



Courtesy of myspace.com

Shinedown will join bands Puddle of Mudd, Skillet, and Like A Storm to play at the Bryce Jordan Center tonight.

# Major rock bands to perform at BJC

By Renée Guida  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Matthew Carroll has more of a relationship with Puddle of Mudd than just listening to their music. Carroll (freshman-psychology) has been following the band since age 11, when he won backstage passes and tickets to one of the band's concerts.

"I was getting into rock and roll, and I just really liked the drive they had behind the music," he said.

Puddle of Mudd, Shinedown and Skillet will perform tonight in the Bryce Jordan Center. Like A Storm, an up-and-coming band from New Zealand, will open the show.

BJC Director of Sales and Marketing Bernie Punt plans to host the band in a unique and intimate theatre-type setup, with space allocated for 3,000 people.

Matt Brooks, drummer and vocalist for Like A Storm, said opening for these bands and being on the tour has been a "dream come true."

"We're just real lucky to play with bands that are such great musicians, and then backstage, hanging out, they're such great people," he said.

Punt said the agents who represent the bands try to get up-and-coming artists to open for them.

"The fact that they're going to

## If you go

**What:** Puddle of Mudd, Shinedown and Skillet, with opening act Like A Storm

**When:** 7:30 tonight

**Where:** Bryce Jordan Center

**Details:** \$32.50, \$10 for Penn State students.

be seen by almost ten times the amount of people in one night and they're touring all over the country and all over the world, they're going to start getting a fan base," he said.

Punt said the hard rock genre is popular in the State College area, although he'd classify tonight's performers as adult contemporary.

Carroll's attraction to Puddle of Mudd at such a young age escalated when he heard them play live on stage, but even more so when he realized rhythm guitarist and vocalist Wes Scantlin was wearing a Philadelphia firefighter shirt Carroll had given to him prior to the show.

"With [Puddle of Mudd and Shinedown] at the show, the crowd gets really involved, and it's just a really awesome experience," he said.

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# Sanborn's jazz pleases crowd

By Chidi Ugwu  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Saxophone player David Sanborn said he doesn't think he's ever been to State College.

"Unless it was in the '70s, and you can't expect me to remember that," Sanborn said, joking with a packed State Theatre on Tuesday night.

This was one of the brief instances in which Sanborn, leader of the David Sanborn Quartet, opened his mouth to speak to the crowd. The group's performance was relentless, with each song flowing almost seamlessly into the next.

But the crowd didn't seem to mind the group's onslaught of jazz improvisations. The audience members developed a habit

"It definitely exceeded my expectations. I thought it was a fabulous show."

Mike Negra  
State Theatre executive director

of breaking into resounding bouts of applause mid-song to show their appreciation for particularly skillful displays of musicianship.

Throughout the show, each member had his time in the spotlight, showcasing his skill with lengthy solos ranging anywhere from 30 seconds to almost a full five minutes.

During one song, each member of the band left the stage one after another, and performed a solo before leaving, until only the drummer was left, with a single spotlight shining down on him.

The drummer's solo earned him a standing ovation and impressed looks from even other members of the band.

Mike Negra, executive director of State Theatre, said he thought the musicians blended together perfectly.

"It definitely exceeded my expectations. I thought it was a fabulous show," Negra said. "I knew I was in for a treat in terms of the musicians' playing. That was killer stuff."

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# Thespians hold 'Hair' auditions

By Chris Zook  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

It's been performed all over the world and is experiencing a massive revival on Broadway. And now it's coming to Penn State.

The Penn State Thespians held auditions Tuesday for their production of "Hair," a rock musical product of the 1960s. The musical was chosen in part because of themes that it shares with present-day America like unpopular wars and pacifism, director Meghan McNamara said.

"It has poignant themes," she said. "It'll definitely reflect with the audience."

"Hair" follows the story of a group of people living in New York during the sexual revolution of the Age of Aquarius. In its time, the production was highly controversial, especially for one scene in particular.

"It's famous for the nude scene even though it only lasts 30 seconds," Tom Szedlmayer (senior-civil engineering) said. "It's really not a big deal."

But that scene has nothing to do with why the Thespians chose to perform the show, he said. In fact, the decision is still pending



Christine Reckner, Collegian

Ryan Howell (senior-theatre design and technology) sings to a panel of judges during auditions for "Hair" on Tuesday night in Boucke.

## If you go

**What:** "Hair" auditions

**When:** 7 to 10 p.m. Feb. 3

**Where:** 307 Boucke

**Details:** Sign up for auditions on the door of 318 HUB

was one of the students on Tuesday who auditioned. The time setting of the musical is what attracted her to audition, she said.

"I like the whole hippie thing," she said. "I'm excited to be in my first college play."

But one of the biggest factors for those who judge the auditions boils down to a person's natural singing voice, vocal director Nicki Gutowski said.

on whether or not to include the scene at all, he added.

Michele Fufidio (freshman-division of undergraduate studies)

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