

Beats all you
ever saw

BY BLAKE ARNOLD

Waylon Jennings died last month of complications with his diabetes, when his leg was amputated. His death brought with it a great sadness to many fans across the nation including this one.

He was one of the original bad boys in the music industry with a very expensive cocaine habit which made him fairly unpopular with the law. Jennings was such a great musician that even though he had some rather rough words for the induction committee, he was still placed in the hall of fame in 2001.

Though not always a model citizen, Jennings was a model of an incredible country musician. He contributed quite a lot to the music world and truly is a legend, his most notable song being the theme to *The Dukes of Hazzard*. My personal favorite is "Lonesome, On'ry and Mean" in which Waylon just tells it like it is.

Despite his rough and tumble ways Waylon Jennings is truly one of the greatest ever in the history of Country Music and will be sorely missed.

**Blade II slices
competition**

BY BLAKE ARNOLD

The story of *Blade II* comes in 2 years after the original and it has the makings of a great movie.

It opens in true Blade form with an intense action sequence in which we are reintroduced to the main character, Blade (Wesley Snipes). In this movie there is an enemy even worse than the Homminus Nocturna (vampires)—a new strand of the vampire virus. Deemed the Reaper strand, it has mutated from the original blood sucking strand and has adapted a taste for vampire blood, as well.

This movie is chock full of action and is really good but it falls short of the original in a few ways. Part deux doesn't pull you into the dark world of the vampire/hunter struggle as the first Blade did.

Blade II is more audience

friendly as the creators were trying to appeal to a broader fan base and does a good job of it. It has some parts with humor and more beefed up action sequences using computer animation not available for use in the first. These additions, while making the movie rather enjoyable, are part of what hinders it from being on par with the first.

Jared Nomak delivers a very good performance opposite Snipes, but the chemistry of hero versus villain just isn't there as it was with Stephen Dorf.

While this is an excellent movie, and a welcome continuance for fans of the first, it is also (as most sequels are) a let down for fans of the first. I would recommend watching this movie because it is excellent and I give it 4 stars.

While an excellent movie, Blade II is a let down for old fans.

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