

# Broadway hits State

## Musical includes classic chart-topping hits

By Zach Geiger  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Downtown State Theatre is traveling back through time this month as Pennsylvania Center Stage presents the Broadway musical "Smokey Joe's Café."

The show features 36 of Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller's hit songs from the 1950's and 1960's — including memorable classics such as "Yakety Yak," "Love Potion #9," "Jailhouse Rock," "On Broadway," "Stand By Me," and "I'm a Woman," said J. D. Daw, Class of 2007.

"It's the music that brings them in," Daw said.

Hearing the music is a fun experience for both young and old audience members because kids will recognize the larger hits, and older audience members will remember the music and think back to a favorite memory, production stage manager Kevin Paulsen said.

"Out of the 36 songs there's maybe two I didn't hear before," Paulsen (sen-

### If you go

**What:** Pennsylvania Center Stage presents "Smokey Joe's Café"

**Where:** Penn State Downtown Theatre Center, 146 S. Allen St.

**When:** Through July 31

**Details:** Tickets start at \$24 and are available at Eisenhower Box Office, Bryce Jordan Center and Penn State Tickets Downtown

ior-stage management) said. "You can hear the music and remember an important time from your life."

The play is experienced like a memory or flashback — the way that director Amy Anders Corcoran, Class of 2010, personally interpreted the award-winning show, Daw said.

"It's the story of this neighborhood separating and coming back together," Paulsen said. "It's like a class reunion."

That sense of the group returning to its home neighborhood is the theme

that ties the story — and the music — together with the show, Daw said.

Both Daw and Paulsen agreed that the musical selection and the exceptional talent of the cast are the driving forces behind the production.

"The cast is sensational," Daw said. "Everyone involved is Penn State."

Each of the nine-person cast and the crew of "Smokey Joe's Café" is associated with Penn State somehow, including performer Steve Broadnax, an associate theatre professor, Daw said.

Corcoran has previously directed "Smokey Joe's Café" and was invited back to direct this summer's show.

The showings coincide during the 25th anniversary of Pennsylvania Center Stage, Daw said.

"Last time ["Smokey Joe's Café"] was low-budget, but it was fantastic," Daw said. "This opportunity is a full-blown, professional project."

So far ticket sales for the first three preview shows are close to selling out, Paulsen said.

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# New exhibit comes to Palmer Museum

By Eddie Lau  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The newest addition to the Palmer Museum of Art features an eclectic showcase of culture from classic literature to paintings in "A Room of Their Own: The Bloomsbury Artists in American Collections."

Christopher Reed, an associate professor of English and visual culture and guest co-curator of the exhibition, said the exhibition aims to encompass the whole visual culture of the Bloomsbury group through a showcase.

The Bloomsbury group was named for a town surrounding the University of London, which was centered around artists like Vanessa Bell and Roger Fry, among others, according to a Palmer Museum press release.

"At the beginning of the 20th century, Bloomsbury's members were trying to imagine what it would mean to live in a modern way," Reed said. "A lot of that imagining took place by way of imagining new and modern environments — places for people to be modern in."

Reed said the exhibition highlights how important Bloomsbury is to Americans.

"All the works in the show come from North American... collections, from museums and libraries as well as from private houses," Reed said.

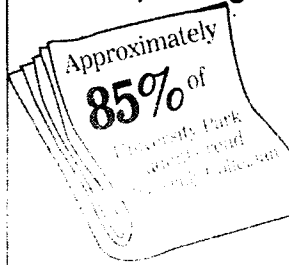
The Palmer Museum of Art has added pieces to the show, including books and letters from the Rare Books and Manuscripts collection of Penn State's Special Collections Library and others from local collectors, he said.

The exhibition will be open through September 26.

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