

Q&A with Daniel Bachman

Instrumentalist Daniel Bachman went on his first European tour in 2011. Since then, he's been on the road almost nonstop — and he's only 24. Originally from Fredericksburg, Va., Bachman moved to Chapel Hill recently in hopes to eventually attend UNC. He talked to staff writer Kristina Kokkonos about his plans for the future.

DIVERSIONS: Tell me a little bit more about wanting to go to UNC at this point.

DANIEL BACHMAN: Well I dropped out of the program

I was in at the University of Mary Washington for historic preservation when I was probably 20. I had always wanted to go to UNC, but I could never afford it. Now that I'm old enough to get residency and (pay in-state tuition,) I'm planning on trying to apply for fall 2015. We'll see if they take me.

DIVE: So where does music fit into that for you, as far as your goals and ambitions?

DB: They're completely separate. If I do the music thing, it's like full time. If I do the school thing, it's full time. That's what boiled down to dropping out the first time. You're either on the computer all day working on stuff or you're on the road all the time. That's the only way it works financially, too. They're two completely separate worlds.

DIVE: I noticed that you went on a summer 2013 U.K.



COURTESY OF DANIEL BACHMAN

Daniel Bachman is a guitarist hailing from Virginia whose distinct fingerpicking style blends the sounds of the old and the new.

tour. Tell me a little bit about that.

DB: That was, I think three weeks. I did all around the U.K. and Ireland, probably 16 or 17 shows, with a couple of days off. It was nice. The U.K. is more like touring the U.S. than touring Europe, it's like a similar vibe.

SEE BACHMAN LIVE

Time: 8 p.m. Sunday with Chris Forsyth

Location: The Pinhook, 117 W. Main St., Durham

Info: www.thepinhook.com

DIVE: What have you done so far this year?

DB: Just one tour in January. I've got one record coming out in March that's like a reissue record, and then I've got another full-length record that's coming out in April through this label out in Asheville. Then the U.K. in March, U.S. in April and nothing from there, which is cool. Then in June, I'm back in Europe and the U.K. Then I will be taking it easy for a while. I've been going and going for about two and half years now, pretty nonstop.

DIVE: What's your biggest goal with music?

DB: Forever, I always told myself, "Get two years of supporting yourself off of music." Which I kind of did. So now, if everything just stopped, I've got gnarly stories and it would be fine. But I'm not going to stop.

DIVE: That's really cool, to have accomplished that at a young because not many people can say that, but also to feel fulfilled enough.

DB: I'm definitely satisfied, yeah. I'm happy with everything.

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MOVIESHORTS

The Lego Movie

★★★★★

Everything is awesome! From the plethora of beloved characters to the long line of jokes, "The Lego Movie" sets the bar high for animated movies in 2014. The film is cinematically dazzling with stop-motion animation that shows off several Lego worlds and some impressive action sequences.

The story begins with the wizard Vitruvius (Morgan Freeman) delivering a prophecy that states the "Special" will find the Piece of Resistance and stop Lord Business (Will Ferrell) from destroying the world with his evil weapon, the "Kragle." Some time later, an extremely ordinary, non-special construction worker named Emmet (Chris Pratt) finds the Piece of Resistance and is deemed the "Special."

Each character, from Green Lantern to Batman (Will Arnett) to Unikitty, has its own special quirk. These spark dozens of funny moments, like Green Lantern's fanboy obsession with Superman and Batman's need to be dark and brooding.

The level of comedic writing is tremendous and there is an endless supply of great ideas woven brilliantly throughout the plot. The movie makes no effort to cover up Lego people's limited movement, often poking fun at the lack of physical expression. The film lets it be and it only makes it even more comical.

"The Lego Movie" takes a clear jab at conformity and formulaic sitcoms. The writers deliver their message well and thankfully only spend a minute reconciling good (creativity) and evil (order) in a few touching moments. Then it's right back to being funny.

The movie doubles perfectly as a commercial to show kids what kind of impressive world they can create with just some Legos and unexpressed creativity, a message both kids and adults can understand and appreciate.

— Amanda Hayes

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH
MEN'S LACROSSE VS. MANHATTAN
FETZER FIELD; 1:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH
WOMEN'S TENNIS VS. NORFOLK ST.
CONE-KENFIELD TENNIS CENTER; 2:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH
WOMEN'S LACROSSE VS. CANISIUS
FETZER FIELD; 4:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH
WOMEN'S TENNIS VS. EAST CAROLINA
CONE-KENFIELD TENNIS CENTER; 6:30 PM
VISIT GOHEELS.COM FOR MORE GAME INFORMATION.
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The Monuments Men

★★★★★

Despite flaunting a stellar cast and being based on an inspiring true story, "The Monuments Men" is a disappointing, unsatisfying film with a serious case of identity crisis.

The movie follows an unlikely World War II platoon that's made up of artists and scholars who are tasked with going into Germany and rescuing precious art stolen by the Nazis. The message of this movie is noble. Art is important and sometimes, art is worth dying for.

Despite having this fascinating story to work with, "The Monuments Men" doesn't have much genuine plot. As the men travel from one location to another, the film becomes expository.

With George Clooney, Matt Damon, Bill Murray, John Goodman, Bob Balaban and Cate Blanchett playing major roles, there's clearly an abundance of talent. But for incomprehensible reasons, most of that talent isn't used.

After the men set out on the mission to retrieve the art, they immediately split up and travel to different locations. These drastically different subplots make the film feel incredibly disjointed.

"The Monuments Men" never decides what genre it wants to be. Though everyone involved seems to appreciate what this film has to say, they can't overcome the issues. Clooney in particular, who also directed the movie, seems passionate about the message.

Despite the film's downfalls, there are brief moments of promise. Murray and Balaban make a perfect pair and stand out above other characters. Murray's portrayal of his character is comical and light. Balaban's is uptight and stressed. They bicker constantly, but they also go to extra lengths to make each other happy.

With a weaker cast, this wouldn't have been nearly as disappointing. But with actors of this caliber, who work so well together, "The Monuments Men" is little more than a whole lot of wasted potential.

— Schyler Martin