

behrcoll5@aol.com

Christian rock resides at Behrend

by Jeanine Noce
Arts & Entertainment Editor

If Spencer sounds familiar to you, it could very well be that you have seen the band perform. Spencer has played at several coffeehouses in Erie such as The Hangout and The Revolution Café. They have also played at the First Assembly of God Church and several other churches in the surrounding area.

Spencer is considered Christian pop rock, but performs all genres of music.

"Everywhere from acoustic rock to heavier rock is what the band plays," said McGuirk.

Spencer has opened for several well-known Christian rock bands such as the Canadian groups Capstone and Fear of God. The group has played at festivals, including Abbapalooza, with many big name Christian rock bands as well.

Who says Behrend doesn't rock?

The Christian rock group Spencer is loaning Behrend one of its members. Josh McGuirk, a freshman from Linesville, is focused on earning his plastics engineering degree along with the influence of Christian rock.

However, recently the band has gone from five to three members. McGuirk and fellow member, Jarret Acklin, have decided to part from Spencer indefinitely.

"We left because of college," said McGuirk. "God's place for me now is here."

Spencer was together for three years before college began. McGuirk has fond memories and wishes the best for the remaining three members.

"God brought us together for a reason," McGuirk said about the influence of his band. "These are five different people that had different musical knowledge that came together to be well organized."

McGuirk played acoustic guitar, electric guitar, bass, auxiliary percussion and vocals for the group; Jarret Acklin, who is attending RIT, played piano, keyboard and vocals. Currently, Nate Sutliff plays lead electric guitar, acoustic guitar and is the lead on vocals, Joe Boyd plays bass guitar, acoustic guitar and vocals, and Dave King, an Edinboro graduate, plays percussion and vocals.

Spencer was organized in June of 1999 and has kept extremely busy by performing more than 50 concerts a year. The band has played from Lockport, N.Y. to Nashville and everywhere in between along the East coast. Nashville was the band's largest accomplishment by being included in the Nashville New Music Conference event. The NNM had many bands showcased from around the country.



Spencer perform with the remaining three members on Aug. 24 at 11 a.m. at LAKEFEST. The concert will be held at Lakeside E.C. Church in Transfer, PA.

Greg Menza is the band's booking agent. He has worked for Christian bands such as DC Talk and The Newsboys.

"Menza is an agent who discovers bands that usually make it big," said McGuirk.

the band believing that they are self-proclaimed.

"God gives us the option to be self-proclaimed," said McGuirk.

"Calvary" is named after one of the songs on the album. Calvary was the hill where Christ was sacrificed and the song is about the

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CRITIC'S CRITIQUE BY DANIEL J. STASIEWSKI

The Scorpion King 'Rocks' theaters

by Daniel J. Stasiewski
staff writer

Anybody who's seen a Hulk Hogan film knows popularity in the professional wrestling world doesn't necessarily make a great movie or even a good actor (Suburban Commando, anyone?). For Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, the former still holds true. "The Scorpion King" is as chaotic as an action movie can get without falling apart. However, The Rock's ability to detach himself from his wrestling persona makes "The Scorpion King" stronger than this messy spectacle might have been.

When the vicious tyrant Memnon (Steven Brand) enslaves a prescient Sorceress (Kelly Hu) for the ultimate military advantage, a small group of surviving nomads hires Mathayus (The Rock), the last descendant of the ancient Acadian warrior race, to assassinate the Sorceress before they too fall to Memnon's forces. Instead of carrying out his task, a smitten Mathayus only kidnaps the Sorceress, but the damage is still done. Weakened by the absence of his mystic, Memnon prepares his forces for an all-out assault on the one man who can bring down his empire.

In order for "The Scorpion King" to succeed on any level, it had to make people forget two things: the WWF and "The Mummy." The Rock proves he's more than just a charismatic wrestling character in this mammoth

action movie. He's got the buff exterior of any action hero and solid enough acting chops. The only time I actually thought of him as The Rock instead of Mathayus was after he body slammed a city guard.

Yes, The Rock does raise his eyebrow, which wrestling fans affectionately call "the people's eyebrow." However, that eyebrow could easily become his gimmick, not as a wrestler, but as the action star he certainly proves he's destined to be.

So, the WWF doesn't stick its ugly little head up more than once during "The Scorpion King." What about "The Mummy?" The mark of "Mummy" creator Stephen Sommers is unmistakable. His characterization style and historical fascination are very obvious. If, for some reason, an audience member familiar with "The Mummy" film didn't know this movie is a "Mummy" spin-off, they would still be able to tell.

Aside from having a Biblical period setting, "The Scorpion King" seems as though director Chuck Russell was doing a film-by-numbers production of Sommers' popular creation. Every character, from the stubborn female lead to the strong-arm partner to the goofy sidekick, is the mirror of a character from "The Mummy." The characters aren't appalling, but they do lack the originality that a successful spin-off needs.

Even with the character parallels, it's the conflict between a hardcore

action film and a goofy-fun adventure that really hurts this movie. Many scenes ooze with more testosterone than the professional wrestling from which the film's star is gained. No five minutes go by without The Rock viciously slaying someone, and there isn't a fully dressed woman in this movie.

From there, the film then slides to a cheesy slapstick routine that worked in "The Mummy" and "Indiana Jones" only because they were closer to the present. I have to compliment the filmmakers for using a lumbering camel for The Rock's ride instead of a galloping horse, but the modern, sitcom-esque humor, complete with a comedic score, fails to enhance a movie that had its problems just as a frenzied action flick.

Truthfully, I was more impressed by The Rock's auspicious transition into action star than the rest of "The Scorpion King." The Rock obviously has the talent and the attitude to succeed in where names like Hulk Hogan, Rowdy Roddy Piper, and Andre the Giant have fallen short. There's really no reason to make a final comment about the rest of the film, because the real story is The Rock. Without him, "The Scorpion King" would have never existed.

★★★ out of 4

'American Bandstand's 50th... A Celebration!' airs Friday

Commemorating half a century of musical history, ABC-TV will present a two-hour prime-time special, "American Bandstand's 50th...A Celebration!," with Dick Clark hosting, on Friday from 8 p.m. until 10 p.m.

The special will feature a "Who's Who" of musical stars performing live or via film clips, both recent and vintage. The series debuted regionally in 1952, and American Bandstand began to air on the network in 1957. Clark became the host in 1956.

Performing live will be Michael Jackson, Cher, Alanis Morissette, Brandy, KISS, Stevie Wonder with Babyface, Village People, KC & The Sunshine Band and A Taste of Honey.

Also live will be a musical supergroup of top musicians led by Little Richard singing "Good Golly, Miss Molly." Members of the supergroup include Jim Belushi (harmonica), Stanley Clarke (bass), The E Street band's Clarence Clemons (saxophone), Alabama's Jeff Cook, Leif Garrett, "Spinal Tap's" Michael McKean, Ray Parker Jr., Johnny Rivers, the Go-Go's Hane Wiedlin and Susanna Hoffs & Debi Peterson of the Bangles on guitar.

Also performing are Ricky Mi-

nor (who will play guitar and also serve as musical director), Sheila E (percussion), Mick Fleetwood (drums), James Ingram and Billy Preston (organs), and members of Chicago's horn section: Lee Loughnane (trumpet), James Pankow (trombone) & Walt Parazaider (saxophone).

Among the many stars making special appearances will be Whitney Houston, Janet Jackson, Lenny Kravitz, Jennifer Lopez and 'N Sync.

The special will also include film clip performances by other stars who have glittered in the past half century, among them: Bryan Adams, Pat Benatar, Blondie, Michael Bolton, Boyz II Men, Captain & Tenille, Kim Carnes, Chubby Checker, DeBarge, Doobie Brothers, The Doors, Gloria Estefan, Connie Francis, Aretha Franklin, Gloria Gaynor, the Go-Go's, Jan & Dean, Jefferson Airplane, Chaka Khan, The Kingsmen, Gladys Knight & the Pips, Kool & the Gang, Patti LaBelle, Huey Lewis & The News, Madonna, The Mamas & The Pappas, Martha & The Vandellas, Olivia Newton-John, Linda Ronstadt, Diana Ross, Britney Spears, Rod Stewart, Donna Summer and John Travolta.

Save the Date! It's Official

The Grammy Awards are returning to the Big Apple. The 45th annual ceremony, scheduled for Feb. 23, 2003, will also mark the first time the kudofest will be held on a Sunday. The announcement was made at an early-morning press conference at New York's Madison Square Garden.

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New Releases

<p>Movies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Jason X' - 'Life, or Something Like it' 	<p>Video*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Behind Enemy Lines' - 'Metropolis' 	<p>Music*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kenny Chesney - Cee-Lo - Q-Tip 	<p>DVD*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Freddy Got Fingered' - 'Angels in the Outfield' - 'Acceptable Risk'
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*Release Date: 4/23

Watch the 2 hour season finale special of 'Law & Order CI' Sun. at 9 p.m.