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Erie checks into 'Rehab'

by Kristen Schrum
contributing writer

If you want to check out a band that captures the essence of rock n' roll, then you're in luck. Rehab, a local band with a ton of energy, is set to rock Rainbow Gardens on Oct. 11, where they will open for Donnie Iris at Z102's First Birthday Bash.

The show, which starts at 7 p.m., also features the Earthquakers. You must be 21 to attend. Tickets are on sale at Quaker Steak and Lube.

Whether or not parents acknowledge it, some kids in the younger generation still enjoy the "old time rock n' roll." Rehab has emerged from Erie to cure the public of the manufactured music out there today. Rehab is unique in a sense that each individual member is involved in the production and vocals of the songs perform.

In Rehab, there is not one shining star, but six. Rehab consists of Mike Bidwell on bass, Danny Buseck on drums, Gina Marie on vocals and 'vibes,' Tony Roussos on guitar, Al Sassman on keyboards, and Tim Schrum on guitar. The band members have coined their sound as "blues funk with a groove." Separately, each member of the band has been in the music business for years, and now meshed as one, they have found their match.

Marie, the only female in the band, keeps the energy rolling with her spunky style accompanied by her leather pants. It has been said that she sounds just like Stevie Nicks. Roussos is a music teacher at a local elementary school and an avid songwriter. Sassman and Schrum are extremely talented on their respective instruments, and have played together since their last band, Stiffy Harris and the Throbbers. Bidwell carries much energy throughout the sets and drummer Buseck plays his heart out each song. ~~When you put them all together,~~ the energy is immense.

Rehab performs some cover songs such as "Sweet Home Alabama," "Me and Bobby Magee," "Gold Dust Woman," "Magic Carpet Ride," "Rocky Mountain Way," and "We're An American Band." But the musical minds of Rehab have come together to create original songs, "Workin' for the Man," "Who Helps," and "My Fondest Dream," for their upcoming CD. The original songs of Rehab capture the spirit of the musical influences in which the band has evolved.

Rehab came together in 2001 and started out playing in local bars in the Erie and Ashtabula area. Only a year later, Rehab has landed gigs at places such as Rumrunners by the doc and Lake Erie Speedway.

Rehab prides itself on expanding its musical abilities. Rehab is willing to try new things, and because of this, it has been a big hit among the younger crowds, as well as older.

America's new 'Sweet' heart: Reese Witherspoon

by Daniel J Stasiewski
staff writer

It's official. Reese Witherspoon is a star. A year after "Legally Blonde" put her on the map, Witherspoon's undeniably sweet starring role in "Sweet Home Alabama" has established her as an extraordinary leading lady. Though the film itself is as hackneyed as most romantic comedies are today, Witherspoon's stunning screen presence towers above the tedious humor and predictable plot.

Melanie Carmichael (Reese Witherspoon) is the hottest designer to hit the New York fashion scene in years. As her career begins to take off, so, too, does her personal life. Andrew (Patrick Dempsey), Melanie's steady boyfriend and the son of New York's mayor, asks the fashion phenom to marry him. Before she even realizes she has accepted his proposal, Melanie finds herself on the cover of every tabloid in town. The highly publicized engage-

ment poses a problem, forcing Melanie to return to her home state of Alabama.

Once there, Melanie drops in on her estranged husband Jake (Josh Lucas) to get the divorce she's expected for seven years. Even with a face-to-face confron-

filmography. "Election," however, proved she had the talent, the ambition, and most importantly the charm needed to turn heads in Hollywood. In "Sweet Home Alabama," Witherspoon still has everything she had in "Election." Unfortunately, in the same fashion as Meg, Julia, and Sandra who all came before her, Witherspoon is rather quickly falling into a shallow pit of mediocrity. "Sweet Home Alabama" is the first slip.

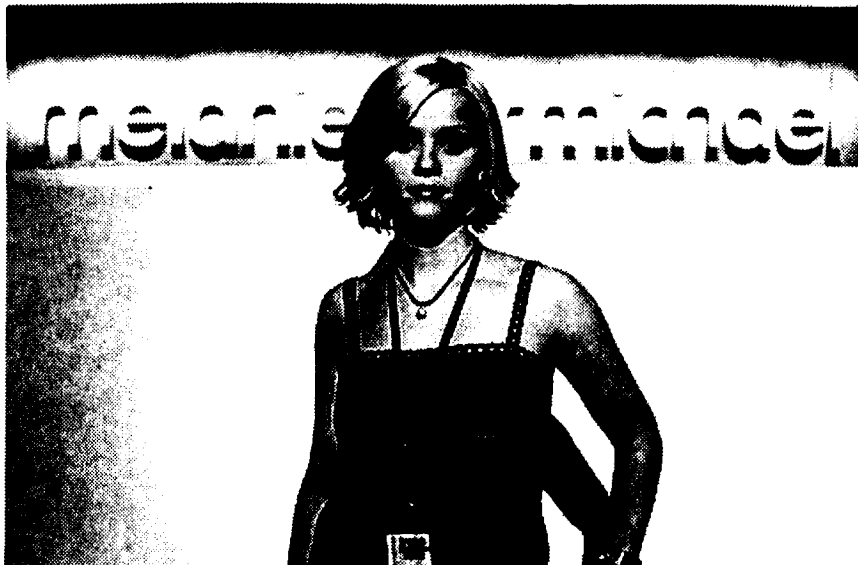
The film is predictable from the moment we meet Andrew. He's attractive, suave, utterly perfect, and still incredibly dull. He shares no chemistry with the free-spirited Melanie. Both Dempsey and Witherspoon try to send the New York

romance into orbit, but neither one can make the characters connect. Down South, the romance is no better. Lucas portrays Jake with an exaggerated hostility that falls somewhere between soap opera and sitcom. The fiery fights Witherspoon and Lucas engage in just substitute for the lack of any real flame between the actors. Though Andrew and Jake do end up impressing Melanie, the romance is still safe and uncomplicated. What the love interests lack in chemis-

try, the rest of the cast does provide. The moment Melanie runs into someone from her past, she goes from an overly intense cosmopolitan woman to a charming southern girl by liberating her untapped zeal. Melanie's relationship with childhood pal Billy Ray (played by Ethan Embry) is especially affectionate and provides more dramatic turns than the primary plot. The same can be said about her parents and even limited acquaintances. Actually, a postal worker has more chemistry with Reese than either male lead.

As for the jokes, most fall flat. Writer C. Jay Cox never really puts the humor first, which is actually a good thing. There's no compensating for the lack of comedy with slapstick routines, and Cox steers far from the stereotypical slow Southerner jokes that I was actually expecting. By the end, it's the "Yankees" who look like fools, while the South comes out on top.

True, "Sweet Home Alabama" could have been better, but I did enjoy it. If only because of Reese Witherspoon's presence, I enjoyed this movie. Star quality is found in the ability to make a mediocre movie watchable, and Witherspoon has it. The next time I see a Reese Witherspoon movie, I may be a tad biased in my appraisal. How can I not be, since "Sweet Home Alabama" has made me a fan?



Reese Witherspoon charms audiences in "Sweet Home Alabama."

tation, Jake still won't sign the papers. Undaunted, Melanie decides to stay with her parents until she changes Jake's mind. However, the longer she stays, the more she realizes how much she missed her family, friends, and even the man she is trying to divorce.

I knew Reese Witherspoon would make it big after seeing 1999's high school comedy "Election." It wasn't her first movie, with teen dramas like "Cruel Intentions" and "Fear" making up her early

Live from New York: 'Saturday Night' returns this week

by Rachel Lyon
staff writer

"Live from New York, it's Saturday night!" That's the familiar battle cry heard every Saturday on NBC for the past 27 years. "Saturday Night Live" will kick off its new season this Saturday at 11:30 p.m. featuring Matt Damon as the host and the Boss himself, Bruce Springsteen as the musical guest. The season premiere will also feature a new President Bush.

Although the durable sketch comedy has survived some tough times, some wonder how much longer will its success continue? With cast members exiting frequently and competition from late night rival "Mad TV," one has to wonder how much longer can "SNL" keep on keepin' on? Regardless, of the show's future, "SNL" has become one of the most enduring pieces of America's pop culture.

The past two seasons, the show has come back strong in the form of political humor. During "Campaign 2002," "SNL" picked up on America's growing obsession of politics, and answered in the form of Darrell Hammond and Will Ferrell. The two portrayed presidential candidates Al Gore and George W. Bush through the campaign trail to debates to the final decision.

Two newer faces at the Weekend Update desk, Jimmy Fallon and long-time SNL writer Tina Fey, are also credited for the show's recent rise in popularity. Also, after Sept. 11th of last year,

America needed to laugh. And who better provide that laughter than one of the country's greatest pastimes? And of which takes place in New York City?

This season, emerging young stars such as Chris Kattan, Tracy Morgan, and

Many consider this era the best in the show's long history. Dan Aykroyd, Chevy Chase, John Belushi, Bill Murray, and Jane Curtin all got their monstrous careers started in what became a cult fa-

Murphy, "SNL" bounced back the next year. Jim Belushi and Julia Louis-Dreyfess joined with Murphy to get the late night program back on track. Finally, by 1885, Michaels decided he had enough, and took back what was rightfully his. Gone were cast members Robert Downey Jr., Anthony Michael Hall, and Randy Quaid; welcome aboard Dana Carvey, Mike Myers, Phil Hartman, and Victoria Jackson. Seasons 1986 to 1990 would rival the first five years as the shows best.

The early to mid-nineties would showcase the best of the "featured players." Adam Sandler, David Spade, Chris Farley, and Tim Meadows rose to cast member status. The movie industry benefited from "SNL" with hit cult comedies like "Wayne's World," "Tommy Boy," and "Billy Madison."

But by 1995, many of the those names had moved on. Now, came the women's chance to shine. Cheri Oteri, Ana Gasteyer, and Molly Shannon have been praised as part of the best female ensemble in "SNL's" history. Shannon even scored an Emmy and went on to star in her own feature film, "Superstar."

Despite the rough spots, "Saturday Night Live" continues to seep into pop culture as it pokes fun at pop culture. This week, as the new season starts "SNL" promises to keep the laughs coming.



PHOTO FROM NBC.COM

Tina Fey and Jimmy Fallon help kick off a new season of "Saturday Night Live" this week on NBC.

Horatio Sanz must compensate for the recent departures of longtime cast members, Ferrell and Ana Gasteyer.

Debuting on Oct. 11, 1975, the program starred a cast of virtual unknowns, who would become household names. The first five years are dubbed as "The Not Ready for Prime-time Players."

vorite.

However, "SNL" ran into a roadblock (or a writer's block) in the 1980-81 season after Lorne Michaels, executive producer left.

The original cast had moved on, giving way to weak writing. But, thanks to an unknown funnyman named Eddie

Upcoming Erie events:

Ratdog
Oct. 15
7:30 p.m.
Warner Theatre

The Clarks
Oct. 18
8:00 p.m.
Behrend-Erie Hall

Tool
Oct. 19
8:00p.m.
Tullio Arena

Bill Cosby
Nov. 3
3:30 & 7:30 p.m.
Warner Theatre

The Goo Goo Dolls
Nov. 19
7:30p.m.
Warner Theatre

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