

# 'Smokey Joe's' takes audience back in time

By Kathleen Loughran  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Audience members of "Smokey Joe's Café" were transported back to the 1950s with pop and rock n' roll songs sung by actors from the Pennsylvania Centre Stage this weekend.

A neon sign, staircase and lit-up stars decorated the stage as the male actors came out in classic 1950s wear — converse shoes, suspenders, bow ties and pastel colors.

The female actors also fit the part with swing dresses, high heels and headbands.

The performance was entirely vocal and instrumental, with a small band off to the side accompanying all the songs.

"Smokey Joe's Café" Stage Manager Kevin Paulsen said the performances thus far have been "fantastic."

"This is one of the most talented group of people I've ever seen perform on stage together," Paulsen (senior-stage management) said.

Paulsen said two of his favorite songs that the group performs are "On Broadway," originally by

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Kevin Paulsen  
senior-stage management

George Benson, and "Don Juan."

During the first act, the songs mainly focused on the prospects of love. The actors performed songs such as "Ruby Baby," "Dance with Me" and "Fools Fall in Love."

In the second act, "Smokey Joe's Café" transitioned into a fancy, romantic nightspot where the men wore suits and the women wore sparkly dresses.

As some of the characters began to fall in love, songs such as "Loving You," "Love Potion #9" and "Charlie Brown" were performed.

Judy Davis attended Thursday evening's performance.

"I like it a lot," she said.

"They're very good."

Though Dave Davis, her husband, said he enjoyed the performance, he said he had one request.

"I thought maybe a little more

oldies for myself," he said. "I enjoy their dancing and singing, though."

At the end of the show, the audience gave the performers a standing ovation. But Paulsen said that was not the first time the group has received one.

"We have had standing ovations from every show so far, and every night we sell over 100 tickets," he said. "I was part of the original 'Smokey Joe's Café' done here at Penn State two years ago, [but] it was only a workshop piece then, and to see it grow and morph into this beautiful show has been a truly wonderful experience."

"Smokey Joe's Café" runs at the Penn State Downtown Theatre Center, 146 S. Allen St., until July 31. Tickets for the show range from \$24 to \$35.

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M. Antonio Silas/Collegian

Three members of The State Theatre Drama Academy perform on stage.

# Actors moral tales span globe

By Kathleen Loughran  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

"variety" of the plays that were performed.

As a giant globe spun in the middle of the stage, the audience waited in anticipation to see which land the children of The State Theatre Drama Academy would take them to first.

The State Theatre Drama Academy — made up of children between the ages of eight and 18 — performed "Theatre for a Small Planet" at The State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave. this past weekend.

The globe was used as a transition between the three stories told. Each performance focused on a particular culture.

When Earth stopped for the first time, the child actors transported the audience back in time to when Native Americans were the only people living in North America.

The first play was a Cinderella story retold: The family members, mistreated the youngest sister. But when the invisible Chief Rainbow Mist tried to find a wife, the youngest sister was the only one who was able to see him.

Because of this and the youngest sister's kindness, the two were then married, and the family realized they must treat everyone with love.

Emily Dry, age 12, attended The State Theatre Drama Academy's performance and sat in the front row.

"I actually like it, and I like the music," Dry said.

Jordan Roberts, age 12, who sat with Dry, said she liked the

Next, Earth landed on England, where a fox looked for someone to watch his bag as he went to run errands. Each time, he instructed the bag's caretaker to not look into the bag. But no one followed the fox's wishes, and as a result, he decided to take what was theirs as punishment. In the end, the fox did not win out because a boxing dog decided to teach him a lesson about taking others' belongings.

Michael Paley, whose daughter played the rooster in the English play, said he enjoyed watching that particular performance. "I thought that it was funny," he said.

Amber Cole, age 11, also said she thought the English play was "awesome" and added that the rooster was her favorite character.

The final land that Earth stopped on was China. In China, a family decided to help an old man find his home. Because of their kindness, the old man gave the family the keys to the ten thousand-treasure cave. Upon finding out about the cave, the dragon coerced the family to give the keys to him. But the family decided to lock the dragon in the cave to teach him a lesson about greed.

Dorothea Stahl she said she and her husband thoroughly enjoyed the performance. "We're loving it," Stahl said. "They did an amazing job with the sets and costumes, as well."

Partygoer Udo Sandhoefer told n-tv television that even though no one else was being let in, people still streamed into the tunnel, causing "a real mass panic."

"At some point the column (of people) got stuck, probably because everything was closed up front, and we saw that the first people were already lying on the ground," he said.

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M. Antonio Silas/Collegian

Two actors perform a musical number during "Smokey Joe's Café."

# Death toll rises to 19 after German music festival

By Frank Augstein  
and Venessa A. Gera  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

DUISBURG, Germany — The death toll rose to 19 on Sunday and police said that 342 had been injured in a panicked crush of partygoers in an overcrowded tunnel that served as the sole entrance to a German festival billed as the world's largest techno music party.

The tragedy shocked the nation and dominated news coverage on Sunday. Many were wondering how such a tragedy could occur in a country that in recent years has organized much bigger events, such as the World Cup four years ago, that went off smoothly.

This year's organizer of the Love Parade said the event —

which was held this year for two decades now — would never be held again.

"The Love Parade was always a peaceful event and a happy party" but would forever be overshadowed by the tragedy, Rainer Schaller said.

"It's over for the Love Parade," he said.

He spoke at a press conference where authorities faced tough questions, but provided few details, about why up to hundreds of thousands of people were funneled through a single highway underpass onto the grounds of former freight railway station used to host the party.

Rainer Wendt, leader of a major German police union, told the Bild daily that his group warned a year ago in vain that Duisburg was an

unacceptable location for the Love Parade.

"The city is too narrow, too small to manage the masses of people," Wendt was quoted as saying by Bild's website. He said the blame rests with the city mayor and the Love Parade organizers.

The founder of the Love Parade, Matthias Roeingh — generally known by his artist's name, Dr. Motte — blamed this year's organizers, saying "one single entrance through a tunnel lends itself to disaster. I am very sad."

German media reported that there were at least 1.4 million people but police did not confirm that estimate.

They said they have no exact figure but suggested that it was much lower based on the fact that the railway service registered

105,000 as arriving in the city by train in the preceding hours.

Detlef von Schmeling, the police chief in Duisburg, said that 16 of the 19 people killed have been identified so far. He said they include four foreigners — an Australian, an Italian, a Chinese citizen and a person from Holland.

Von Schmeling said their ages ranged from just over 20 to 40.

Witnesses said officers in Duisburg, a city near Duesseldorf in western Germany, closed the end of the tunnel emptying onto the festival grounds after they became overcrowded around 5 p.m.

They told revelers over loudspeakers to turn around and walk back in the other direction. But the entrance to the tunnel did not appear to have been closed and

people continued piling in, sparking a panic and then a deadly crush.

Witnesses described a desperate scene, as people piled up on each other or scrambled over others who had fallen. TV images showed huge masses of people packed inside the wide tunnel and people struggling to escape up an embankment when the chaos broke out.

Partygoer Udo Sandhoefer told n-tv television that even though no one else was being let in, people still streamed into the tunnel, causing "a real mass panic."

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