

Future II suffers 'sequel syndrome'

Entertainment

By DIAHANN NADEAU
Herald Special

Back to the Future II suffers from sequel syndrome: it's tired, unfunny, uneven, and nowhere near as good as the original. Which is a great pity, because number one was so terrific. Most of the same cast is back, with Biff (Thomas F. Wilson) playing a more prominent role, while George McFly (Crispin Glover) is mostly a picture or a clip from the first movie.

The plot picks up exactly where the first one left off: Marty (Michael J. Fox) and Jennifer (Claudia Wells) are about to take a ride in the new truck when Doc Emmett Brown (Christopher Lloyd) appears in the flying DeLorean to whisk them off to the future, where their kids are about to make some big mistakes.

sports almanac (all outcomes from 1950 to 2000) by his future self and has made millions betting on sure

things. What's a poor boy to do? Go back to the past, to that moment in time when old Biff gives young Biff

the book. That moment happens to be the same day in 1955 Marty visited in the first movie.

So now Marty and Doc go back to 1955, where Marty has to avoid his parents and himself, to let his other self see him would result in

destroying his first mission and undoing all the good he did for his parents. (More complicated, n'est-ce-pas?)

Now we have Marty following Biff, trying to get the book back, while scenes from the first movie are cleverly cut around him. Mar-

ty succeeds of course, but not without a few scares. But the movie does not end with the return

to 1985. No, Doc Brown and the DeLorean are moved into another time, another space, and the scene for Back to the Future III has been set.

This sequel is just so lacklustre and worn-out that it is depressing. None of the freshness of the original is there. Fox and Lloyd seem to be thinking about other things all the time, while the other actors are involved in some

schtick, not depicting real characters. The same cast, the same director and production

team: all the ingredients for success but the recipe doesn't work anymore.

The movie ends with scenes from the third film, which look a lot more exciting than the second. It's not a good sign in a movie when the trailer for the next one is so much more inviting. Back to the Future II is still worth seeing, and the kids

will probably enjoy it, but for adults it's just not what we've come to expect of the Spielberg (exec. producer) Zemeckis (director) combination.

AT THE MOVIES

The future is 2015, and Marty has to be his own son for a few minutes for a nasty encounter with nasty young Biff. Grandpa Biff is around, figures out the time travel scam, steals the car, goes back to the 20th century and changes history. (Follow it so far? It gets more complicated, believe it or not.)

Back to 1985, where something terrible has happened. Hill Valley is a nightmare town, run by Biff Tannen, a monument to vulgarity and violence. Marty's mom Lorraine (Lea Thompson) is married to Biff; George was murdered years before. Biff was given a



Paradox, who appeared at Club 2000 Thursday, hails from Montreal but lead singer Sylvain Cossette (left) insists the band doesn't have a Montreal sound. (Herald photo)

Montreal's Paradox sounds American

The lead singer is French, but looks like Australian-born INXS singer Michael Hutchence. The band comes from Montreal but sounds American.

It is, in many ways, a paradox. Paradox hails from la belle province, joining Toronto-born Alanah Myles for her North American tour that included a stop at Norval's Club 2000 Thursday night.

The band mixes their original music, including the MCA hit single 'Waterline' with cover versions of pop hits including works by David Bowie.

"We don't consider ourselves a Montreal band. We don't have a local sound," says lead singer Sylvain Cossette, his long tresses parted to one side.

The 'Montreal sound' was made famous by performers like Ivan from Men Without Hats and Jean Marc of The Box. The fashion and

the music of Paradox defies Quebecois influence.

"We got our influences from U2, the Beatles and Queen," the 26-year-old Sylvain says.

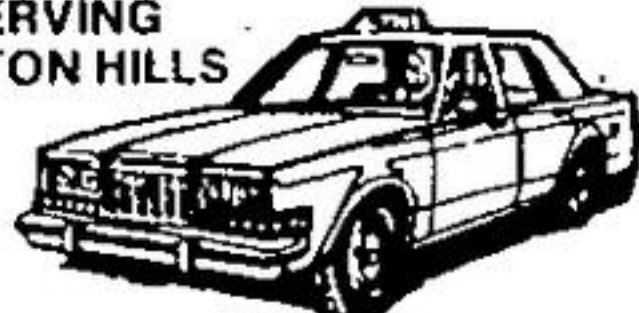
Paradox was formed eight years ago and has since toured the Quebec circuit, playing venues in Drummondville, Victoriaville and Quebec City.

Sylvain describes his band's music as part of "every day life" and not as some revolutionary cause.

"It's pop, but it's intelligent pop. I guess it's not pop for people between the ages of 12 and 16 (years) only."

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