

YouTube Sens

Bo Burnham brings musical comedy

By David Strader
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

His name is Bo, "fo sho."

Musical comedian Bo Burnham will perform at 8 p.m. Friday at the State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave. The show will be part of the "Bo Burnham and (No) Friends Tour" presented by AEG Live.

Robert "Bo" Burnham, best known for his start as a YouTube phenomenon, will bring his musical comedy performance to the stage.

The artist's satire catalog includes such songs as "Bo Fo Sho," "My Whole Family..." and "Words Words Words."

Brandon Scott Wolf, Second Floor

Stand-up founder and Phroth head writer, said Burnham executes musical comedy with great success.

"For a kid just playing instruments and doing one-liners, I think it's remarkable," Wolf (senior-journalism) said. "He has incredible talent."

Burnham's stage performance incorporates his skills as a pianist, guitarist, rapper and traditional stand-up comedian.

Kim Zajac (freshman-secondary education) said Burnham presents his talents with great comic effect.

"I love that he's this awkward guy that always raps and sings corny songs, but he does it in an intelligent and funny way," Zajac said.

If you go

What: Bo Burnham & (No) Friends Tour

When: 8 p.m. Friday

Where: State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave.

Details: Tickets are \$25.50

Wolf said Burnham's extensive talent differentiates him from others in his genre.

"I think Bo Burnham is different because not many are as talented as him," Wolf said. "There are some that say he's a young 'Weird Al' Yankovic, but if that's what he wants, then he's doing a great job at what he wants to do. That's why I think he's so appealing to people."

Second Floor Stand-up President Ryan Munshower said musical comedy like Burnham's offers an entertaining spin on stand-up comedy.

"Music adds another dimension to stand-up that allows you to establish better flow and material," Munshower (junior-computer science) said. "Between what you're playing and singing, it's an entirely new dimension of comedic possibilities."

Burnham, 26, began writing songs and releasing them on YouTube in 2007. Munshower said the willingness to

which Burnham achieved fame is impressive.

"What's most remarkable about him is that he's achieved so much success in so little time," Munshower said. "It's funny, the idea of being in a small-time comedy club in college and then someone younger than you is going into the State Theatre."

And Munshower said he appreciated the young comedian's plans to play in State College.

"I am excited to see someone so young do so well," Munshower said. "And he's coming here when he could just as easily be playing in New York City. I do appreciate that from him."

Burnham's visit to State College is a beneficial addition to the local comedy scene, Munshower said.

"I've been pleasantly surprised with how many good comics we've had come out here," Munshower said. "I'm happy that we're important enough to have these big names come in and, while State College isn't currently a comedy mecca, I hope that one day it will be."

Wolf said Burnham has performed at Penn State through the Student Programming Association in the past, but he was not nearly as well-known at the time.

"He came to the HUB two and a half years ago, and not many people really knew who he was," Wolf said. "But two years later, he's here, and that's a testament to his talent and hard work."

