionel Richie. She has since become a fashion and jewelry designer and occasional actress.

Richie gave birth to a son, Sparrow James Midnight Madden, in September. She and her partner, rocker Joel Madden, have a daughter, Harlow, who turns 2 in January. -AP

Penelope Cruz offers a 'dream year' in movies

LOS ANGELES: Penelope Cruz feels uncomfortable talking about nude scenes and says she has "an allergy to labels," but she becomes effusive when discussing her "dream year" with two special films about to hit theaters. The first is Spanish director Pedro Almodovar's *Broken Embraces*, her fourth collaboration with the filmmaker who helped make her a star, and the second is musical *Nine* from director Rob Marshall, which challenged her voice and her previously little-known dancing skills.

Both films hope to win over Oscar voters during Hollywood's awards season, and after her own Academy Award-winning turn in Woody Allen comedy *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* last year, Cruz is again earning some early Oscar buzz - doubled.

"I feel like I have learned a lot. The movies could not be more different," the Spanish beauty told reporters recently.

"To be able to sing for the first time professionally and dance (in *Nine*), it was a scary experience. *Broken Embraces* is like three women in one. I feel like the luckiest girl in the world."

Broken Embraces opens on Friday after turns at the Cannes and Toronto film festivals where it earned good marks from critics. Review website rottentomatoes.com gives it an 82 percent positive rating.

Cruz calls both movies homages to cinema - *Nine* to the work of the Italian director Federico Fellini, and *Broken Embraces* to the tradition of film noir.

After playing a prostitute, a nun who falls in love with a transvestite, and a woman whose husband is buried in the fridge in previous Almodovar movies, Cruz tackles the part of a poor assistant to a powerful tycoon in *Broken Embraces*.

But as lowly as her character starts out, she goes on to become the rich man's partner and then plays a figure counter to herself in a movie within the movie. While it sounds somewhat complicated, it is vintage Almodovar.

"Every time Pedro has given me a script, I have really been blown away. The characters (I have played) couldn't be more different from



FILE - In this film publicity image released by Sony Pictures Classics, director Pedro Almodovar (right) gestures as he directs actress Penelope Cruz and Jose Luis Gomez, (center) on the set of *Broken Embraces*. (AP)

each other, and from who I am," she said.

In *Nine*, from Oscar-winning *Chicago* director Marshall, Cruz shows audiences another new facet of her many talents.

The Fellini-inspired movie, in which she teams with Nicole Kidman, Judi Dench, Daniel Day Lewis, Sophia Loren and Marion Cotillard, does not open in the United States until Dec. 25, but already a brief clip of Cruz in a bustier performing a sultry song and dance is making waves among movie fans.

Cruz, 35, had early ambitions to be a

dancer, taking ballet classes in her native Madrid from 5 to 15-years-old, but dramatic acting took its course and stardom ensued.

So, she went back to training five hours-a-day for her role as the mistress of a middle-aged moviemaker in *Nine*, after being shown the routine she would be asked to perform.

"I almost fainted. I thought this is impossible ... But there was no way to fake anything," she said.

While she is happy to talk freely about career, her personal life remains very pri-

vate, and questions were banned about her two-year romance with Spanish actor Javier Bardem. Although she may seem at ease with nude scenes in *Broken Embraces*, she won't talk about them, saying it is too "uncomfortable" to do so.

And she sees herself as neither a role model, nor feminist in a male-dominated movie world.

"I just try not to label myself in any way. I have an allergy to labels in general," she said, then smiled. -Reuters

A minute with: Metro Station on tour with Miley Cyrus

LOS ANGELES: It might not always be easy being associated with one of world's best-known teenagers, Miley Cyrus, but it can have its perks such as a quick path to fame - as US band Metro Station has found out.

The co-founders of the band are Cyrus' half-brother Trace Cyrus, 20, and Mason Musso, 20, the brother of Mitchel Musso, who stars with the 16-year-old pop idol in the hit Disney TV series *Hannah Montana* about a secret schoolgirl rock star.

The heavily-tattooed Trace Cyrus and Mason Musso met on the set of the TV show. They formed Metro Station in 2006, with Musso as lead singer and rhythm guitarist, Cyrus on vocals and lead guitar, and adding drummer Anthony Impropgo and keyboardist Blake Healy.

Metro Station released their self-titled debut album in Sept. 2007 with their best known single *Shake It*, and toured with numerous bands. They are currently on tour with Miley Cyrus. Musso spoke to Reuters about the band, fame and success.

It is hard to get away from being linked to Miley Cyrus?

Musso: "We are not trying to get away from it but we do want to establish ourselves as our own band."

Do you think it has helped get you established quicker and opened doors for the band?

Musso: "Absolutely. Our siblings have been nothing but supportive but that is something that we needed. At the same time we have done this ourselves. We are Metro Station and we have nothing to do with Hannah Montana."

Has it been hard work to get where you are now?

Musso: "It is a lot of work. Two years ago we were

traveling around in a 15 passenger Ford van and now we are playing in front of 20,000 kids every night. I remember the night our record was released and we were playing in a small bar to three people."

Apart from your siblings, what helped you succeed?

Musso: "We had a lot of support from our label (Columbia) and our management. We just kept focused and stayed on the road."

When does the tour end and what next?

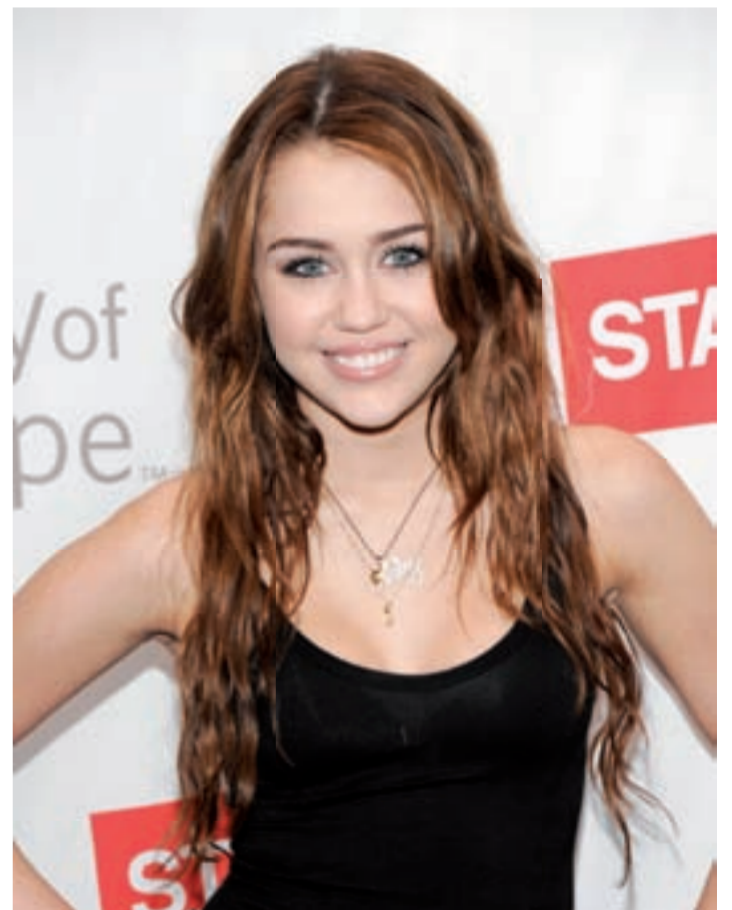
Musso: "I believe it is over on Dec. 28. Then we are going to cut another record. It has been two years since our first record was released. We are ready to do some new songs. We are going into the studio right after we are done with this tour and will make another record, hopefully to come out next summer."

Do you have much new material?

Musso: "We are always writing. I have a bunch of stuff. But it is a case of us getting together when we don't have the stress of the road. It is harder to write on the road than when you are home ... but we have a new song "Japanese Girl" that isn't on the record and we have been playing it on the Miley Cyrus concert."

Do you think your sound will change much on the new album?

Musso: "I would say you will hear some growth. When Trace and I made the first record Trace and I were 17 or 18 and now we are both 20 and we've gone through a lot with the life we now have and being on the road constantly. It is definitely Metro Station but it is a little darker." -Reuters



FILE - Singer and actress Miley Cyrus. (AP)

Will Ferrell is Hollywood's most overpaid star: Forbes

LOS ANGELES: Funnyman Will Ferrell and British actor Ewan McGregor on Wednesday headed a Forbes.com list of Hollywood's most overpaid stars when looking at the financial returns of their movies.

Billy Bob Thornton, Tom Cruise and Jim Carrey also made the top 10 tally of actors who cost more to hire than they appear to be worth at box offices.

Ferrell took first place largely due to the flop of his summer 2009 movie *Land of the Lost*, which Forbes said cost an estimated 100 million US dollars to make but earned just \$65 million at box offices worldwide for movie studio Universal Pictures.

The movie followed a disappointing \$43 million box office for Ferrell's 2008 outing *Semi-Pro*, and \$128 million for *Step Brothers*.

Using a formula that calculated the actor's estimated salary on each film, including DVD and TV sales, compared to the film's revenues from theater box offices and elsewhere, Forbes.com said that for every dollar Ferrell was paid, his films earned an average \$3.29.

To create the list, the financial news website looked at Hollywood's 100 biggest stars who had lead performances in at least three widely distributed movies in the last five years.

McGregor, best known for *Trainspotting* and his work in the *Star Wars* franchise, is not among Hollywood's highest paid actors but has recently proved a poor investment, averaging a return of \$3.75.

Cruise, considered one of the biggest players in Hollywood, came sixth on the list with a return on investment of \$7.18. Forbes said he had benefited from deals where he took nothing up front in return for a portion of the box-office gross. The deal resulted in Cruise getting paid for films like *Lions for Lambs* even if the studio did not recoup its money.

Eddie Murphy commanded a high salary after the success of family comedies like *The Nutty Professor*. But his most recent films *Meet Dave* and *Imagine That* were box office duds, taking Murphy to fourth place for earning an average \$4.43 for each dollar he was paid, Forbes.com said.



FILE - Actor Will Ferrell. (AP)

Bon Jovi comes full 'Circle' at No. 1 on U.S. chart

LOS ANGELES: Bon Jovi claimed its fourth No. 1 album on the US pop chart Wednesday, despite a sharp drop in sales.

The Circle sold 163,000 copies during the week ended Nov. 16, according to Nielsen SoundScan. It marks the veteran band's second chart-topper in a row following *Lost Highway*, which kicked off with 292,000 copies in 2007. Bon Jovi previously reached the top with *Sleepy When Wet* in 1986 and *New Jersey* in 1988.

All told, the group has racked up 10 top-10 albums and every one of its studio releases since 1986 has reached the top 10 of the Billboard 200. The new album also debuted at No. 1 in Japan, Canada and Germany, and at No. 2 in the UK.

Last week's U.S. chart-topper, Carrie Underwood's *Play On*, slipped to No. 3 with 128,000, while Andrea Bocelli's *My Christmas* rose one to No. 2 with 136,000; both are in their second week.

The chart's second-highest debut came from alternative rock band Flyleaf, whose second album *Memento Mori* arrived at No. 8 with a career-high 56,000. The band's self-titled debut spent 133 weeks on the Billboard 200 from 2006 through 2008.

Michael Jackson's *This Is It* slipped two to No. 4 with 117,000, while Taylor Swift's *Fearless* rose one to No. 5 with

91,000 following her multiple wins last week on the Country Music Association Awards show.

The *Now 32* album fell one to No. 6 with 68,000, Michael Buble's "Crazy Love" rose one to No. 7 with 58,000, and the "Glee" soundtrack fell five to No. 9 with 56,000. The "New Moon" soundtrack was steady at No. 10 with

53,000.

Overall album sales totaled 7.04 million units, up 3 percent compared to the sum during the previous week, but down 21 percent compared to the same sales week of 2008. Year-to-date album sales stand at 301.5 million, down 13 percent compared to the same total at this point last year. -Reuters



FILE - Guitarist Richie Sambora, (left) and singer Jon Bon Jovi perform with Bon Jovi on NBC's 'Today' in New York's Rockefeller Center Wednesday, Nov. 11. (AP)