

Real men know it's swell to cry

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Can we talk ... *about chick flicks, that is?*

Dictionary.com defines the term as "a movie intended for and marketed to females, with themes, characters or events more likely to appeal to women than men."

Maybe that's how I missed "Once," the 2006 movie starring **Glen Hansard** and **Marketa Irglova**, who now perform as the **Swell Season**.

A friend fed me the award-winning soundtrack, but even that flew right over my head. So I went to Monday's sold-out the Swell Season show at the Uptown to explore hormonal imbalances.

"Oh, there's no imbalance," explains pinup artist **Jennifer Janesko**. "I think it's the romantic hope of what you want life to be like. It's that desire for the perfect life or the perfect boyfriend who chases you through the airport and stops you from getting on the plane to tell you he loves you."

*Was ad man **David Marks** an example of that ultrasensitive breed?*

"Keep looking," he advised. "I saw the movie and liked it, but I didn't cry."

Lawrence Journal-World entertainment editor **Jon Niccum** and his wife, **Ann**, were on hand. Is Niccum in the sensitive-guy camp?

"I'll give you a quote on that," he says. "This is the first time in history that my favorite movie of the year and my favorite album of the year were the same. I was absolutely blown away."

To the point of, you know, crying?

"Uh, during the movie," Niccum says. "Not during the album."

Did **Shortleaf Band** vocalist **Tenley Hansen** weep?

"Yes, I did actually," she says. "I saw ('Once') in the movie theater, and there were a bunch of old ladies by me and they were walking down the hall sideways afterward going, 'I just don't get it.' And I'm like wiping tears from my eyes and crying out loud ... but I cried when **John Denver** died, too."

So did **RecordBar** dude **Shawn Sherrill** really like the movie and music or was he just being a good sport?

"Yeah, I'm here for a reason," Sherrill says. *How about tearing up?* "Maybe, I always get a tear in emotionally downer movies."

Sensitive sound tech **Tom Hartnett** brought his wife, then proceeded to camp out in the lobby for the duration of the show, raising the question about the fine line between art and schmaltz ...

"I think it's even lower key than that," Hartnett says. "It's under my radar, but you just don't win an Oscar nomination for being schlocky."

If there was a romantic payoff to boyfriends who coughed up the ducats, then stayed for the entire two-hour, low-key show?

"Either that or when the girls get home the guy's going to get in a lot of trouble for not being romantic," Janesko says. "There'll be some crying, and there may be some romantic booty calls afterward — even if they're not romantic — because, I mean, no one could ever live up to these songs."

Then there's Bret

At the opposite end of the *chick magnet* spectrum is **Poison**-front-man-turned- reality-TV-star **Bret Michaels**, who performed at the **VooDoo Lounge** last month.

Netlingo.com describes *chick magnet* as an "object, such as a cute baby or dog, that a man uses to get women to approach him. It also refers to a guy who seems to have 'that something special' that makes girls want to hang around him."

Clearly Michaels has that in spades, but how does it differ from Swell Season?

They have a "sensitive, European, bohemian shag appeal," Niccum says. Michaels skews more to "aging, burned-out rocker, silicone-injected groupies. You're not going to see a lot of silicone at this show is my guess."

Nor any flashing, though one Harrah's staffer spotted that at Michaels' show.

"Down here by a pregnant woman ... it scared the (heck) out of me," he says.

Former *Penthouse* Pet of the Year **Elizabeth Hilden's** take on Michaels: "Honestly, I loved that show — more than a Poison show. I loved the covers and loved the fact that it wasn't all perfection, that he rolled with it and had a good time."

What Hilden sees in Michaels?

"He's smoking hot. I love the long hair."

*Cowtownner **Charlene Spoldt** hightailed it to VooDoo for the show straight from work.*

"I'm here because I love Bret Michaels, and I wouldn't miss his '**Rock of Love**' show," she says. "I work at **The Show**, it's a gentleman's club on 40 Highway."

What Spoldt liked most?

"Oh (gosh), the talent, his personality and I mean, he's hot — he's really in great shape."