

Chronic Town plays 'Zaireeka'

The hookah lounge played the Flaming Lips' iconic 1997 album in its entirety Thursday.

By Josh Bollinger
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Sounds from a far-out psychedelic land filled Chronic Town Thursday night.

The Flaming Lips album "Zaireeka" was played in its entirety at Chronic Town, 224 W. College Ave. The album was released in 1997 and is widely considered one of the band's most experimental albums.

The album is a 4-disc set with different versions of the same eight songs on each CD.

The goal of the album is that when all 4 CDs are played simultaneously from separate audio systems the songs are supposed to sync together to create one album.

Jeff Van Fossan, co-owner of Chronic Town, said this is one of the reasons why The Flaming Lips are one of the most important bands of the past two decades.

"They brought a sense of experimentation into mainstream rock 'n' roll that hadn't been there in a long time," he

said.

Last night's event was exciting for VanFossan and fans because he said people don't really get a chance to listen to the album in its intended form very often.

He said Internet mixes don't do the album justice because the listener can't get the stereo surround sound effect the album is supposed to have, adding that the listener gets a much more "immersive" sound from listening to the album on four separate stereo systems because of the layers of sound the album produces.

Van Fossan said the album gives the listener a different experience every time they hear it because of the lag time between different sound systems.

But he said the whole point is to get a new experience every time you listen to it and that it's not meant to be synced perfectly.

Derek Schaffer (freshman-education) said that's why he likes the album.

"You never know what you're going to get each time," Schaffer said.

He said he's tried to sync up the album before and it's hard to get it just right.

Van Fossan described the sound of the album as encompassing the more "far-out" elements of the Beach Boys, mixed with the experimental rock of the

Mothers of Invention and featuring Phil Spector's "wall of sound."

Schaffer said he likes the band because of their original, space rock sound, adding that he's been a fan of the group ever since he saw it in concert.

"It was honestly life-changing," he said. "They're just real far out there."

He said the band has amazing stage presence and there's always something other than the music that the audience can turn their attention to like a light show, confetti and balloons.

"You weren't just watching a band play. They would also get you in on it," Schaffer said.

He said Chronic Town was a good place to host an event of that kind because of the "chill" atmosphere. Heather Light, 20, of State College, agreed with Schaffer, describing Chronic Town's atmosphere as "alternative."

"It's definitely a really cool place to hang out as opposed to frat parties," Light said.

She said her original intention of going to Chronic Town last night wasn't to listen to "Zaireeka," but it was definitely a deciding factor in her attendance.

She said she enjoys listening to the band because of the imagery she gets from listening to the music.

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Sarah Finnegan/Colegian

John Medeski of Medeski Martin and Wood plays the piano, keyboard and organ at State Theatre on Thursday night.

Renowned jazz trio kicks off winter tour

By Karina Yücel
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Medeski Martin and Wood kicked off their winter tour on Thursday night at the State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave.

Medeski Martin and Wood, a jazz trio, has been together since 1991, forming in Brooklyn, N.Y. and taking its music worldwide.

The theatre was filled with fans of all ages from high school students to senior citizens who were excited to hear the trio's eccentric sound.

Kyle Hardy of State College said he has been a fan of the band since 1997, when he was in high school.

Hardy said he is a big fan and tries to see the band as much as possible.

"My sister had their tapes and got me into them," Hardy said.

Bethany Seib of State College said she was introduced to the band from a friend who lent her Medeski Martin and Wood's CDs.

She added that once she started listening to the band, she fell in love with its style.

"I like their eclectic style and diverse instrument ability," Seib said.

Seib's friend chimed in, saying Billy Martin is his favorite part of the band and is an unbelievable percussionist.

Martin plays more than drums and during his well-received solo, he played many other instruments, hitting them in unexpected ways.

Martin made sounds that the

audience had never expected to come from the things he was using.

John Medeski and Chris Wood kept the feeling alive, both being able to play more than two instruments in ways many audience members never would have expected.

Medeski not only played keyboard, but also organ and piano at once.

He also used all the different sound effects on his keyboard to add an extra element to the music.

Wood switched between traditional and electric bass and also played some guitar during the set.

Each member received a solo and got to showcase their individual creative talent. Medeski and Martin chose to combine some of the instruments they play and make a musical collaboration by themselves.

This earned the crowd's admiration and cheers.

Attendees gave their love to Wood too even though he stuck with one instrument throughout his solos.

After and often during the performances, audience members would outburst with hoots and hollers to show the band their appreciation.

The crowd members made the performance that much better, with their appreciation and love for the band shown through their lively cheers.

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Broomball tournament to be held

By Courtney Warner
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Sports enthusiasts and '90s fans can attend a free Penn State Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Management-sponsored broomball bash tonight at the Greenberg Ice Pavilion.

Broomball is a sport that combines hockey with soccer and is played on ice. The object of the game is to shoot a ball into the opposite goal by hitting it with mock brooms.

The game features two teams of five people.

Since teams play in street shoes, as long as a person knows how to walk, he or she can play broomball. RPTM 356 (Programming in Recreation Services) instructor Kathleen Raupach said.

In the event-planning class, students are divided into 10 groups that work with a nonprofit organization to create an event.

The broomball tournament occurs every November and April and teams up with the Greenberg Ice Pavilion as its nonprofit partner.

The Greenberg Ice Pavilion will be broken into three sections so three games can go on at once.

"The bash is a different and safer activity to engage in than drinking."

John Chaddon
junior-information sciences and technology

Organizers' goal is to register between 10 to 16 teams.

Raupach said teams get to play multiple games until they're eliminated, so they have a chance to play rather than be immediately eliminated after losing.

Each year, the bash has had a different theme — last year's was the Olympics.

The group chose a '90s theme this year because it's different from past competitions and most of the students participating in the event grew up during the '90s, Katie Giampa (senior-recreation, park and tourism), who helped organize the event as a project for the class, said.

The event will include '90s music, trivia, costumes and team names.

Trivia winners will receive prizes like gift certificates and free recreational passes, she said.

Giampa said the bash follows a Lady Iceers game, so hopefully some of the crowd will stay after for the event.

"We would like to draw a crowd of under-21, because it's a fun opportunity for those who don't want to waste time in their dorms, but don't want to party either," Giampa said.

John Chaddon (junior-information sciences and technology) participated in the broomball bash last spring.

Chaddon said he heard about the event from his friend who was in the major, so he and four friends formed a team.

"The bash is a different and safer activity to engage in than drinking, and you still have the opportunity to hang with your friends," Chaddon said.

If you go

What: '90s Broomball Bash

When: 11:45 p.m. today

Where: Greenberg Ice Pavilion

Details: Admission to the tournament is free.



Kelly Rootes Murdy/Colegian

The cast of "My Favorite Year" pose in a scene during dress rehearsal at the Schwab Auditorium Wednesday night.

Thespians stage '50s-era musical

By Hannah Rishel
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

1954 is Benjy Stone's favorite year. Not his best or most successful year, but his favorite.

The Penn State Thespians performed "My Favorite Year" Thursday night in Schwab Auditorium. Other performances will be held tonight at 7:30 and Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 with Penn State student ID, \$6 with other student ID and \$10 for general admission.

The musical, co-directed by Evan Smith and Andrew Baglini, centers on the King Kaiser Comedy Cavalcade, a tamer version of "Saturday Night Live" set in the 1950s.

Benjy Stone has just started as a freshman writer — his dream job.

There he meets K.C. Downing, the assistant to the producer, with whom he develops an awkward relationship.

One week Alan Swann, the movie star Benjy idolizes, is set to

be the guest star. Trouble starts when Swann arrives to set the first day drunk.

King Kaiser is ready to cut Swann from the show, but Benjy protests. King Kaiser agrees to keep him on the show, but only if Benjy keeps him sober for the week.

Melissa Zabell had never heard of the musical before attending, but said that she enjoyed it because she likes discovering new musicals.

"I like the music," Zabell (senior-public relations) said. "I'm a music nerd so I love it when they break out into harmonies."

She added that her favorite character is Alan Swann because she liked the journey his character goes on throughout the musical, even though the story is told through Benjy's perspective.

Samantha Ramp also said Swann was her favorite character because of his "suave" nature.

Ramp (freshman-journalism) said she attended the show because one of her friends was

part of the ensemble. Her friend didn't tell her much about the show before she went into it so she was really surprised by how much she enjoyed it.

An unusual aspect of the show was the set, which featured a manual turntable that changed from the writers' room to the stage of the show to Swann's hotel room.

Ramp said that this was a "really convenient" way to switch the setting.

Lacey Floyd also went into the musical not knowing what to expect.

"I had heard of it, but I didn't know anything about it," Floyd (freshman-animal science) said. "I'm pretty impressed. I didn't know what to expect."

She added that her favorite scene of the musical was when Benjy took Swann to his family's home in Brooklyn because it was "charismatic."

"The entire show is charismatic actually," she said.

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Artwork of Native American students on display in Health Center

By Allegra O'Neill
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Award-winning Native American student art is stopping at Penn State on a nationwide tour, in which it will also be displayed in the U.S. Department of Education, the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, the Chicago Children's Museum and the Oklahoma History Center.

The Native American Student Artist Competition's winning submissions will be displayed in the Student Health Center today through Dec. 12.

The competition is designed to showcase artwork created by Native American and Alaskan Native students.

Students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 may submit art, while grades 6-12 may also submit

If you go

What: Native American Student Artist Competition exhibit

When: Today through Dec. 12

Where: Student Health Center

Details: The exhibit, sponsored by Penn State's American Indian Leadership Program, will showcase of winning artwork from this year's Native American Student Artist competition.

a personal narrative.

Students submitted pieces in January to be considered for the competition, according to the official website. Winning submissions included 21 art pieces and nine writing pieces, according to U.S. Department of Education's

"[The exhibit] is aimed at increasing awareness of both the leadership program and the education of American Indian and Alaska native students."

Susan Faircloth
associate professor of education

website. This year's theme, "Bringing Honor Through Education," marks the sixth annual artist competition created by the Office of Indian Education in the U.S. Department of Education, according to the official website.

The theme was meant to incorporate the importance of public education embracing the heritage and culture of Native American students, according to a press release from the U.S. Department of Education.

"The American Indian Leadership Program at Penn State is sponsoring this exhibit in celebration of its 40th anniversary," associate education professor Susan Faircloth said.

The exhibit is part of the Art on the Move Program sponsored by the HUB-Robeson Art Galleries, Faircloth said.

"It is aimed at increasing the awareness of both the leadership program and the education of American Indian and Alaska

Native students across the nation," Faircloth said.

HUB-Robeson Galleries Art Director Ann Shields said she picked the Health Center as the venue for the artwork because of the adequate space provided as well as the large number of student traffic through the health center on a daily basis.

"I think it would give the student artists pride in knowing that their work is being seen on a college campus," Shields said.

Jessica Rommelt said displaying the art in the health center is a good idea and a nice way to showcase the art.

"I know the health center is recently remodeled, and I know it has aesthetic attention put on it as far as the interior design," Rommelt (senior-art) said.

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