



Peter Tesoriero/Collegian

Fans cheer on Todd Park Mohr of Big Head Todd and the Monsters during the band's performance Wednesday night at the State Theatre.

# '90s band rocks State Theatre

By Lindsay Cryer  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Attendees stood up, danced and waved their arms while listening to Big Head Todd and the Monsters perform — proving that a good '90s band never gets old.

The band played at the State Theatre last night, opened up by local band J. Mac and Friends.

The opening band performed for more than 30 minutes and displayed their acoustic-folk sound to the audience, who ultimately gave a standing ovation.

The audience enjoyment never seemed to stop from then on.

By the many requests for songs and crowd's enthusiasm for each song, Big Head Todd and the Monsters proved to have many devoted fans.

Among those fans were Steve, 44, and Erica Amendola, 38. The couple, both Weirton, W. Va. residents, were clad in Big Head Todd and the Monster merchandise. Steve Amendola said that he and his wife have attended 21 Big Head Todd and the Monsters concerts in the last four years. After attending one of the band's concerts in Cleveland on Sunday, Steve Amendola said they were encouraged by the band members to make the journey to its next show in State College.

"They tour relentlessly," he said. "They tour and tour and tour."

The band played song after song for the audience, leaving almost no time to stop and speak

with the audience.

But those attending didn't seem to mind. A few seconds into the first song, audience members stood to their feet and began dancing, and after a few songs they were joined by many more.

Between songs, an audience member thanked the band for coming and playing.

The band's vocalist and guitarist, Todd Park Mohr thanked right back and went on to play one of the band's more popular songs, "Bittersweet."

"I really appreciate you guys coming out here on a school night," he said, laughing.

Mohr continued on and said that the best has played in the State Theatre before, adding that he was feeling better for this particular show.

"You really have a beautiful place here," Mohr said, "we're gonna light it up."

He then encouraged the audience to sit down for a few ballads and began with the song "Magdalena" and then onto "Secret Mission." Despite the slower tempo, audience members still rose to their feet.

Erica Amendola said the band's live performance is what keeps her coming back.

"You feel their energy and it's so good," she said. "Todd's voice is delicious."

Her husband agreed, adding a statement about their devotion to the band. "We're not fans," he said. "We're ambassadors."

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# Open mic night draws artists

By Hannah Rishel  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Students sat around study tables, on couches and in clusters on the floor while listening to their peers showcase their talents last night.

Students Organized for the Multiple Arts (SOMA) held their first open mic night of the semester last night in Waring Study Lounge of West Commons.

Sign-ups and set-up began at 7 p.m. While students waited for the performances to kick off at 8 p.m., they chatted amongst themselves as the guitarists tuned their instruments.

The Ghost Appeal, a duo comprised of Nick Miller on guitar and Nathan Larimer on melodica, kicked off the night with an original song that showcased the unusual instrument.

"It's kind of like a harmonica, but with a keyboard," Miller (sophomore-film) explained. "You blow into a tube that's connected to a keyboard and you play the keys at the same time."

The Ghost Appeal has played at SOMA's open mic nights in the past and plan on continuing the tradition this year.

The melodica was not the only unusual instrument to make an appearance at the event. A band



Nigel Graham/Collegian

PSU Geek performs a song on Wednesday evening in Waring Commons during SOMA's first open mic night of the semester.

called We Could Be a Satire with Bad Music used a computer to create techno music, while PSU Geek was comprised of a sitar, tanga drums and mridangam drums in addition to vocals and guitar. Another frequent player of the events, The Morows, is comprised of Ryan Purcell and Silvio Navarro, who played a song they named "Escape" at the spur of the moment.

"This song will be on our album that isn't made yet," Navarro (junior-elementary education) told the crowd.

The band also played a cover of "King of Carrot Flowers."

"It's a stereotypical indie

song," said Purcell (senior-electrical engineering), who plays ukulele for the band.

Ryan Fox also performed a cover.

"I swear I don't have Bieber fever," Fox (freshman-history) clarified before beginning his cover of "Baby" by Justin Bieber.

Fox, who was playing SOMA's open mic night for the first time, said he was inspired to learn Bieber's pop song when he heard a cover of it by The Neon Trees.

"It's a good song when you strip it down and Justin Bieber isn't singing it," he said.

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# Seniors offer filming opportunity

By Lauren Ingeno  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State students who have ever wanted to be on or behind the screen in a short film may get their big break tonight.

In 113 Carnegie, 12 groups of film majors will pitch their ideas for senior films to any student interested in acting, editing, camera work or providing other talents to helping with their projects.

"Our senior project is basically a senior thesis for film majors, except we do it in teams," said Bryan Marsh (senior-film, video and psychology), the director of senior film "LARPing."

"LARPing" is about a university police officer who dreams of being a real detective. When a murder happens on campus, he must navigate through multiple LARPing — or role playing — worlds to solve the case.

The films, which have already been written, will begin shooting

## If you go

What: Senior Film Cast/Crew Call

When: 6:30 tonight

Where: 113 Carnegie

to attend the meeting.

"Most of the time it's people who have little to no experience working with the equipment. [Film students] will teach them how to use the equipment outside of rehearsal time," Broscoe said.

Freshmen and sophomores who are interested in the film and video major can especially benefit from working on the senior films.

"You get to handle more equipment than you would have in any beginner class, and then when you get to advanced classes you have a leg up on other people in the major," Broscoe said.

The films won't be due until finals week for seniors, but some students rush to get their films finished in time for SFO's Penn State Student Film Festival, which occurs in April, Marsh said.

During the event, winning films will be showcased on the big screen at the State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave., Marsh said.

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