

American Gothic

Multitalented Cassidy makes move from in front of camera to behind it

One of the most intriguing shows headed onto TV this fall is "American Gothic," and one of the least likely of men is behind the CBS series: Shaun Cassidy.

Think back to "Hardy Boys." Think back to sold-out concerts and multimillion-selling pop songs. Cassidy, now 36 and a married father of two, spent much of the 1980s acting on TV shows and in stage productions, most notably the Broadway hit "Blood Brothers," in which he co-starred with his half-brother, David Cassidy. Even more interestingly, though, Cassidy has been busy of late working for Universal Television, writing scripts and producing programs. Though such telemovies as "Strays" and "Midnight Run for Your Life" bear his name as writer, Cassidy is about to hit the big time with the creepy, moody drama, "American Gothic," which he created, writes and, with Sam

Raimi of "Darkman" fame, co-produces.

Gary Cole stars as Sheriff Lucas Buck, who uses both menace and practiced affection to keep the denizens of Trinity, a quaint South Carolina town, under his thumb. In the show's pilot, airing Sept. 22, Buck murders a teen-aged girl who knows too much about Buck and his past, which includes having killed the girl's mother years earlier. The aftermath of the girl's slaying will resonate through subsequent episodes of the show, as her younger brother (and possibly Buck's illegitimate son), Caleb (Lucas Black) tries to evade Buck at all costs.

Other characters that viewers will encounter are Dr. Matt Crower (Jake Weber), a doctor who immediately alienates Buck in the process of protecting Caleb; Gail Emory (Paige Turco), Caleb's cousin, whose

past is as haunted as Caleb's; and Ben Healy (Nicholas Searcy), the sheriff's deputy, who witnessed the girl's murder but is too terrified of Buck to turn him in. On top of that intrigue, "Gothic" dips into the supernatural, as the dead girl's spirit pops up every so often to assist her brother in the corporeal world.

"Buck is pretty much a sociopath. I don't think he has a conscience. Power and control are the primary motivations for him, though he truly believes everything he does, however perverted, is for the benefit of all those around him," reveals Cassidy during a phone interview from his Los Angeles office.

"There is a minimum of a continuing storyline, much of which will be resolved by the third episode. The show after that will be pretty self-contained," adds Cassidy. "I know that was a problem with 'Twin Peaks.' To

be honest, I never saw 'Twin Peaks,' but I've obviously heard a lot about it because so many people are comparing our show to it. Most of the comparisons have to do with the fact that 'Twin Peaks' was very different and ground-breaking. I'd like to think we can be that, too, while avoiding what happened to that show."

If "Gothic" proves to be a hit, Cassidy could find himself back in the celebrity spotlight once again, though, this time it would be for his work behind the scenes. The writer-producer-singer-actor remembers his glory days with a combination of fondness and been-there-done-that maturity. Perhaps that is why he quickly shoots down the notion that he felt betrayed or forgotten in the quiet years following his teen idol reign.

"When something that big happens that quickly and, from

my point of view, was so unearned, you can not take it seriously. At least, I couldn't. I just tried to enjoy it and, consequently, I became very well known, and my name recognition allowed me to do a lot of good work in the theater, where I spent most of the mid-1980s," he explains. "When you're thrust at 18 into the public eye and into starring in a TV series, you really have not had time to learn, to live enough of life to justify that position. I did not feel that way, anyway."

"I really do think there is a very wide audience for this show, because it taps into so many universal themes. Good versus evil is as old a story as time itself," he says.

by Ian Spelling
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The Pub

by Eddie Edwards
Collegian Staff

Tired of the same, loud, overly crowded bars that you are used to going to? Why not stop over to Jimmy Z's Time Out Tavern, located on Buffalo Road in Wesleyville.

It's the typical local bar, with a warm, friendly atmosphere, and not crowded with an assortment of obnoxious people.

Actually it's a real "down-home place." Right on the bar tops you can locate your favorite football, baseball, and hockey players just by looking for their cards. It's really entertaining looking through some of the cards and reminiscing on the stars and no-names of today and yesteryear.

The activities in the bar include pinball, pool, darts and everyone's favorite, fusbol. Not to mention the televisions which are tuned into various sporting events from around the country. There are also tables available to sit at for your dining enjoyment.

In addition, Jimmy Z's hosts draft specials several nights of the week, and happy hour on Friday from 7-9pm.

Jimmy Z's menu has an assortment of foods to choose from for your dining pleasure. The two crowd favorites that everyone seems to enjoy are Jimmy Z's wings and waffle fries with cheese.

Just like the draft specials mentioned earlier, Jimmy's also has food specials. Monday and Thursday are 15 cent wing night. Tuesday is 3 tacos for \$1.25. The Monday and Tuesday specials run from 8pm-12am with Thursday's going only to 11pm.

If you're in the mood for a night out without those annoying interruptions or distractions, take a break to Jimmy Z's Time - Out Tavern.



Radical on the Hell city council.

By Leigh Rubin



"What it really comes down to is a question of values... Is a delicious, succulent turkey, baked to perfection, worth a few whacks on the nose with a newspaper?"

RUBES