

# Britney not the only disappointing thing about Video Music Awards

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Daily Texan Columnist

Admittedly, I am somewhat of a music elitist.

I love indie groups and frequently confuse my friends by name-dropping groups who play tiny clubs in tinier parts of the world.

Still, I appreciate the value of a catchy pop song and have Hanson, Kelly Clarkson and Rihanna aside those indie bands on my iPod. Thus, in my youth I adored the Video Music Awards.

The chic, glamorous musicians I looked up to most paraded across my television screen, and I drank in my first sweet taste of live music. The VMAs were not just a program on TV, but an event to be counted among my favorites each year.

MTV's Video Music Awards cultivated my current passion for music, which is why this year's awards were such a disappointment and why I am prepared to rip them to shreds.

I will say that I am not nearly as familiar with pop culture as I used to be. I don't ever seem to have time for television, and I avoid most radio like the plague.

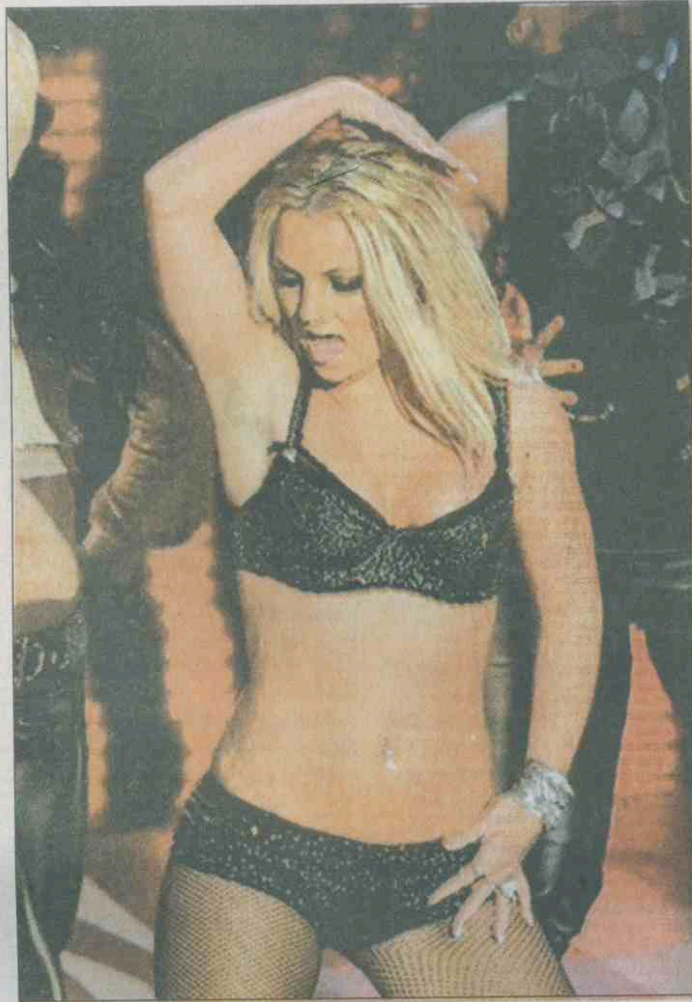
This makes my perspective on the award show a little strange: In my mind, I am comparing the 2007 VMAs with those I remember from before the new millennium.

The glitz of the production was therefore familiar to me, as so was a nearly naked Britney Spears opening the show in her sparkly underwear.

This was the first disappointment. I had hoped that in her attempt to stage a comeback Spears would be more creative. Instead, the same old lip-synching and glorified pole dancing (there were actual pole dancers!) made for an unimpressive and unsurprisingly objectifying display.

It was as if MTV used Spears' performance as a disclaimer that, yes, womens' bodies would be the ornament of choice for the night.

Sarah Silverman followed in her only appearance at the show. It was awkward and meaningless; the oft-provoking comedian seemed to have been sucked dry of all of her pizzazz.



Mark J. Terrill | Associated Press

Britney Spears performs at the MTV Video Music Awards held at the Palms Hotel and Casino on Sunday, Sept. 9, 2007, in Las Vegas.

She did make Paris Hilton (and possibly every other VMA attendee) extremely uncomfortable for about 10 seconds, which was humorous in a very sad kind of way. Then, Silverman (who, if memory serves me, was billed as the "host") disappeared, probably into one of the many suites where real concerts with actual music were performed.

TV viewers were allowed snippets of these shows, and I was always quite sad when the musicians were cut off in the middle of a song for a long and tedious commercial break.

Even when viewers were treated with musical performances, the sound quality was so incredibly horrendous that dogs the world over probably howled in pain.

Even talented performer Alicia Keys sounded just a little off. Still, her performance was far and away the best of the night because she did what MTV still falsely claims it does: performed music. Her voice soared, whereas performer Chris Brown decided to mimic Spears with a dance performance accompanied by professional lip-synching.

Justin Timberlake was able to one-up Brown by dancing and singing, but even his pumped-up performance fell flat, ending on a strange semi-participatory audience response game. Timberlake and Timbaland seemed engaged, but Nelly Furtado fell flat, fizzling the night out instead of bringing it to a proper close.

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