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## Miss Potter hops on screen, nibbles at love

### Miss Potter

Directed By Chris Noonan

Starring Renee Zellweger, Ewan McGregor and Emily Watson

Opens Friday, 19 January  
Empire Theatres

JOEL TIEDEMANN

Arts & Entertainment Writer

For over a century, young children have been enthralled by the stories and drawings of Beatrix Potter, and in director Chris Noonan's film *Miss Potter*, a page is taken out of this historical figure's book, telling an enchanting tale of romance and staunch determination.

Based on a true story, *Miss Potter* follows famed children's author Beatrix Potter as she struggles beyond her socially accepted lifestyle in an attempt to become an established author. As the daughter of an upper-class British family in the early 20th century, Potter is relegated to a life of dull social events and is even depicted as somewhat of a rebel as a result of her reluctance to marry and undying aspiration to become a writer. When a small publishing firm agrees to publish her first book, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, she is absolutely elated, while her parents remain skeptical.

*Peter Rabbit's* amazing success sees Potter and her publishing firm's junior partner, Norman Warne (Ewan McGregor), enter into several other endeavours, which results in the two falling madly in love with each other. Contrary to her mother's wishes, Potter accepts Norman's marriage proposal, and what follows not only illustrates her enduring ambition to become a writer, but also the unfortunate path the couple's love took.

Although this type of sophisticated and dramatic role is somewhat new to Zellweger, she handles each scene with convincing realism,

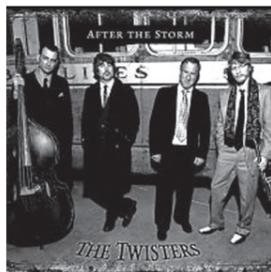
carrying much of the film on her own shoulders. Indeed, Zellweger is nothing short of phenomenal. Her accent is flawless, her character's love for writing is thoroughly convincing, and the raw emotions she displays are quite compelling. In fact, Zellweger's performance was inspiring enough to earn her a nomination for a Golden Globe.

**Although the movie does take a strong romantic angle at certain points, it should by no means be categorized strictly as a romance or chick flick.**

Adding to Zellweger's stellar performance is the absolutely breathtaking scenery of the English Lake District. The river valleys and rolling hills are nothing short of breathtaking, and the clever use of cinematography leaves the viewer with a sense of awe. The fact that all of the scenes were filmed in historically accurate locations adds to the realism of the film, helping audiences to connect better with the storyline.

Although the movie does take a strong romantic angle at certain points, it should by no means be categorized strictly as a romance or chick flick. The romantic scenes are surrounded by an intense storyline depicting the determined struggle of a woman attempting to break societal constraints. In several instances, the film keeps viewers on their toes by taking a more lighthearted tone with the interjection of several humorous moments.

With its impressive acting and magnificent scenery, *Miss Potter* is sure to be enjoyed by anyone who grew up reading the imaginative adventures of *Peter Rabbit*—and by those who didn't.



### The Twisters

*After The Storm*

Northern Blues Music Inc  
[www.northernblues.com](http://www.northernblues.com)

MARIA KOTOVYCH

Arts & Entertainment Staff

new jump/blues CD *After The Storm*. Even if this woman is "Krazy" for loving the guy in question, one would have to be "Krazy" not to love this CD.

*After The Storm* contains energetic, toe-tapping jump/blues tunes, many of which have catchy, fun lyrics. Slower, groovier pieces feature impressive harmonica riffs that are punctuated with deliberately chosen guitar chords. The result is an album that allows the band to showcase their vocal harmonies and impressive skill in playing different instruments, including the guitar, dobro, banjo and bass fiddle. Even the organ makes an appearance in this CD. Anyone who has ever visited the Edmonton bar Blues On Whyte will be familiar with the jump/blues genre, and anyone wanting an introduction to the genre can start by checking out this album.

*After The Storm* is a creative and fantastic CD that makes it hard to resist the urge to get up and dance.

"My baby, she's crazy is Krazy for loving me," sings the Canadian band The Twisters in their