

Indigo Girl to perform in State College

By Courtney Warner
FOR THE COLLEGIATE

When J.R. Mangan heard about Indigo Girl Amy Ray's solo tour, he wanted to bring her to his cafe.

Months later, she will now perform on Sunday in State College.

Mangan, co-owner of Cafe 210 West, 210 W. College Ave., said he booked Ray to draw an older crowd to his venue. The show is 21 and over with a \$12 cover.

Opening for Ray is local band Pure Cane Sugar, a three-part acoustic harmony group, and Ray's touring opener Mount Moriah.

Though the Indigo Girls have performed in State College before, this is Ray's first show as a soloist here.

Ray said her solo style is different from that of the Indigo Girls because it's more rock with elements of punk and soul — influenced by artists like Neil Young, My

Morning Jacket and the Distillers — but the significance of the songwriting is the same.

"The audience will hear a different sound musically, but I still emphasize the significance of the melodies as much as I did in Indigo Girls," she said.

Although Ray is different from the musicians he usually books, Mangan said it's exciting to try something new and he hopes it will be a positive change. She said her lyrics and the "dynamic stage presence" of the band will get the crowd involved in the show, because "the songs are easy to dance to and easy to sing along with."

"I don't want to tell people what to expect from our band because that's so arrogant. I want them to know that we are about music and having a good time," Ray said.

Though Ray is currently on a solo tour, she said the Indigo Girls are still active.

Abbey Farkas, a self-proclaimed "super-fan" of the Indigo Girls, said she loves Ray, but is happy the original band is still together. If the Indigo Girls broke up, she said, it would be a horrible shock for fans because the duo has great chemistry.

Farkas (senior-film and video) said she likes how the Indigo Girls accept each others' independent ventures — when one returns, the other will still be there.

Though she's never seen them perform before, Farkas said she intends to see Ray in State College.

"Amy has an edgy style that is heard on the Indigo Girls' albums, so the fact she emphasizes the same style in her solo career isn't anything unusual," Farkas said.

Ray said the inspiration for her songs sometimes comes from her desire just to have fun — others are inspired by her activism.

She said she wants her music to

If you go

What: Amy Ray from the Indigo Girls

Where: Café 210 West, 210 W. College Ave.

When: 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14

Details: Must be 21 to enter; tickets cost \$12

help others accept their individuality while helping others who are struggling as well.

"I'm not only a musician, but I'm a person, too. People help people," she said.

Ray is active in promoting local music and preserving cultural sustainability.

An open lesbian, she also participates in queer activism.

The Indigo Girls started an organization in the '90s that raised



myspace.com

Amy Ray will perform downtown.

money for a Native American environmental organization. She also built homes after Hurricane Katrina and helped struggling musicians who lost their homes perform again.

Farkas said it's a relief to see artists who go beyond their words and "practice what they preach."

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