

# Improv trio to jazz up audience at State Theatre

By Josh Bollinger  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Not every jam band needs a guitar player.

Jazz trio Medeski Martin & Wood will play at 8 tonight at the State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave. Tickets are \$25.

Mike Simpson (senior-psychology and Spanish) said the band's sure to get its creative juices flowing on stage.

Simpson has seen Medeski Martin & Wood multiple times and said its shows are usually improv-heavy.

Improvising is a trend typical for both jazz bands and jam bands and Simpson said Medeski Martin & Wood touches upon both genres.

Simpson described the trio's style as similar to a jam band's, but with a more funky jazz aspect than normal.

He said the audience never knows what to expect at one of the band's concerts.

"You get to hear new stuff every



Jazz trio Medeski Martin & Wood will perform at the State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave. tonight. The band is known for their improvisation.

time you see them," he said.

Simpson said the band accomplishes this by changing up its set list and by never playing a song the same way twice.

Medeski Martin & Wood is composed of keyboard organ piano player John Medeski, drummer Billy Martin and bassist Chris Wood.

State Theatre Marketing Director Kristy Cyone said the music she's listened to from the group is different from a lot of other bands.

Medeski Martin & Wood doesn't only change up its sound at live performances — Cyone said this also happens in the band's studio albums.

"They're constantly reinventing themselves," Cyone said.

She said the trio's shows are always high-energy and usually draw a large crowd.

"There's not too much of the time that you're gonna be sitting in your seat reflecting, that's for sure," she said.

That's the type of show Hallie Thompson (senior-biobehavioral health) is hoping to see.

She said she enjoys going to shows like tonight's concert for the type of crowd it draws. Concert attendees don't have to worry about looking stupid in front of anybody, she said.

Thompson said she likes to see

jam band shows because she can let loose, not worry about anything and dance to the music.

"It's like one big family having fun together," she said.

Thompson said it's refreshing to see a band without a guitar player — it's nice to see a variety in music.

Besides, Medeski more than makes up for the missing guitar on keyboards, she said.

"They have one of the most amazing keyboardists," she said. "I'm looking forward to seeing that."

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## If you go

**What:** Medeski Martin & Wood  
**When:** 8 tonight  
**Where:** The State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave.  
**Details:** Tickets are \$25

# 'Delicate' theater show set to please

By Heather Panetta  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Theater lovers rejoice: Students and residents have a chance to see a Pulitzer Prize-winning show by a playwright who has been called the greatest alive.

Presented by The Next Stage, "A Delicate Balance" by Edward Albee opens at 8 tonight at the State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave.

The play will take place on a stage that is surrounded on three sides by the audience. This is a different and more intimate way to experience theater, said Kristy Cyone, marketing director for The State Theatre.

"A Delicate Balance" covers a span of about 36 hours and centers on a couple balancing their relationship with life's unexpected events, like their adult daughter returning home after a failed marriage, the woman's sister living with them and some friends showing up unexpectedly, co-producing artistic director Jay Shucter said.

Albee devised a plot where fundamental aspects of life would be opened and examined through the main couple, he said.

Mary Skees, co-producing artistic director, said these are not only for the play, but also something the audience can take home.

"What's important are the questions, and by seeing the play it helps you explore them yourself," she said.

Shucter said the play offers a temporary resolution, but, like most things in life, the questions are still there.

"This demonstrates our ability to survive the perplexing questions of life," he said. "The arc of the plot shows that."

Shucter and Skees both said the play is best described as a serious comedy.



Members of The Next Stage engage in a scene from Edward Albee's Pulitzer-Prize winning show "A Delicate Balance." The show will be at the State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave., and focuses on family issues.

"Albee writes the wittiest dialogue that's full of one-liners," Shucter said.

"He recognizes how we verbally and comically torment each other by calling attention to our faults,"

Skees said this is the first full-length and fully produced Albee play The Next Stage has performed. She said the group chose this play because it is performed less frequently than other Albee creations.

Cyone is optimistic about the show taking the stage.

"There have been workshops at the State Theatre before using Albee's works, so I think people will especially go because of that and because he is noted as the greatest living playwright in America," Cyone said.

"A Delicate Balance" is the last show of The Next Stage's 15th season, Shucter said.

"We decided to give the audience a treat by rolling out the

heavy artillery like Samuel Beckett, Thornton Wilder and Albee," Shucter said.

Skees said it's been a very exciting but challenging season.

"We are always looking for plays about something that matters," she said.

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## If you go

**What:** "A Delicate Balance"  
**When:** The preview show is tonight. Other performances will be Nov. 12 at 8 p.m., Nov. 13 at 2 and 8 p.m. and Nov. 14 at 8 p.m.  
**Where:** The State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave.  
**Details:** Tickets are \$10 for the preview show. For other shows, tickets are \$16 for general admission and \$14 for students and senior citizens

# PINK clothing drive makes final push

By Samantha Arcieri  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Until 2:30 p.m. today, there's a place for any and all unwanted clothing.

Victoria's Secret PINK Penn State campus representatives are helping the community kickstart the holiday season with a clothing drive to benefit the Centre County Salvation Army.

PINK Campus Representative Michelle Turli (senior-advertising and public relations) said anyone interested in donating clothes can drop items off at the Penn State Book Store customer service desk. Both men's and women's clothing will be accepted.

Turli said each donation can make a difference.

"It is important for students to know that the clothes they've outgrown and will never wear again can fit someone else and change their life," Turli said.

She said the organization's goal is to collect 2,000 items. As of Friday, there had been 722 items donated, and Turli said the drive is "off to a pretty good start."

Turli said the idea for the clothing drive came as a result of the coordination of all PINK campus representatives around the country. She said the organization wanted to help benefit a clothing charity because PINK is a fashion line.

The Penn State Book Store has been a tremendous help in getting the project started, Turli said.

"We are not officially a Penn State organization, so it's hard to get inside the HUB Roberson Center," Turli said. "They link us to the students."

Marilyn Lewis, Penn State Book Store merchandise manager, said the PINK campus representatives have a positive impact on the student body.

"They have done a wonderful job trying to incorporate the community with the students," Lewis said.

She said having a bin inside the bookstore is a logical way to collect a lot of donations because the PINK clothing sold in the book-

"Penn State students are really passionate and spirited about helping."

Michelle Turli  
senior - advertising and public relations

store is extremely popular.

Jenna McCormick, Victoria's Secret Street Team member, said she will assist the campus representatives in counting all of the donated items.

"It should be fun," McCormick (senior-advertising and public relations) said. "Hopefully it will take a while, because that means we reached our goal."

Leslie Pinerio (sophomore-broadcast journalism) said she is interested in donating clothes.

"Every year growing up, I would have to go through my closet and find clothes that didn't fit," Pinerio said. "We would donate trash bags and trash bags of clothes to the Salvation Army."

Turli said bins are located in several churches downtown so members of the community can also become involved in the project. She said the Victoria's Secret campus representatives expect a positive response from the students.

"Penn State students are really passionate and spirited about helping," Turli said. "A pair of jeans you barely wear can become somebody's favorite pair."

## If you donate

**What:** Victoria's Secret PINK clothing drive  
**When:** The clothing drive ends today at 2:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Donations can be dropped off at the Penn State Book Store customer service desk  
**Details:** Any gently used mens' and womens' clothing items are being accepted

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