



Rhythm Devils, an off shoot of the Grateful Dead, will perform at the State Theatre.

Rhythm Devils to play Theatre show

By Josh Bollinger
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

They've been Dead, they've been Devils and soon they'll be at the State Theatre.

Bill Kreutzmann and Mickey Hart are best known for their roles as the percussion duo from San Francisco-based jam band The Grateful Dead.

Kreutzmann and Hart — currently the leaders of a band named The Rhythm Devils, an offshoot of the Grateful Dead — will play Sept. 8 at the State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave.

"There's definitely a lot of excitement," said Kristy Cyone, the theater's marketing director.

The Rhythm Devils — originally a nickname for Kreutzmann and Hart during their tenure with the Grateful Dead — will consist of Gov't Mule bassist Andy Hess, Back Door Slam guitarist Davy Knowles, The Mother Hips guitarist Tim Bluhm and percussionist Sikiru Adepolu on the talking drum for the State College show.

Cyone grew up listening to the Grateful Dead and said anyone can be a fan, no matter what age they are.

"I've seen everyone from students to retired people," Cyone said.

One of those students is Matt Levin (freshman-division of undergraduate studies).

"The Grateful Dead are definitely the first band I've ever listened to that completely took me out of this world," Levin said.

Levin has seen Kreutzmann and Hart

live when they played with the Dead at the now-demolished Wachovia Spectrum in Philadelphia in 2009, calling their playing "electric" and the best show he's ever been to.

"The whole place blew up," he said.

The Rhythm Devils incorporate Grateful Dead covers as well as originals in their set lists.

Cyone said audience members can hear the obvious Grateful Dead influence, but the two bands' sounds aren't exactly parallel.

"It's kind of a stripped down version of it — focusing on songwriting and instrumentals," Cyone said. "It's still fun. It's still a beat."

The Rhythm Devils rely on improvisation to carry them from song to song.

Matt Testa (senior-anthropology) said The Grateful Dead's ability to improvise over any song was exactly what drew him to their music.

"It's almost organic," Testa said. "That's why I appreciate jam bands more than any other kind of music."

Testa is also drawn to the bands' mellow nature, calling it calming and happy-go-lucky.

Levin also said he likes the Dead's music for its calming tendencies.

"They'll just make me feel better no matter what I'm doing," Levin said. "As bad as my day is I can always listen to the Dead and relax."

As far as the Rhythm Devils show, Levin said there's no way he can miss it.

"I feel like I have to go," he said.

Play draws reaction

Audience enjoys classic dramatic act

A local theatre troop takes on the drama and humor of "A Streetcar Named Desire," at the Boal Barn Playhouse Saturday night.

By Kathleen Loughran
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The façade of an old, blue house sits on the side of the stage. In the center, the stage is decorated with sparse furniture of Stella Kowalski's two-roomed house.

Audience members of "A Streetcar Named Desire" entered the lives of two sisters when The State College Community Theatre performed the play at the Boal Barn Playhouse, 300 Old Boalsburg Road.

Nancy Yoder, who attended Saturday's show, said she enjoyed the play.

"I think that it's wonderful... [there was] intense drama," she said. "It's a very good show."

After leaving Laurel, Miss., because of unfortunate circumstances such as the loss of her family's land, former southern belle Blanche DuBois moves in with her sister Stella.

Stella lives with her husband, Stanley, in a run-down home in New Orleans.

Blanche disapproves of their marriage because she thinks her sister deserves more, especially after Blanche witnesses a drunk Stanley take his anger out on Stella.

But Stella refuses to leave Stanley because she is having their child and is in love with him. Because of the situation, Stella is torn between her sister and her husband.

Throughout the play, Blanche tries to work through the misfortune she has found herself in, while still reminiscing about her younger, more fabulous years.

Cara Rangaswamy also saw the production on Saturday and said the character of Blanche added humor to the show.

"It's dramatic, but there's enough comedy with Blanche," she said.

Julie Laplante said her favorite character of the play was Blanche.

"I think it was great," Laplante said. "Susan Riddiford Shedd, who plays Blanche, was wonderful just because of the intensity of her acting."

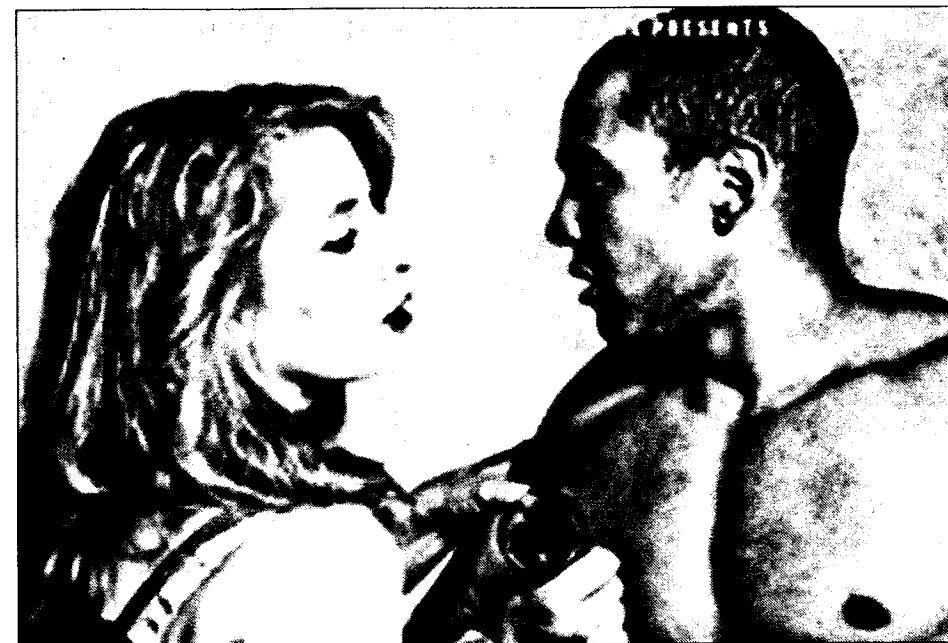
Sarah Seybert also said she thought the acting in "A Streetcar Named Desire" was especially good.

"I think it's very well done," Seybert said. "The quality of the acting is very genuine, and I think you can connect with it well. It's not fake or overdone."

Audience member Ann Parry said she likes the story of the play and enjoyed seeing Saturday's performance.

"I think it's excellent, especially the two women lead actresses. Their voices are strong," Parry said. "It's such a good play to bring with."

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Two actors recreate a scene from "A Streetcar Named Desire," at the Boal Barn Playhouse.

ABC stands by lineup

By Lynn Elber
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — The ABC fall schedule is "locked and loaded" and won't be changed despite a management shake-up, the network's new chief said Sunday.

Paul Lee, noting he'd logged just 36 hours so far as ABC Entertainment Group president, said "you can do more damage than good" by making last-minute changes.

Lee, 50, was put in charge Saturday of the ratings-challenged ABC broadcast network and ABC Studios after last week's abrupt resignation of Stephen McPherson. During a Q-and-A session with the Television Critics Association, Lee was guarded about his predecessor's departure but willing to praise the schedule he left behind.

"I felt honored to be offered the job" by Anne Sweeney, the president of the Disney/ABC Television Group, Lee said. "But I don't want to talk about Steve."

ABC has a "very strong lineup coming in" to the season next month, Lee said.

Lee, who as head of ABC Family incorporated the once-flagging cable channel, is in charge of development, programming, marketing and scheduling operations for ABC Entertainment.

The London-born Lee called the network "one of the premiere iconic American storytelling brands" that he grew up watching from abroad.

He made one particular favorite on the schedule clear.

"One thing I know, 'Modern Family' should win the Emmy for best comedy this year," Lee said, lobbying for ABC's freshman hit series at the Aug. 29 Emmy Awards.

Lee, who holds a master's degree in modern languages from Oxford University, spent more than a decade at the BBC as an executive, news documentary maker and entertainment producer.

He began as a reporter assigned to conflict-plagued Belfast, Northern Ireland.

McPherson's departure as programming chief at ABC came just days before he was to preside over the network's presentation of its fall schedule to journalists as part of the TV critics association's summer meeting.

Thrust into place for McPherson, Lee said that he had to cut a beach vacation short to make the meeting — and joked that he incurred his wife's wrath despite her encouraging him to take the new job.

But he is very familiar with ABC's schedule because of his job at ABC Family, which included promoting fare on the broadcast network. Lee said the network has "serious stars" and "great fresh faces" in its new shows.

McPherson left behind a new-programming slate that features actors including Matthew Perry, Michael Imperioli, Michael Chiklis and Dana Delany.

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