



Courtesy of myspace.com

Little Feat guitarists and vocalists will play at 8 tonight at the State Theatre.

State Theatre brings in Little Feat musicians

By David Strader
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Little Feat guitarist Paul Barrere said he played at Penn State 12 years ago, but his memory of the show is spotty.

"I've had 40 years on the road and a lot of gigs, so I don't remember a whole lot from that show, but I do know that Joe Paterno was still the football coach," he said.

Little Feat guitarists and vocalists Barrere and Fred Tackett will play an acoustic set at 8 tonight at the State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave. Barrere said he's always been a fan of playing to a young, college-town audience.

"It's always cool because the kids want to have a good time, but don't be surprised if there are a lot of older folks, too," he said.

Barrere said the former band Little Feat is known as a southern rock band associated with artists like the Allman Brothers Band, but the guitarists will put a certain spin on their music.

"When Fred and I go out there, we portray the songs in a more folksy, bluesy kind of atmosphere," Barrere said.

The acoustic set will incorporate the duo's skills on guitar, slide guitar, mandolin and mandocello — a bigger, lower version of the mandolin.

State Theatre Marketing Director Kristy Cyone said the Little Feat guitarists are ideal performers for the venue.

"Singer-songwriters are always featured really well because of the sound we can get with our setup," she said. "A lot of our renovations were done to highlight these kind of musicians."

And Barrere said he's always happy to play at a venue like the State Theatre.

"For the last three years we've been on tour in the U.K. playing small theaters and clubs, and it's always nice to play at a place like that," he said. "It's a really cool groove."

Barrere said he plays with a lot of improvisation on stage, and that's the way he likes it.

Phoebe Acheamong-Quaye (senior-broadcast journalism and marketing) said she is a big fan of Little Feat.

"I really love the mood that they put you in," she said. "Not a lot of people like that southern bluesy style, but I think it's very cool and eclectic."

Jacques Indekeu (junior-marketing) said bands like Little Feat have a certain requirement to live up to.

"In State College, bands — older bands, especially — need to make it more of a party than a concert," he said.

And Barrere said his duo's performance will ultimately give the audience a great night.

"If you like having a good time and listening to good music, this will be the place to be," he said.

To e-mail reporter: das5461@psu.edu

Artist to play for literacy awareness

By Courtney Warner
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Up-and-coming rap artist Shawn Chrystopher will go beyond music and highlight literacy awareness tonight.

Performing at Students Organizing the Multiple Arts's first show of the semester, Chrystopher will take the stage at the Paul Robeson Cultural Center's Heritage Hall at 9 p.m. for free. The University Park Allocation Committee is sponsoring the event.

Part of WOWIO'S Books Revolved College Tour, Chrystopher said he partnered with the eBooks company because it's a great way to promote education and literacy.

By touring college campuses, more people can be reached, he said.

"When you perform at a college, most of the people who are there aren't from that state, so then they go home and spread the word," Chrystopher said.

Zak Sobel, a Penn State Songwriters Club member, said touring across college campuses is a good way to spread awareness.

"People who are in college right now are the future working force, so we will be making the impact that the organization is trying to make," Sobel (senior-Spanish) said.

For Chrystopher, who said he never duplicates a concert, originality is key.

He said "no flow's the same, no melody's similar and no story's retold."

And Chrystopher said he uses his birth name as his stage name to make

his music last longer in the industry. "No gimmicks. They only last so long, and musicians want their music to last forever," he said.

Chrystopher wants his audience to see that he is a person who does what he loves.

"I want them to watch a dude who enjoys what he does, interacts with the crowd and doesn't want people to think that he feels like he has to do a gig," he said.

Chrystopher graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in political science while studying on a four-year scholarship.

As seen by his academic endeavors, Chrystopher is a "young man who has succeeded in his dream while exerting intellect and articulation," said Brian Foote, vice president of sales and marketing for WOWIO.

Chrystopher said rap artists promote education more than they used to because it wasn't as "cool" before — but now that his message is getting out, he's hoping people will learn they need an education no matter what they do.

Christina Tarantini (freshman-division of undergraduate studies) said having a hip-hop artist pair with a company that promotes online reading is an effective approach to reach students.

"Chrystopher being a rap artist appeals to people our age because we listen to rap," she said.

Tarantini said she was surprised to hear about Chrystopher's educational background.



Courtesy of myspace.com

Shawn Chrystopher will perform in the HUB tonight to raise literacy awareness.

"Rarely do we hear of educated musicians, so this makes his performance more exciting because he will have more substance to his music," she said.

If you go

What: WOWIO'S Books Revolved College Tour featuring Shawn Chrystopher

When: 9 p.m. tonight

Where: Paul Robeson Cultural Center's Heritage Hall

Cirque de Soleil to honor Michael Jackson

Ryan Pearson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Cirque du Soleil is taking Neverland Ranch on the road.

The first of the acrobatic troupe's two planned Michael Jackson shows will be set in a stylized version of the singer's famed Southern California home, according to Jamie King, writer and director of what Cirque is billing as "Michael Jackson. THE IMMORTAL World Tour."

"It is really about a central character or characters who get transported into this world of Neverland where they learn everything there is to know about Michael," said King, who has

directed concert tours for Madonna, Rihanna and Celine Dion.

The tour will kick off in Montreal next October and hit 30 cities including New York, Miami, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Las Vegas. John Branca, co-executor of Jackson's estate, said that depending on fan response, it could be extended beyond its planned end in the summer of 2012 and travel outside of North America.

Excerpts from Jackson's music videos and extended scenes from last year's "This Is It" documentary will be part of the 90-minute show, but no performer will represent Jackson specifically.

"Michael Jackson is throughout the entire show but in no way am I going

to use a stand-in," King said, adding that songs would include hits from "Thriller" to "Smooth Criminal," as well as new remixes like those made for Cirque's Beatles show, "Love."

"Immortal" will also feature as-yet-unreleased songs that Jackson had finished before his death last year, including some from an album that the singer's estate hopes will go on sale by Christmas, Branca said.

Concept art for the set prominently features a massive tree, which represents a favorite oak that sat outside Jackson's Neverland bedroom, King said. The singer nicknamed it the Giving Tree and had a perch built atop it where he wrote music and sometimes slept.

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