

Prog-rock band delights crowd at Alumni Hall

By David Strader
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

As balloons and people alike flew through the air, it was clear that Circa Survive was a success.

Progressive rock band Circa Survive played in HUB-Alumni Hall with openers Mercies and Erick Serna Wednesday night.

The end of semester show was sponsored by the Penn State Marketing Association.

Fans bounced balloons, crowd surfed and sang along with vocalist Anthony Green.

And Green said he also enjoyed the evening.

"This is the coolest college show I've been to," Green said. "I didn't expect to see so many people here."

Chris Troxell (senior-health policy administration) said Green was an impressive part of Circa Survive's performance.

"Anthony Green's voice is one of the most amazing voices I've heard," Troxell said. "It's outstanding."

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number of songs from their 2010 album "Blue Sky Noise."

The band also played tracks from its previous records.

Chris Butler (sophomore-nuclear engineering) said he supported the more "mellow" style that Circa Survive took with their most recent album.

"They're progressing a lot musically," Butler said. "They're maturing."

The Doylestown, Pa.-based band is fronted by Green, formerly of bands Saosin and The Sound of Animals Fighting, among others.

The Circa Survive show was the first live performance for the opening bands, which consisted of musicians known for playing in The Dear Hunter.

PSMA Entertainment Chairwoman Melanie Versaw (junior-marketing and advertis-

ing) said she was glad to see Mercies vocalist Josh Rheault shine outside of The Dear Hunter.

"He's always overshadowed because Casey [Crescenzo, of The Dear Hunter] has such a powerful voice, but Josh is really talented too."

Tim Musser (senior-marketing) said he enjoyed what Erick Serna's drum and guitar duo added to the concert.

"It gave the show some nice diversity, because he's a lot more bluesy," Musser said.

Versaw said the show was ultimately a success, selling upwards of 800 tickets.

"We've been working on this since August, and we had a lot of bumps along the way, but it all fell together," Versaw said.

To e-mail reporter: das5461@psu.edu



Kelley King, Collegian

Circa Survive frontman Anthony Green performs Wednesday night in HUB - Alumni Hall. The end of the semester show was hosted by the Penn State Marketing Association. The five-piece band played songs from their 2010 album "Blue Sky Noise."

Students 'freeze' to start conversations

By Joshua Glossner
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Students from multiple theater groups came together Wednesday to get the word out about February's Cultural Conversations festival.

Students met at the HUB-Robeson Center, and then headed to the ground floor to "freeze" at 11:30 a.m. for three minutes to raise awareness of violence-related issues.

Hannah Cranville, the freeze's organizer, said the event was able to bring groups like No Refund Theatre and the School of Theatre together, and succeeded in grabbing a few seconds of students' time and thoughts.

"It allows people to take a minute and stop to see what's going on around them," Cranville (senior-public relations and theatre) said.

Cat Farley, a student who participated in the freeze, said the event was a more peaceful way to try to get the word out about stopping all forms of violence.

"So many people walk through the HUB and come downstairs, so it's hard not to see what we are doing," Farley (senior-theatre) said.

Sean Lewis (sophomore-chemical engineering) said he enjoyed the event but thought more people should have been involved.

"I saw videos of things like this of people in a New York subway, so it was cool to see them do this," Lewis said.

After the three minutes of freezing, students handed out postcards with the message "Stop the violence — Start the conversation."

Farley said "the violence" refers to any type of violence, including ethnic, gender or religious. Lewis said the freeze was a novel way to raise awareness for the issues Cultural Conversations targets.

"You normally don't start a conversation with silence, so they were definitely making a statement," he said.

Farley said she focused on one



Chloe Elmer/Collegian

Miriah Rutledge (sophomore-english education) poses in the HUB on Wednesday morning.

thing during the freeze to keep her focus.

"I focused on a part of my friend's coat, and I was trying hard not to blink. Plus I had to stay actively still," Farley said, adding that it was hard because her eyes began to water.

Cranville said the Cultural Conversations festival is a showcase of plays about issues going on in the world.

The festival will take place Feb. 23-27.

To e-mail reporter: jdg5299@psu.edu

'Frog and Toad' musical features local children

By Heather Panetta
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Young children and their families out for a night of theater Wednesday saw a children's book brought to life on stage.

Singing Onstage presented "A Year with Frog and Toad" last night at The State Theatre.

The musical followed the friendship and adventures of Frog and Toad throughout the changing seasons and featured local children aged 6 to 9. Some of those adventures included making cookies, raking each other's leaves during the fall and sledding in the winter.

Beginning in the spring, the show opened with the musical number "A Year with Frog and Toad" and also featured some audience favorites like "Cookies" and "Merry Almost Christmas."

State College resident Allison Shea came to watch her son perform in the show.

Shea said her favorite song was "Merry Almost Christmas" and that the kids did a wonderful job putting on the show.

She said that this was a good opportunity for young kids who are starting to act.

"It's very important for them to start young," Shea said.

"I don't think they will have as much stage fright when they get older."

During the performance, several of the young performers switched roles and got the chance to play the lead characters.

Lemont resident Jennifer Lawrence, who is a first grade teacher, came with her daughter Lilly to watch one of her students in the show.

She said it was amazing to see the children work so hard.

"Giving kids this opportunity builds confidence," she said. "Anytime you see kids on stage performing I think you respect them."

And when asked who her favorite character was, Lilly had no trouble making a decision.

"Toad," she said with a smile on her face.

To e-mail reporter: hap136@psu.edu

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The Daily Collegian

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