

STUDENT LIFE

Ryan Adams & the Cardinals wow Carnegie Audience | *Saw IV* frightens fans with gore, surprises with plot

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ryan Adams & The Cardinals play to versatile crowds while touring to promote their new EP.

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The performance by Ryan Adams & The Cardinals on Monday night at the Carnegie Music Hall in Pittsburgh was Adams' first show in the area in over two years. The unique set drew an almost sold-out crowd that consisted of a very diverse group of people.

Adams is touring with his band to promote his newly released album, *Easy Tiger*, which has been the highest-selling record of his thus far prolific career. He has released at least one record a year every year since 2003. Last week, the band also released a new EP that contains seven songs, titled *Follow the Lights*.

The concert was different from most, due mainly to two things: the unorthodox location and the diverse fans that Adams attracts.

The Carnegie Music Hall is known mostly as a venue that hosts classical or orchestral music concerts or plays, not the mainstream contemporary music that Adams & The Cardinals play. The concert was a seated affair the entire time, with rows of seats on the ground along with two balcony levels. Within the walls of the music hall, it looked like a cross between a campus lunchroom and a meeting between a group of insurance salesmen on casual Friday. There were a great deal of college-aged kids dressed in the usual concert-going garb, like hooded sweatshirts, fan t-shirts and jeans. The majority of those attending were more in the range of post-graduate to middle age and were clad in sweaters, blazers, khakis and pea coats.

Despite the uncommon atmosphere of the party, the band played a great show that undoubtedly pleased all members of the audience regardless of age. Since they opted to tour alone without an opening act (another uncommon aspect of the show), the band was able to play a set that was almost three hours long during which they only stopped for a five minute refreshment break and a joke from band member Cindy Cashdollar. Just before the break, Adams said to the audience that even though there was a strict curfew for the venue

said, "we still have an hour plus of a bitchin' good time." They seemed to flow with each other throughout the entire performance and didn't seem to grow tired or frustrated throughout, even though there was a consistent problem with the volume of the vocals.

The Cardinals played over 20 songs and did a great job with mixing in their older and popular songs with their new releases. There was no finer instance of this than the ending of the show, when Adams picked up his acoustic guitar for the first time of the evening to play his well-known hit that was featured in the film *Elizabethtown*, called "Come Pick Me Up." Immediately following his older song, he played his current smash hit, the first single off of *Easy Tiger*, called "Two."

Adams also played an up-and-coming hit near the halfway point of the show, titled "Halloweenhead," that was very appropriate for the time of year. The band also played it as an extremely different but melodic live version, with Adams playing the piano and singing slower and more melodically. The studio version is rampant with electric guitar and is one of the band's heaviest songs as far as instruments go.

Though Adams rarely spoke to the audience, when he did it was with warmth and humor. Every time he approached the microphone to address his fans, he made them laugh, which isn't something to be expected from Adams, who is known for his hot head and anti-social tendencies towards his fans. His body language throughout the performance also seemed to indicate that he was enjoying himself. He even threw out a few sweeping fist pumps and waves of affection. At the end of the performance, he addressed everyone, and thanked them graciously for coming and allowing the band to play.

If Adams & The Cardinals continue to produce music at such a prolific rate and tour the country so frequently, they stand a great chance of attracting even more fans to their work while maintaining their original fans, not unlike one of his major influences, Bob Dylan. Maybe they will still be attracting younger children, while the college students admiring him today will still show up to the shows, only now clad in sweaters and pea coats.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gory torture continues to haunt horror fans in the fourth installment of the *Saw* series.

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Following in the footsteps of the other three movies in the series, *Saw IV* proved to be equally gory, and equally as desirable. *Saw IV* opened this past weekend, on Friday Oct 26. On its first night, it was able to pull in approximately \$14 million worth of ticket sales, and throughout the course of the weekend, it earned a total of \$32.1 million. It is the second-highest debuting movie of the franchise, following behind *Saw III*, which earned \$33.6 million. The original *Saw* earned \$18.3 million, while *Saw II* earned \$31.7 million. Overall, *Saw II* and *III* each earned over \$80 million throughout their time in theatres. Every installment except for the first *Saw* movie has opened at number one in the box office, *Saw IV* included.

The first *Saw* debuted around Halloween in 2004, and there has been an additional movie every year since then. Although the first movie only cost about \$1.5 million to make, the newest movie cost about \$10 million. Lionsgate has managed to keep the costs for their films down by using little-known actors, yet they still manage to pull in tens of millions for their *Saw* films. Not only this, but they have also made a loyal crowd of fans. Nearly 90 percent of the *Saw IV* viewers asked in a poll reported that they had seen all three of the previous *Saw* movies, according to a survey conducted by the studio.

Saw IV picks up where *Saw III* left off, with the death of Jigsaw/John, played by actor Tobin Bell, and his accomplice Amanda, played by Shawnee Smith. With the death of Detective Kerry (Dina Meyer), from previous *Saw* movies, two new FBI profilers, played by Scott Patterson ("The Gilmore Girls") and Athena Karkanis are brought in to help close the case. Although the Jigsaw murders were thought to be solved, the FBI team is proven wrong when SWAT Commander Rigg (Lyriq Bent) is taken from his apartment and forced to play the "game" so famously invented by Jigsaw in previous movies. In his game, Rigg is given the choice to either play to save an old friend or lose and face whatever consequences he might have to. With the deaths of Jigsaw and Amanda, and the abduction of Rigg, it becomes clear to the detectives that they are looking for a third accomplice, and a new killer.

Saw IV contains many new traps created by Jigsaw and gives a new view into his early life, giving it the feel of a prequel. Although it is filled with blood and gore, the movie answers many questions as to why Jigsaw became a murderer and the life that he lived before he started to chose victims in an attempt to make them better "appreciate" their lives. It may even make you re-evaluate your life. The movie was written by Patrick Melton and Marcus Dunstan and directed by Darren Lynn Bousman, who also directed both *Saw II* and *Saw III*. It is rated R for language, torture, and sequences of grisly bloody violence. It is an hour and 35 minutes in length, and is a Lionsgate film.

Upcoming events on campus

"Picasso at the Lapin Agile" at the Studio Theatre. Showings will be held at 8 p.m. on Nov 2, Nov 3, Nov 8 and Nov 9. A matinee performance will be held at 2 p.m. on Nov 4. Tickets are \$5 for Behrend students, faculty and staff. General admission tickets are available to the public for \$7. To make ticket reservations, call 814-898-6242.

LEB weekly movie: *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. Showings start at 10 p.m. and run Wed through Sat.

"The Wiyos" will be performing at Bruno's on Nov 7 from noon to 1 p.m.

Behrend students find entertainment on weekends with Friday Night Bingo

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If you are ever bored on a Friday night and looking for something fun to do, Midnight Bingo is definitely a good option. It is held in McGarvey Commons on the first floor of the Reed Union Building and is sponsored by the Lion Entertainment Board. Bingo begins at 10 p.m., and runs until about 12:30 or 1 a.m. The first bingo board is free to all players, but for the more competitive players additional bingo boards are available to be purchased for 50 cents each. Also, non-perishable goods can be brought and exchanged for bingo boards. In addition to free bingo boards and free prizes, all participants were given free food. The LEB supplied players with pizza and soda once the gaming had begun.

Last Friday, Midnight Bingo offered many wonderful prizes such as gift cards to Sheetz, WalMart and Eat-N-Park. Other prizes included movies, candy, sports equipment, cleaning supplies, an air mattress, board games and even a PlayStation2 and an MP3 player. In total, there were about 50 different prize packages for participants to win, and all winners went home satisfied with their prizes.

Although the typical 5-in-a-row bingo pattern was used, the friendly volunteers from the LEB made bingo interesting by switching up patterns. Different variations of the bingo board were used,

including shapes and letters. Also, many rounds of speed bingo were played. Although some people chose to stick to the one bingo board allotted to them, others decided to use up to nine different boards at a time. Despite the fact that these players may have had a leg up during regular games, it was clear that speed bingo was quite a task.

One winner, Carly Smith, even had the luck to win on two separate occasions. For her first prize, she received a \$15 Eat-N-Park gift card, and for her second win, she was awarded a \$25 Barnes & Noble gift card. She said "Bingo was a lot of fun...I was surprised by the amount of people that were there...it was a good crowd."

Another winner, Kristen Hackett, won prizes including cleaning supplies and a \$10 WalMart gift card. She said that for her, bingo was "a great success and a good time." Liz Carey, a player with no wins, said that although she did not win, she still had a ton of fun with her friends, and would definitely go back again. She said, "I had fun playing, and am glad I went, but hopefully next time I will win a prize."

If you are looking for something to do, and enjoy playing bingo, Midnight Bingo will be held again on Friday, Nov 30 in McGarvey Commons. Please offer your support to Penn State Behrend and LEB by attending. Not only will you be helping the LEB, but it is also a free way to have fun with friends. Although winning is not guaranteed, it is still a fun way to spend a Friday night!



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