

# Everything works for Declan McKenna's "What Happened to the Beach?"

COLUMN BY  
CAROLINE AVERITT

LIFE EDITOR

English singer-songwriter Declan McKenna is back on the music scene with his groovy, psychedelic album "What Happened to the Beach?"

I was so excited to hear this since I am a big fan of his first album, "What Do You Think About the Car?" I had many expectations for this album, but it was nothing like I had imagined.

McKenna was dubbed the voice of a generation after his first album due to its political commentary. This album continues to bring social issues to McKenna's music. "I Write the News" introduces the state of English politics, discussing crime and "London prices" but does not go into activism or solutions.

In the very next track, "Sympathy," McKenna expresses hope and pleads for understanding. In the second pre-chorus, he says, "Sympathy is gonna come around / So make peace and discover." "Wobble" introduces the

album's theme, with McKenna saying, "What happened to the beach? / It looks like it's changing / We used to get the breathe the air / Now it's 'Thanks, pass the gas tanks.'"

Here, McKenna explores the theme of change in both his life and the world by discussing climate change. McKenna effortlessly explores serious themes in this song while singing to a lighthearted beachy sound.

However, the heart of this album lies in "Nothing Works."

In this song, McKenna seems to be complaining to someone, perhaps his record label, about the pressure to stay relevant and continue being the "voice of a generation" so many expect him to be. The chorus of the song begins with "When I sing the song and you didn't like the verse / I try to fix myself but nothing works."

While he spoke on several social issues in the album, this song makes it clear McKenna is ready to explore other aspects of his creativity. The album, produced by Gianluca Buccellati, explores sound more than themes.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DAILY

Declan McKenna performing in Seattle during his "Zeroes" tour.

"Elevator Hum," my favorite, is reminiscent of his previous indie pop albums. However, most of the other songs sound completely new and unique.

"Mulholland's Dinner and Wine" sounds like a Los Angeles dreamscape. "Breath of Light" sounds almost demonic, with

distorted vocals and chanting in the background. "It's an Act" brings a melancholy, stripped-down sound to the album.

Each song brings something completely new to the table. While I do enjoy seeing McKenna explore new sounds, this makes it hard to



PHOTO COURTESY OF GENIUS

Album cover for Declan McKenna's "What Happened to the Beach?"

have a cohesive album that is enjoyable from top to bottom.

This album did not wow me as much as his first did. I enjoyed listening to many of the songs, but I do not think I will revisit this album as much as I listen to "What

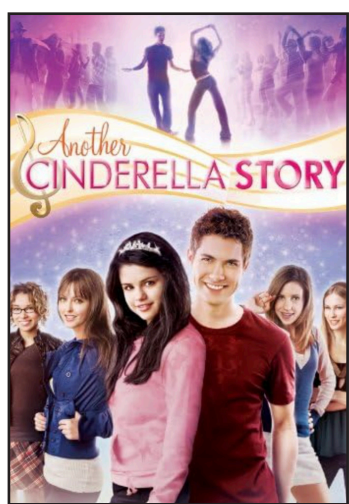
Do You Think About the Car?"

I cannot expect an artist to stay the same forever and artists deserve to grow and explore new ideas. That is exactly what McKenna did with this project, and for that, I applaud him.

**Official Score: 7/10**

## Herald editors pick their favorite movie for Valentine's Day

Caroline's pick: "Another Cinderella Story"



Every year around Feb. 14, I always find myself coming back to the cinematic masterpiece that is "Another Cinderella Story."

Our Cinderella, Mary Santiago, is played by Selena Gomez. Along with co-stars Drew Seeley and Jane Lynch, this incredible cast gives a fun flair to the beloved fairytale.

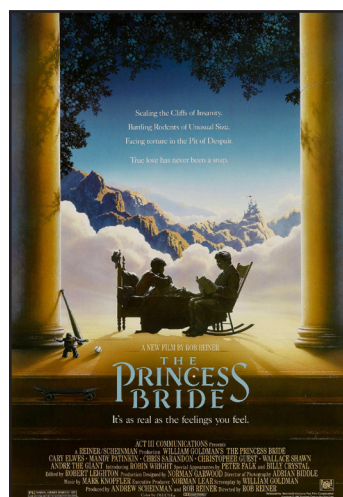
One of my favorite parts of this movie is the soundtrack. Listen to "Tell Me Something I Don't Know" and "New Classic" and I promise you won't be disappointed.

This movie is perfect for Valentine's Day since the main characters Mary and Joey share a dance at their school's Valentine's masquerade ball. Instead of the typical glass slipper, Mary drops her Zune, a portable music player from the early 2000s.

This movie teaches the valuable lesson that if your celebrity crush moves to your school, you have a shot.

If you like romantic comedy, pop stars and dance offs, you will love this new classic.

Jerry and Rachel's pick: "The Princess Bride"



"The Princess Bride" may not seem like a Valentine's Day film at first, but it truly embraces the spirit of the holiday. The story of two very different people falling in love, drifting apart and finding each other again is a tale as old as time.

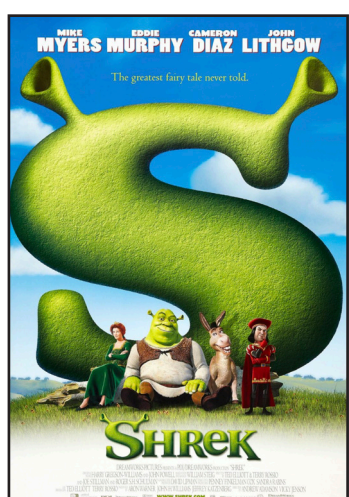
Protagonists Westley and Buttercup have incredible chemistry, which is only strengthened by the humor, romance and even conflict in the film. Every scene with Westley and Buttercup is more romantic

than the last and you can't wait to see them end up together.

When they finally do, it's everything you've been wanting and more. Even if the romance doesn't interest you, the film's campiness and unique characters will draw you in and not let you go. The film also features gorgeous and creative environments, adding to its whimsical and fun nature.

"The Princess Bride" is a Valentine's Day classic. Seeing it as anything but is inconceivable.

Jack's pick: "Shrek"



This is obviously an unorthodox pick for my favorite Valentine's movie but allow me to make my case.

"Shrek," at its core, is a romantic comedy presented through the lens of action and adventure. The action elements of the film serve to build up the romantic tension between the titular ogre and his romantic interest Fiona.

Unlike many other films however, Fiona is never

presented as a damsel that needs to be saved or as a challenge to be overcome.

Over the course of the film, we see Shrek's affection for Fiona grow out of his respect for her as a person and not for her outward appearance. In fact, "Shrek's" main message proves love is fickle and that true love only comes from the inside.

With a runtime of only 90 minutes, Shrek is the perfect film for a Valentine's Day watch.

Elijah's pick: "WALL-E"



If you want to see a movie that shows love can be found even in the darkest of times, look no further than "WALL-E."

Set against the backdrop of Earth's decline, the true heart of the story is found in the flourishing relationship between WALL-E and EVE, two robots who come from different worlds.

WALL-E is a trash collecting robot who has been left to clean up the Earth after humanity was forced to leave the planet and is

completely alone, with only a cockroach for company. EVE is a robot sent to Earth to scan it for signs of sustainable life.

WALL-E falls madly in love with EVE after her arrival and clings to her ship when she departs, chasing her across the stars in an effort to not lose her.

You laugh, cry and maybe even cheer as these star-crossed lovers' story reaches its climatic ending back on Earth.

# Life

## Student Speak: What is your worst date story?



Photo by Shelby Russom | Staff Photographer  
Rebekah Jones is a junior vocal music education major from Brookland.

**Rebekah said:**

“This guy was lying to me and I was kind of friends with him but he was not very great. He lied and said he had this cousin and he was messaging me over Instagram, as his cousin. Then he said all three of us were gonna go out to eat together. Then it was only the two of us.”



Photo by Shelby Russom | Staff Photographer  
Carlos Mejia is a grad student majoring in music performance from Springdale, Arkansas.

**Carlos said:**

“My ex broke up with me after he said he wanted a ‘long-term-serious relationship.’ He came back to me and said, ‘Hey, can we try this again?’ I said, ‘OK, sure, but we are going to go out to dinner and you’re picking.’ He shows up in a baggy t-shirt and sweatpants and I asked him where we were going and he said, ‘Whatever you want to do.’ We just sat there at Sonic and he just talked about himself. It was just really boring and I wanted to go home, but then he asked if we wanted to try this again and I said, ‘No, thank you.’”



Photo by Shelby Russom | Staff Photographer  
Chris Smith is a junior history and communications double major from Cabot, Arkansas.

**Chris said:**

“The worst date I’ve ever been on was a date that I didn’t even know was a date. He asked me to go to the movies and then go skating and I was like, ‘Yeah! Like bros do.’ Then he tried to kiss me on the cheek and I was like, ‘Bro, what are you doing?’ And he was like, ‘Oh, were you not?’”

## How to celebrate Valentine’s Day on a budget

COLUMN BY ANNA COX

SPORTS EDITOR

Love is in the air during February. The hearts and chocolate of Valentine’s Day fill the shelves of every store. However, being in college means that you have to ball on a budget for your boo. Don’t worry, I’ve compiled some ways for you to both impress your bae and keep your money in the bank. **Take advantage of day-after deals:**

Buy your gifts the day after. Go to Walgreens or Walmart and there will be sales from all of the leftover candy and gifts. Going out on Valentine’s Day is hard anyway and everywhere will be busy. Plus, you and your partner can make this a cute day by separating and hunting for the best deals to give each other.

**Plan picnics:**

If you want to celebrate on the day, keep it cute and simple. I recommend picnics because all you need is a blanket, food and some drinks. I would suggest bringing a board game or some activity to do, but looking at scenery and simply talking can be just as fun. Craighead Forest Park is relatively close and has many spots for picnics. Set out a blanket and watch the sunset with your partner.

**Embrace homemade gifts:**

Homemade gifts can



Graphic by Caroline Averitt | Life Editor

certainly be a hit if you and your partner are on the same page. Cards are fun, but a homemade love letter is more meaningful than a factory-produced card.

A simple way to make a love letter could be to write an actual letter, but if you want to be extra you will need some red or pink paper, lined or unlined paper, glue and a pen of your choice.

Simply write your declaration of love down on the paper, glue it onto the colored paper and doodle some hearts on it. If you have lipstick you can add some kisses on it too to make it extra cute.

**Cook up romance:**

An act of service is one of the easiest ways to please your partner. If you live in an apartment, dinners can be one of the best ways to show your love. Making your partner’s favorite meal or something you will both enjoy shows you are putting in the effort to make romance happen. To make this meal romantic, turn on some electronic candles, set the table, dress nice and pick up your partner. Play up the romance!

Have a happy Valentine’s Day! XOXO!

## Love advice from a girl in love

COLUMN BY SHAILEY WOOLDRIDGE

COPY EDITOR

Love is in the air. People finding themselves in a new relationship are asking themselves, “How can I make this last?”

I’ve been in a relationship with my boyfriend Jo for the past three years and we’ve lived together since the day we met. While I don’t recommend that for everyone, I do have other pointers for nurturing a healthy relationship.

The most important piece of dating advice that I can give might sound cheesy, but be okay with being single. You are the most important relationship you’ll ever have. It’s important to spend time with yourself learning what you want out of life and what makes you happy.

If you can make yourself happy you’ll weed out potential bad future relationships just because you’ll already have a standard of how you want to be treated.

Treating your partner well is also important to have a lasting relationship. Communication is everything. Security in a relationship comes from understanding your partner’s viewpoint. If either person neglects sharing their thoughts and plans with the other it can very easily create an environment of distrust.

Know your partner’s love language as well as your own so that you can show them love in a way that makes sense to



Graphic by Caroline Averitt | Life Editor

them and let them know how to love you. Gift giving doesn’t have to be a Chanel bag or a PlayStation 5. It can be as simple as daisies picked off the side of the road or bringing home a piece of chocolate cake after lunch with your friends.

Give words of affirmation. Tell your partner when you think their hair looks nice, send a quick “I believe in you!” text whenever they’re headed out to take the test they stayed up all night studying for, or just a simple “I love you!”

If your partner’s love language is an act of service, go ahead and fill up their water bottle or do the dishes sitting in their sink. Sometimes love is just taking one small thing off your partner’s plate for them.

Physical touch doesn’t always have to be sexual. People who enjoy physical touch often just want to hold hands while walking through a parking lot, enjoy a head scratch when they take their hair down or just want to cuddle after a long day.

You don’t have to plan elaborate dates or spend any money at all. You just have to hang out with your significant other and pay attention to them.

Date someone who is your best friend. Someone who makes grocery shopping fun, someone who even when you’re annoyed at them you still like them and someone who makes you feel safe. A healthy relationship doesn’t come without its struggles, but love shouldn’t be an uphill battle.