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## Civic Takes the Hard Road

### By Mark Hunter

After nearly a year of preparation, the award-winning musical Memphis is about to hit the stage of Fort Wayne Civic Theatre.

Set in 1950s Jim Crow Memphis, Tennessee, the show follows the lives of two lovers from opposing sides of a city deeply

divided by race, yet increasingly connected by music.

With a cast of highly talented performers bringing to life the songs and dances of the mid-20th century American South, the Civic's production is sure to be a hit. At least that's what director Leslie Beauchamp thinks.

"I'm excited, but a little crazy,' Beauchamp said. "We've been looking at this for maybe a year with pre-production and research and meetings. The cast is crazy talented, but it's a difficult subject."

That's putting it mildly. The show opens with a pair of disc jockeys - one white, one black - spinning segregated records for their segregated audiences. The white music spreads across the city on high-wattage radio waves while the black music struggles to make it to the next block.

Into Delray Farrell's (Albert Brownlee) underground black music club walks the very white, very forward Huey Calhoun (Jake Wilhelm). Huey and Delray have more in common than it at first appears. They both love black music and they both love Delray's sister, Felicia Ferrell (Fatima Washington), a beautiful and powerful singer.

It's the beginning of rock n' roll, and Huey wants to make Felicia into a star (and his girlfriend). But some things you just are not supposed to do in Memphis. Huey talks his way both into a white radio station where he breaks the rules by playing black music and eventually works his way into Felicia's heart. Delray resists. Huey's mother resists. Felicia wins over white audiences, Huey earns the respect of Delray's friends. But compromises must be made.

For Beauchamp, the staging of Memphis, which won four Tony Awards in 2010, posed a challenge not just because of the demanding singing, dancing and staging the play requires, but because of the attitudes of times, both then and now.

"When you think of musical theater you think happy and bright," Beauchamp said. "But this is a darker subject matter, and it deals with difficult topics. Even in 2017 we

still have a lot of these topics happening today."

To broach such a difficult subject is not easy. But the cast got to hear a personal account from a friend of one of the actors.

"He came in and talked about his time in Memphis," she said. "He worked in the music industry, and he experienced Jim Crow the story that held him.

"When I read the story and listened to the soundtrack, I knew immediately that this was something I wanted to be a part of," Wilhelm said. "The music is awesome and grabs you right out of the gate with the song Underground.' But this show is way more than just great music. This is one of those

rare shows that is not only fun but also carries weight along with that. The themes running throughout still hit home today. The show takes place from 1951-60, but people today are still struggling to be seen as equals. Their rights are being obstructed or taken away. Huey was ahead of his time in his acceptance of blacks and his love of their music. He couldn't understand what the big deal was." Fatima Wash-

ington, who plays

Felicia, said several

things brought her

"As of late it seems most of the roles I've been attracted to have to do with race and relationships but from the 20s, 30s or 50s," Washington said. "With the current climate, it seems more relevant. I look at it in a positive way. So many times when you talk about race and relations it becomes an argument. When you have a medium like the arts it's a great way to open up the conversa-

Beauchamp said she was delighted to have Fatima Washington audition for the role of Felicia Farrell. It was a natural fit. Beauchamp said. Washington has for years wowed audiences around the country with her vocal talents.

"The first time I ever saw Fatima do anything onstage that wasn't just vocal. she did Jake's production of Violet at Arena (Dinner Theater). She was brilliant." Beauchamp said. "My husband [director Brad Beauchamp] had seen her, and he fell in love with her. Love at first sight. He put her in the Mountaintop, a two-person play with Ennis Brown who plays Gator in Memphis."

Joining Washington, Wilhelm, Brown and Brownlee in the lead roles are Pam Good, who plays Huey's mother Gladys Calhoun; Christopher Murphy, who plays white radio station owner Mr. Simmons; and Prentis Moore as Bobby.

The rest of the cast take on multiple duties as bar patrons, dancers, singers, ropejumpers. Beauchamp said in her 30 years in

To create Huey, the writers of Memphis David Bryan (music and lyrics) and Joe DiPietro (lyrics and book) - took the racial blindness of Philips and honed it to singlemindedness. Huey intends to make Felicia a star, even if the effort gets them both killed. In the end, it is Felicia who bears the brunt and reaps the rewards of Huey's efforts.

For Jake Wilhelm, who plays Huey, it was the music that grabbed him, but it was

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first-hand. Most of the cast is young and

they've never experienced it. It was really

nice of him to come in. Thankfully, we don't

pecially when it comes to the music. When

he joins the revelers in Delray's club, he is

greeted with less than open arms. But his

plea that he is there for the music, "the music

of my soul," as he puts it, eventually earns

him grudging acceptance. Then he hears Fe-

on the real life of Memphis deejay Dewey

Philips, whose free-form style brought white

and black music to listeners. Philips was the

first deejay to play Elvis Presley on the ra-

dio. He also got Elvis to reveal his race by

asking him where he went to high school.

The rest of the characters are fictional.

The character of Huey Calhoun is based

licia sing and his aim shifts.

For Huey, the divide makes no sense, es-

have things as horrible as that right now."

to the role.

Continued on page 6

Tou're probably reading this on or after February 16, but this blurb is being written the afternoon of Tuesday, February 7, 24 hours before the editor and publisher of this paper (who long ago quit referring to himself as Mr. whatzup), along with his wife (please don't call her Mrs. whatzup), are due to embark on an already once-postponed, five-day trip (two of which are set aside for travel) to Negril, Jamaica (no, not with the WXKE folks, just, as it worked out, simultaneously) from which we are due to return just in time to put the finishing touches on this paper before sending it to our printer in Kendallville.

As it happens, and because God apparently has a wicked sense of humor, it's also about a hour after an internet outage that our provider says should be fixed at the exact moment we were due to leave. It's our first internet outage in years, and it occurred right as we were getting ready to download the last feature story which, hell or high water, we're going to find a way to get in hand, edited and on the page before we leave.

We're well aware that this is both TMI and completely extraneous to your own attempts to put your bat to life's curveballs, but it is in its own way illustrative of what we are willing to do to make sure that you know whatzup in and around northeast Indiana. One way or the other, this paper will be printed at its regular time, delivered to its more than 350 drop points the same as it is every week and available for you to pick up and read at the same time and place that you always do. So enjoy. We'll be back next week, rested, ready and hopefully not too sunburnt.

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Website: http://www.whatzup.com
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Publisher	Doug Driscoll
Office Manager	Mikila Cook
Mohmostor	Drandan Jardan

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# You Got to Get In to Get Out

### By Mark Hunter

Want to make time fly? Have yourself locked in a room with a group of friends and try to solve a series of puzzles, riddles and brain-twisters with the goal of getting out of the room in less than 60 minutes. Not only will you witness time move faster than when

you are facing a deadline, you'll discover just how smart, or dumb, you and your friends are and how well you work together as a team.

An increasing number of people are doing just that, and not just with friends. Families test the adage of blood being thicker than water. Coworkers confirm who on the team is a leader and who is a follower or a leech. And it's likely a better way of judging compatibility with your betrothed than taking a canoe trip on a winding river in the rain. With liquor.

Escape rooms are the fastest growing physical adventure games in the world. According to a

July 2015 report by MarketWatch, in 2010 there were no permanent escape rooms anywhere in the world. The concept originated in Japan and quickly spread through the rest of Asia, then Europe and the United States. As of the date of the report, there were at least 2,800. And that's not counting the five that have sprung up in Fort Wayne since mid-2015.

The list, in no particular order: Escape Fort Wayne, The Chamber Escape Room, Room to Escape, Fort Wayne Escape Room and Hysterium Escapes. Each has multiple, differently themed rooms. Each has its own twist. And success is not guaranteed.

On a recent Friday evening, a group of five friends entered Escape Fort Wayne, located above the Fort Wayne Visitor's Center on Harrison, with the sole purpose of getting back out. Locked into the *Star Wars*-themed Escape from Tatooine room at around 6 p.m., the hopeful yet ultimately hapless quintet was still in the room when time ran out.

The interim was spent puzzling over puzzles and fumbling with locks. With a few helpful hints from co-owner Bill Collins, who monitored the group's efforts with cameras and microphones, progress was made. Math problems were solved. Codes were decoded. Safes were opened. Keys were found. But as time ticked into oblivion three obstacles remained.

"We have about an 80 percent failure rate," Collins said, attempting to soothe bruised egos. "But you did better than some."

Like others in the room escape game,

Cara Bouchard, who co-owns Escape Fort Wayne with Collins, her stepfather, said the idea to start one came unexpectedly.

"We were watching a show on the Science Channel, and my daughter said I should do it," Bouchard said. "I was like yeah, right. But the next day I couldn't get it out of my head. We started looking at properties a



week later."

Bouchard and Collins decided in August of 2015 to move on the idea; they closed on a property in September and opened their doors in mid-October. They've been busy ever since.

All escape rooms follow the same basic setup: you've got to get in to get out. The game requires intense focus, a variety of problem-solving skills and the ability to work with others. Which makes them perfect for corporate team-building.

Corey Ford, owner of Fort Wayne Escape Room on East Wayne, said corporate interest was unexpected.

"When we opened we didn't really anticipate the number of corporate events we would do," said Ford, who also owns Sport Wayne, Inc. "It seems like companies are really desperate to find something unique for their employees to do where they work together instead of going to a bowling alley or drinking at a bar. Departments that don't usually work together get a chance to form a team."

They also get the chance to be themselves, for better or worse.

"We had a whole entire Sheriffs department, and they're used to having search warrants, battering doors down," Ford said. "The very first group of Sheriffs, they pried one of the doors open that had a lock on it. It didn't break anything, but you can see people's personality really come out in the room. But they completed their mission."

Brett Molitor of Hysterium Escapes, located at the site of the Hysterium Halloween

haunt on Arden Road, takes the personality aspect one step further by offering in-depth assessments of team-building escape attempts. Molitor, who has corporate experience in human resources, offers analysis of teams using Myers-Briggs Type Indicator surveys filled prior to entering the game rooms.

"I have 10 years of experience in corporate training," Molitor said. "I'm certified in team process and team building. It's a facilitated team process approach. I take their survey results and observe them in the rooms. Afterwards, I debrief the teams and send the company a report. I try to keep it positive. Some companies really dig into that."

At Room to Escape, on Allen Drive, owner Jay Hatfield also takes the time to let players warm up with practice puzzles and then, after the hour is up, debriefs the teams. Hatfield said it's important to help the players understand what they just did, or tried to do.

"We have about 15-20 minutes before where we do warm-up exercises to get your mind thinking outside the box," Hatfield said. "After the game, we do a debriefing. We explain how to do everything. We talked to a psychologist about this. We take this seriously. If they don't know what the outcome could have been they get frustrated. We tell them what they missed and how they could have solved it. It's a pretty intense hour. We want people to have the full experience."

While corporate events are the icing for most escape rooms, the multi-layered cake is the groups of serious gamers and families. Jennifer Rau, of Chamber Escape Rooms in Riviera Plaza, said the main thing is to have fun.

"Our demographics are pretty wide," Rau said. "We've had people bring infants in carriers, but we don't recommend that. We have families with kids as young as five. The kids do surprisingly well at some of the tasks. We had a family hold a birthday party for their 82-year-old mother. She had a great time."

Rau and her partners come up with the puzzles and clues for each room, as do the other escape rooms in the city. And no matter the question or riddle, the solution is close at hand.

"For instance, if you need to know Barbara Bush's birthday, it's in the room," Rau said. "We asked people to leave their cell phones outside. They're useless anyway. You can't Google your way out of the room."

Continued on page 7

------ Jason Rowland -------

# Pop Culture Mash-up Artist Music Hall

By Benjamin Dehr

Jason Rowland's art is instantly recognizable - not because he doesn't have contemporaries, but because the subjects that he

chooses to modify to create this fine art are very

Take his piece, "Skeet Skeet Skeet," for example. The striped glove of Spider-Man is fairly recognizable while the thick, bold words around it not only give it a modernslang twist, but make a children's comic book hero into something humorous and raunchy.

Rowland, who hails from Winona Lake, has been exhibiting his artwork professionally for 10 years. It is not his fulltime job, as one can come to expect with many Midwest-based artists. During the day Rowland manages a car wash in Syracuse with his father.

Sometimes it takes a commonplace thing like a day job to produce exem-

plary art.
"I get bored easily and have to change things up frequently," he says. "I think that is one of the benefits to being an artist with a day job: I don't always have to stick with what goes over and what sells. I am free to make the things I like. If other people like it, that is a bo-

nus. If they like it enough to take it home, that means everything."

In the last four years, Rowland's art has become a second career that requires a good chunk of his time. He spends a lot of that time at the library in Warsaw.

According to Rowland, "Someone who works there keeps the comic section really full and it's great!"

Going through the comics page by page can easily spark an idea, even for someone who comes back time after time. Paper and a rough sketch begin the process when something specific yet familiar sparks an idea, or a hero's facial expression is just too interesting to pass up. Then the decision on size is made. Rowland constructs his own panels and frames so he can control the quality of the finished work, in a way producing a multimedia presentation.

When first viewing Rowland's art, one can't help but think of the term "pop cul-

ture," as the subjects are highly identifiable. "I pick the subject matter for my pieces depending on what jumps into my head at the time," he says. "I get influenced by pop culture, familiar logos, comic books, etc."

To create these pop culture mash-ups, Rowland first draws his images in order to hand cut each one out as a stencil to finally spray paint the final product.







Clockwise from top left: "Skeet! Skeet! Skeet!"; "Lucy"; 'Princess"; Jason Rowland

Rowland

draws each section to size on poster board and cuts the layers out, the most time-consuming process in creating his art. He then spray paints each layer, color over color, until the final image is achieved. Lastly, a clear epoxy resin is applied for "a melted glass

Everything Rowland does is by hand, though his pieces look like they are copied straight from something like The Invincible Iron Man #53: The Living Volcano.

look."

"I would love to learn to work digitally, but I never have any time to take a class or sit down and learn the software. Between family, work and art commitments, I am spread pretty thin."

You can find a good example of Rowland's talent in his piece entitled "Lucy." At first glance, the piece looks simple, but look closer and you can find much more detail. Lucy's hair is made up of drops of liquid, and the absence of pupils make the face look eerie. The addition of what one can assume to be tattoos (a cross, spider webs, two teardrops under the eye) add a punk

rock element. The teardrop tattoos also play off the real teardrops pooling in and around her eyes. This all tells you more about Lucy than you might first have thought, all within a single snapshot of a comic book belle.

Something so simple can indeed make the viewer think about how things can be so much more complicated.

Living in the rural Midwest, people might get the idea that living here can hinder an art career. However, with the addition of social media and the internet, everything is now easily connected. Rowland enjoys the "unlimited networking [that] can be done and ideas [that] can

be shared instantly. In Winona Lake, Rowland is not more than three hours from Fort Wayne, South Bend, Indianapolis and Chicago and less than four from Detroit.

"It's all right here; you just have to make something people want, be willing to drive and most importantly; show up on time.'

Rowland's influences include Jim Phillips, a graphic designer for Santa Cruz Skateboards in the 80s and 90s, and, more recently, Eric Clement, Steve Seeley and Joseph "Sentrock" Perez.

"All three

have a crazy hard work ethic. They're always pushing themselves and constantly creating new work. Seeley and Clement work in a similar subject matter as I do, and they're always making things that make me say, 'Why

didn't I think of that?'" he explains.

All these artists do have a similar style, and some of their work could very easily pass as Rowland's.

There is a difference, however. Rowland's pieces are bolder, as if the comic books they were inspired by were meant to be 30 feet tall, or the band's T-shirts the logos were taken from just came out of the box at the tour stop. They're a little more in your face, especially when viewing a large wood cutout of a stark, colorful face contrasting with a brick or white wall.

To see Rowland's work in person, you can visit Galerie F in Chicago, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art's Paradigm Gallery, Jennifer Ford Art, Pure Eatery in Fountain Square Indianapolis.

Rowland has a new exhibit opening for February's First Friday Art Walk in Indianapolis at New Day Craft.



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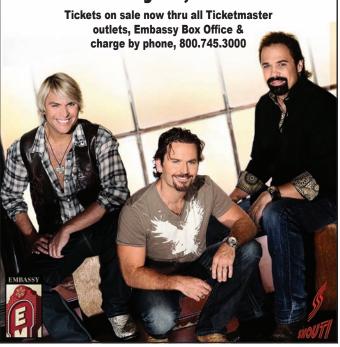
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### ----- • Oferle Familial Connections

### By Steve Penhollow

As band names go, Oferle is a great one. It evokes the word "offer" but with an enigmatic twist suggesting, perhaps, an offer with unspecified strings at-

As it turns out, Oferle is the last name (minus an "f") of two of the band's three members: siblings Annette and Luke Offerle.

A third member, Jonah Baker, is a cousin.

"I am half-Offerle," he said.

And it's pronounced "Oh-feerle" not "Off-erle."

Oferle have been accumulating fans and accolades of late. The band took first place in an Indianapolis singer-songwriter competition, and it was named one of Fort Wayne's top acts by WAJI. A late January concert at 816 Pint and Slice drew a capacity crowd.

The band recently worked on a song with Mike Daley, a Grammy-nominated songwriter producer who has collaborated with

Lady Gaga, Chris Brown and Rick Ross.

Oferle are a bit of a rarity on the Fort Wayne music scene these days: An enthusiastic embracer of slick, hook-laden, sweetly harmonized contemporary pop music as practiced by John Mayer, Colbie Calliat, Lady Antebellum and Sugarland, among many oth-

A talent contest at Indiana University was what gave the siblings the idea to form a band, and Baker joined later because he "wanted to get in on the fun."

The trio's uncanny chemistry was evident at the

"Obviously, we're family," Luke Offerle said. "But there's something about our sense of musicianship as well. It really has a good feel to it.

Being in their early 20s, the band members have written a lot of breakup songs.

"It's triple the heartbreak when you have three,"

Sometimes, a family band dynamic can mean more conflict, but not with Oferle.

"It's a lot easier to song-write that way," Luke Of-

ferle said, "We're naturally closer."

"We already have that established relationship,"

Annette Offerle said. "There's no judgment when we're telling each other our heartbreak stories. Since we know each other, it's easier to figure out what everyone else is trying to say."

There's incentive not to fight, Baker said, because they all see each other outside practices and perfor-

"I feel like there's less drama," he said, "because, if one of us quit the band, that would make for a really awkward Thanksgiving."

The band is gearing up for a busy spring and

summer of performances (including a gig at Indy's Rathskeller) and it's weighing what its next big move should be.

Thirty years ago, a band that wanted to make a national impression would have courted major labels and moved to one of a handful of big cities.

But the truths those moves are no longer selfevident.

Some suggested that Oferle move to Nashville, Luke Offerle said.

"That's been a

suggestion that's been swirling around the band," he said. "We've considered it."

But people in the know have advised against it. saying that Nashville is oversaturated with talent.

Trying to make it here in Fort Wayne makes more sense for the time being, Luke Offerle said.

'Stand out," he said.

"Focus on being a big fish in a small pond," Annette Offerle said.

A number of smart people have been saying recently that Fort Wayne is poised to be the next music mecca, a la Austin or Seattle, Baker said.

"Especially with Sweetwater the way it is," he said. "All the musicians that are moving here to work at Sweetwater and are gigging on the weekends."

Baker said he thinks Fort Wayne has a more vibrant and promising music scene than Indianapolis.

The goal of the band right now, Luke Offerle said. is to write a "crap ton" of songs and focus on being the

best musicians that they can be. "I think it's fair to say we want to be the best musicians in Fort Wayne and the best musicians in Indiana," he said, "because, if we're going to do this

music thing, why not be the best at it?

### From Page 2

theater she's never had a group of actors work as hard

"I was just overwhelmed with the talent that came out to do this," she said. "Some sing and dance, but it is good to see them come out and do the theater.

"Some of the cast didn't dance before this. They

think they're not dancers. But they worked on it. They came in early and got help from other cast members.

"I've never had a cast so willing to put in extra time. They'd come in early. If they weren't being used on stage they'd be off rehearsing. It's really made the cast into a cohesive group. It's been kind of cool."

-----Spins ----

### Nine Inch Nails Not the Actual Events

Do younger generations look at Trent Reznor and NIN as some sort of fossilized, angry rich uncle?

I hear folks a few years younger than me saying things of that nature, and maybe they have a point. What's Reznor got to be mad about these days?



Maybe the point isn't that he's angry. Maybe he's more of an impressionistic painter using sound as his colors? Aggression as his brush? I mean, people still go nuts for Quentin Tarantino's obscene, violencefilled talkie fests, and he's a rich, middle-aged dude. What's the difference, really? Even middle-aged dads need to vent sometimes, and NIN can help out with that. It's escapism for the responsible 9 to 5 guys and gals. They're a shot of adrenaline-infused anger that only kids of the Reagan 80s and Clinton 90s seem to really appreciate.

After the 2013 NIN album Hesitation Marks, the Reznor/Ross team has returned as and given us Not the Actual Events, a five-song EP of mix-and-match aggression that runs the gamut between techno punk, New Order-on-steroids electronic, slow burn material and white noise distortion blowouts. It's a nice tease that hopefully will be preceding something bigger and better.

Things start out nicely with "Branches/Bones," a kick in the teeth that's in and out in under 2 minutes. Feels like putting on a great old jacket that still fits just right. "Dear World" clicks and beeps along like a more aggressive Kraftwerk and to me sounds like Reznor honing in on all the great elements he's come across over the years. It's a perfect collection of sounds. "She's Gone Away" is a little too much like How To Destroy Angels for my taste - interesting, but ultimately a bit too plodding for an EP. "The Idea Of You" has Dave Grohl where he does his best work: behind a drum set. It's a heavy track that relies on dread and a machine gun blast of a chorus that's equal parts "Wish" and some sort of new age proto punk. "Burning Bright (Field on Fire)" feels like the next phase. It's slow, methodical, and a wall of white noise. It's a Goliath of dense distortion and bombast that still in its roots feels planted in the nerdy love of guys like Gary Numan, Joy Division and Suicide.

Not the Actual Events is a bunch of welcoming sounds to ring in the new year. Let's hope there's more to come. (John Hubner)

### Yussef Kamaal

### Black Focus

The sound of Yussef Kamaal's debut album, Black Focus, is as deceptive as it is warm and inviting. Deceptive, because at first blush you'd swear the album has that warm, atmospheric vinyl sound of classic jazz albums by the likes of Herbie Hancock and Miles Davis. And the basic jazz-funk



mode the album works in comes across not as a faint echo of that era, but a remnant from it. But even though it sounds gorgeously like it's decades old, there's no way it can be because it has too many elements of contemporary drum and bass.

That skittering rhythmic element reeks of UK club culture and pirate radio and immediately tags the group as distinctively British and distinct from contemporary American jazz revivalists like Kamasi Washington. Indeed, the sonic concoction found on Black Focus comes from the unique musical chemistry of Londoner-based drummer Yussef Dayes and keyboardist/producer Kamaal Williams (Henry Wu) who have been playing together intermittently since crossing paths in 2007. The pair has developed their repertoire organically; they reportedly started playing together with a simple chord progression in mind and took improvisational flight from there. That loose approach is apparent on Black Focus, even if the rhythms and resulting arrangements are incredibly tight. Even though the music is clearly sharp and tends to follow the rules of UK club music, it also has an easy flow to it that easily draws the listener in to go along on a blissed-out ride.

The rhythm, the drums and an amalgam of keys definitively form the basis of Yussef Kamaal's music, but there's also room for guest improvisers like Cuban trumpeter Yelfris Valdes and bassist Kareem

### BACKTRACKS

### Lee Michaels 5th (1971)

Lee Michaels was born Michael Olson in Los Angeles, but moved to San Francisco to begin his career as a musician. After playing a mean organ in a few bands, he decided to pursue a solo career in 1967. Recognized significantly by the industry, Mi-



chaels played several instruments on this release which featured only himself and Barry "Frosty" Smith on the drums with an occasional guest musician or two.

The album opens with the soulful "Keep the Circle Turning," a beautiful track that features Merry Clayton on backing vocals and a bright arrangement on the Hammond organ. It follows with "You Are What You Do," a folksy toe-tapper, and then Johnny Otis's 1958 hit, "Willie & the Hand Jive."

The soft ballad "Didn't Have to Happen" follows and has Michaels on both the piano and organ. Next the record comes storming back with the 1950s gem in "Rock Me Baby," a track that features a huge saxophone solo from noted sessions guy Jackie Kelso. Michaels' most familiar song, "Do You Know What I Mean," is on this record and charted at No. 6 on Billboard during the summer of 71.

Side two gets more progressive with covers of Lee Dorsey's "Ya Ya" and an enchanting version of Marvin Gaye's 1963 hit "Can I Get a Witness."

More than just a keyboard player, Michaels could hit some notes, and his vocals are at their best on this release. The album closes with the anti-love song "I Don't Want Her" which, with its synthy vibe, sounds like it could be from the 80s.

Michaels released just four more studio albums and retired from music altogether in the early 90s. Manifesto Records released a really good collection of his songs, titled Heighty Hi, in

Fun Fact: Michaels currently owns a six-restaurant chain, Killer Shrimp, in Southern California and Nevada. (Dennis Donahue)

Days. The band sometimes veers dangerously close to smooth jazz territory, but its club roots and far-ranging influences prevent it from staying in that mode for too long. It's almost like Yussef Kamaal are daring you not to notice how much territory they nimbly traverse with a minimal amount of flash and instrumentation.

While it may not have the elaborate horns of, say, early Miles Davis, in many ways Black Focus is the spiritual descendent of Davis's revolutionary "cool jazz" - there's a cool, detached elegance here that doesn't really vie for your attention, but commands it nonetheless. (Ryan Smith)

Send two copies of new CD releases to 2305 E. Esterline Rd., Columbia City, IN 46725. It is also helpful to send bio information, publicity photos and previous releases, if available. Only full-length, professionally produced CDs or EPs are accepted.

### ESCAPE ROUMS - From Page 4

Most of the escapes change room themes every so often, just to keep things fresh. The others try to sustain them indefinitely. Some use red herrings to trip players up. Others try not to send people down dead ends. Some of the escapes use linear clues where one follows the next until the final key is exposed while others take more of a matrix approach, where multiple clues eventually combine to produce the resolution. Molitor compared the various escape rooms in the city to golf courses: each has its unique sand traps and water hazards, but they all demand that you keep your eye on the ball.

Repeat customers are common. Escape Fort Wayne players Brienna and Heather Biebrich on a recent Friday were back with their friends to tackle Escape From Tatooine.

'We did the military room last time, and we got out," Brienna said. "It's a lot of fun."

The more people you have the better it is," added Heather. With that, the rules were explained, the group entered the room, the door was locked and the countdown began.

# Wooden Nickel CD of the Week

### **LEANN RIMES** REMNANTS

Anyone who remembers LeAnn Rimes' debut as a 13-year-old prodigy might be startled to realize that Remnants is her 16th studio album. It's even more startling that she sees the album as an opportunity to pick up the "most authentic pieces" of her tumultuous life after a re-examination and move forward. To that end, she's enlisted writers who've penned songs for pop music's biggest names and come up with a collection that melds pop with Rimes' own roots in country music. Pick up Remnants this week for \$11.99 at any Wooden Nickel Music store

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### **NIGHTI IFF**

### **BOOTLEGGERS SALOON & GALLEY**

Pub/Tavern • 2809 W. Main St., Fort Wayne • 260-387-6307 EXPECT: Golden Tee, jukebox, 3 TVs, free WIFI, deck patio, motorcycle parking available. Daily food & drink specials: \$1 coneys & \$2.50 18 oz. domestics Sun.; 50¢ wings & \$3 pitchers Mon.; \$1 tacos & \$1.50 domestic longnecks Tues.; \$1 drafts & 1/2 price pizza Wed.; \$12 buckets & \$1 sliders Thurs.; \$4 pitchers & smoked BBQ ribs, tips & chicken specials Fri.; \$12 buckets Sat. Getting There: Corner of Jefferson & West Main St., 2 minutes from downtown. Hours: 11 a.m.-3 a.m. daily. Alcohol: Full Service; PMT: MC, Visa, Disc, ATM

### **C2G MUSIC HALL**

Music • 323 W. Baker St., Fort Wayne • 260-426-6464

EXPECT: Great live music on one of Fort Wayne's best stages. Diverse musical genres from local, regional and national performers, all in a comfortable, all-ages, family-friendly, intimate atmosphere. Excellent venue for shows, events, presentations, meetings and gatherings. Food catered by local vendors during some shows. GETTING THERE: Downtown on Baker between Ewing and Harrison, just south of Parkview Field. Hours: Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors one hour earlier. Alcohol: Beer & wine during shows only; PMT: Cash, check

### **CALHOUN STREET SOUPS, SALADS & SPIRITS**

Music/Variety • 1915 S. Calhoun St., Fort Wayne • 260-456-7005

EXPECT: Great atmosphere, DJ Friday night, live shows, weekly drink specials, private outdoor patio seating. Daily specials, full menu of sandwiches, soups, salads, weekend dinner specials and appetizers.

GETTING THERE: Corner of South Calhoun Street and Masterson; ample parking on street and lot behind building. Hours: 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.; 11 a.m.-midnight or later Fri.-Sat.; closed Sun.

Alcohol: Full Service; PMT: MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

### CHAMPIONS SPORTS BAR

Sports Bar • 1150 S. Harrison St., Fort Wayne • 260-467-1638 Expect: High-action sports watching experience featuring 30 HD TVs, state-of-the-art sound systems and booths with private flat screen TVs. Great drink specials. Varied menu to suit any palate. Getting There: Corner of Jefferson Blvd. and S. Harrison St., inside Courtyard by Marriott. Hours: 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sun.-Thurs., 11 a.m.-12 a.m. Fri.-Sat. Alcohol: Full Service; PMT: MC, Visa, Amex, Disc, ATM

### **COLUMBIA STREET WEST**

Rock • 135 W. Columbia St., Fort Wayne • 260-422-5055

EXPECT: The Fort's No. 1 rock club. Live bands every Saturday.

DJ Night every Friday w/ladies in free. Also visit Bourbon Street
Hideaway, our New Orleans-style restaurant, in the lower level of
C-Street; open at 5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday (260-422-7500). Large
menu featuring salads, sandwiches, pizzas, grinders, Southwestern and
daily specials. Getting There: Downtown on The Landing. Hours:
Open 4 p.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat. Alcohol: Full Service; PMT: MC, Visa,
Disc, Amex

### CRAZY PINZ/COCONUTZ RESTAURANT

Games/Music • 1414 Northland Blvd., Fort Wayne • 260-490-2695

EXPECT: An exciting atmosphere for families. Bowling, arcade, laser tag, mini-golf and weekly live entertainment. Coconutz restaurant serves American cuisine daily with food and drink specials. GETTING THERE: North on Lima Road from Coliseum, past Sam's Club to Northland Blvd. HOURS: 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon.-Wed.; 10 a.m.-midnight Thurs.; 10 a.m.-1 a.m. Fri.-Sat.; noon-10 p.m. Sun. Alcohol: Full Service; PMT: MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

### **CROONERS**

Karaoke • 5629 St. Joe Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-486-1979

EXPECT: Great drink specials, laid back and mellow environment, 2 pool tables and a new karaoke system loaded with all the greatest hits. GETTING THERE: Located in the Canterbury Plaza between The Hub Entertainment Center and Epic Vapes. Hours: 8 p.m.-3 a.m. Thurs.-Sun. Alcohol: Full Service; PMT: MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

### **DEER PARK PUB**

Eclectic • 1530 Leesburg Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-432-8966

EXPECT: Home to Dancioke, 12 craft beer lines, 75 domestic and imported beers, assorted wines, St. Pat's Parade, keg toss, Irish snug and USF students. Friday/Saturday live music, holiday specials. Outdoor beer garden. www.deerparkpub.com. Wi-Fi hotspot. Finger food, tacos every Tuesday. Getting There: Corner of Leesburg and Spring, across from UFS. Hours: 2 p.m.-1 a.m. Mon.-Thurs., noon-2 a.m. Fri.-Sat., 1-10 p.m. Sun. Alcohol: Beer & Wine; PMT: MC, Visa, Disc



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### --- Calendar • Live Music & Comedy------

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### Thursday, February 16

Bucca Karaoke w/Bucca — Variety at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 432-8966

Chris Worth & Company — Variety at AJ's Bar and Grill, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 434-1980

COLUMBIA STREET UNPLUGGED FEAT. CHILI ADDAMS — ACOUSTIC at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 422-5055

FORT WAYNE KARAOKE & DJ'S — Karaoke at Nick's Martini & Wine Bar, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 482-6425

FORT WAYNE KARAOKE — Variety at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

Hubie Ashcraft — Acoustic at Checkerz Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 8-10 p.m., no cover, 489-0286 JEFF McDonald — Folk at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 489-2524

LEE LEWIS AND THE ALL STARS — Blues at Eagles Theatre, Wabash, 7:30 p.m., \$12-\$15, 563-1102

Odd Rob — Spoken word/poetry at Multi-Flex Theater, Indiana Tech, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., no cover, 422-5561

OPEN MIC — Hosted by Mike Conley at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 8:30-11 p.m., no cover, 426-2537

OPEN STAGE JAM — Hosted by Pop 'n' Fresh at Office Tavern, Fort Wayne, 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., no cover, 478-5827

Paul New Stewart — Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m., \$1, (260) 482-1618

SHELLY DIXON & JEFF McRAE — Variety at Adams Lake Pub, Wolcottville, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 854-3463

Sidecar Gary's Karaoke & DJ w/Ben
— Karaoke at Spudz Bar & Grill,
Fort Wayne, 7-11 p.m., no cover,
493-7292

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TRONIC — EDM at O'Sullivan's Italian Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 422-5896

### Friday, February 17

ADAM BAKER & THE HEARTACHE W/THREE CITIES, TRICHOTOMUS HIPPOPOTAMUS — Original rock at Skeletunes, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., \$5, 739-5671

Big Caddy Daddy — Rock at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., cover, 483-1311

CHRIS WORTH & COMPANY — Variety at 4D's Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 490-6488

CLIFF Webb Trio — Jazz/blues at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 426-3442

### DTL Impressed; Rocktopia Will Too

I would like to start this week's column by giving praise to all involved in making this year's installment of Down the Line a tremendous success. A night complete with dancing, standing ovations, a Trump mention and superb musicianship that will indeed go down in the DTL history book. Whether or not you were a fan of the artists covered that evening at the beautiful Embassy Theatre, the locals added their own special ingredients to the mix and kept everyone entertained and on their feet.

I don't recall ever seeing so many people up and dancing that early in the show, but as soon as Soul35 kicked off the evening with their tribute to Prince, folks couldn't seem to hold back. Many of whom kept their hips shaking until the Tim Harrington Band closed out the night with their rendition of Chicago. The Soul35 set was definitely a DTL highlight, especially when they brought out former Prince backup singers Mikki White and Niyoki Chapman to join them on a couple of numbers. Wow, I wasn't expecting that, and I'm sure no one else in attendance was either.

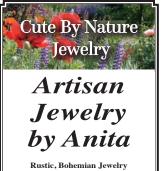
Altogether, the flow of the evening went quite well with the bravura performances from our local acts as well as the emceeing of Jack Hammer and JJ Fabini who entertained between acts with an Abbott and Costello-meets-Loggins and Messina mix. If you didn't go out and grab a cold one or use the restroom during the breaks then, you were treated with Hammer and Fabini strapping on acoustic guitars and paying tribute to some of the musicians we lost in 2016, including a cover of George Michael's "Faith." Had someone told me that one day I would have the plea-



sure of seeing Hammer and Fabini belt out "Faith" on a big stage, I would have told them they were crazy. But the guys did a superb job and proved that anything is possible at DTL. Already looking forward to next

The Embassy Theatre will be playing host to another musical adventure on Saturday, April 2 when Rocktopia takes the stage. Like DTL, Rocktopia musicians pay homage to music legends, but with a different take. Rocktopia: A Classical (R)evolution is a musical adventure that provides a new way of enjoying classical music and classic rock. These one-of-akind arrangements will blend Beethoven with Journey. Strauss with The Who as well as other musical mashups that will feature music from such artists as Mozart, U2, Heart, Styx, Rachmaninoff and more. The creators of this awesome experience are Rob Evan (a member of the multi-Platinum-selling Trans-Siberian Orchestra) and Randall Craig Fleischer (a leader in the area of symphonic rock and world music fusion). This musical experience is in a class by itself and is going to be something music lovers won't want to miss. Tickets for Rocktopia: A Classical (R)evolution are available now at the Embassy box office or through Ticketmaster.

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### Calendar • Live Music & Comedy

Dance Party w/DJ Rich — Variety at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m., cover, 422-5055

INDING FRIDAY - Variety at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 432-8966

LLOW FRIDAYS 7 FEAT. KURT METZGER, BARRY CRIMMINS, JOE BATES, DANIEL VERGARA, DAN ALTEN, HOLLY LYNNEA Comedy at Calhoun Street Soups. Salads & Spirits, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m., \$10, (260) 456-7005

FORT WAYNE KARAOKE W/JAY — Variety at Coconutz @ Crazy Pinz, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 490-2695

Gregg Bender Band — Blues/variety at O'Sullivan's Italian Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 422-5896

Gunslinger — Country rock at Fat Boyz Bar & Grill, Ligonier, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 894-4640

He Said She Said — Variety at Rex's Rendezvous, Warsaw, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 574-267-5066

Hubie Ashcraft Trio — Country rock at American Legion Post 381, Rome City, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 854-2477

Joe Justice — Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m., no cover, (260) 482-1618

Joe Justice — Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m., no cover, (260) 482-1618

Joe Stabelli — Jazz at Don Hall's Gas House, Fort Wayne, 5:45-9 p.m., no cover, 426-3411

Joel Young Band — Country / rock / blues at Eagles Post 3512, Fort Wayne, 7-11 p.m., no cover, 387-

JON DURNELL — Acoustic variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 489-2524

**К**акаоке — Karaoke at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 7-11 p.m., no cover, 485-1038

KYLE HALLER BAND - Vairety at Nick's Martini & Wine Bar, Fort Wayne, 8:30 p.m., no cover, 482-6425

QUIET HOLLERS W/JAMES AND DRIFTERS — Indie Rock at Brass Rail, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., \$6, 267-5303

Sidecar Gary's Karaoke & DJ — Karaoke at 4 Crowns, Auburn, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 925-9805

SIDECAR GARY'S KARAOKE & DJ Karaoke at American Legion Post 47, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 209-3960

SIDECAR GARY'S KARAOKE & DJ W/KEVIN Variety at Danny's Italian Grill,
 Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 484-4444

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### NIGHTLIFE

### **DUESY'S SPORTS BAR & GRILLE**

Sports Bar • 305 E. Washington Ctr. Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-484-0411 Expect: 27 huge flat screen TVs with all your favorites sports — NASCAR and more; live trivia 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays; kitchen opens at 11 a.m. w/custom burgers, specialty sandwiches, BBQ, flatbreads, salads and wraps. GETTING THERE: Corner of Washington Center Rd. and Coldwater, just south of I-69. Hours: 11 a.m.-midnight or later daily. ALCOHOL: Full Service; PMT: MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

### **DUPONT BAR & GRILL**

Sports Bar • 10336 Leo Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-483-1311 EXPECT: Great daily drink specials, 3 pool tables, NFL Ticket, 16'x10' Megatron, three 6'x4' Minitrons, 15 flat screen TVs; \$8.99 daily lunch specials; 50¢ wings Wednesdays; Three Rivers Karaoke 9 p.m. Wednesdays. Getting There: North of Fort Wayne at Leo Crossing (Dupont & Clinton). Hours: 11 a.m.-3 a.m. daily Alcohol: Full Service; PMT: MC, Visa, Amex

### EARLY BIRD'S ULTRA LOUNGE

Music/Dancing • 4201 N. Wells St., Fort Wayne • 260-483-1979 EXPECT: The city's best DJs spinning today's hottest hits; VIP rooms; the city's biggest outdoor party patio with special events, concerts and more. Getting There: From Coliseum Boulevard, behind Evans Toyota on Wells south of Glenbrook Mall. Hours: 9 p.m.-3 a.m. Friday-Saturday. ALCOHOL: Full Service; PMT: MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

### FLASHBACK ON THE LANDING

Music/Dancing • 118 W. Columbia St., Fort Wayne • 260-422-5292 EXPECT: Dance music from 80s and 90s to today, great DJ and bartenders, free pizza available all night long. GETTING THERE: Downtown on The Landing. Hours: 9 p.m.-3 a.m. Friday-Saturday. ALCOHOL: Full Service; PMT: MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

### **HAMILTON HOUSE**

Neighborhood Bar • 3950 E. Bellefontaine, Hamilton • 260-488-3344 EXPECT: Great atmosphere with a beautiful view of lake; 20 beers on tap, 6 large HDTVs w/DirecTV (NFL Package during season), internet juke, pool table, karaoke every Friday (9 p.m.), live bands every Saturday (8 p.m.) Memorial Day thru Labor Day. GETTING THERE: Corner of roads 1 and 427. Hours: 10 a.m.-1 a.m. Mon.-Wed.; 10 а.m.-3 a.m. Thurs.-Sat.; 10 a.m.-12 midnight Sun. Alcohol: Full Service; PMT: MC, Visa

### LATCH STRING BAR & GRILL

Pubs & Taverns • 3221 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne • 260-483-5526 EXPECT: Fun, friendly, rustic atmosphere. Daily drink specials. Mondays, \$2.75 imports; Tuesdays, \$3 margaritas & \$1 tacos; Wednesdays, \$2 wells and 59¢ bone-in wings; Sundays, \$2.50 bloody Marys. Live bands Friday, Sunday, & Tuesday; comedy improv/ open mic Wednesday; karaoke Monday, Thursday & Saturday. No cover. GETTING THERE: Where Clinton and Lima roads meet. Hours: 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat., 12 noon-12:30 a.m. Sun. Alcohol: Full Service; PMT: MC, Visa

### MAD ANTHONY BREWING COMPANY

Brew Pub/Micro Brewery • 2002 S. Broadway, Fort Wayne • 260-426-2537 EXPECT: Ten beers freshly hand-crafted on premises and the eclectic madness of Munchie Emporium. 4-1/2 star menu, 'One of the best pizzas in America,' large vegetarian menu. GETTING THERE: Just southwest of downtown Fort Wayne at Taylor & Broadway. Hours: Usually 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Alcohol: Full Service; Рмт: MC, Visa, Disc

### MAD ANTHONY LAKE CITY TAP HOUSE

Music/Rock • 113 E. Center St., Warsaw • 574-268-2537 EXPECT: The eclectic madness of the original combined with handcrafted Mad Anthony ales and lagers. Carry-out handcrafted brews available. Live music on Saturdays. The same 4-1/2 star menu, including one of the best pizzas in America and a large vegetarian menu. GETTING THERE: From U.S. 30, turn southwest on E. Center St.; go 2 miles. Hours: 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.; 11 a.m.-12:30 a.m. Fri.-Sat.; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sun. Alcohol: Full-Service; PMT: MC, Visa,

### MAD ANTHONY'S LAKEVIEW ALE HOUSE

Eclectic • 4080 N 300 W, Angola • 260-833-2537

EXPECT: Twelve handcrafted beers on tap; also featuring Indiana craft beers and local wines. Patio with seating for 100; 7 dock slips; 150-seat banquet facility. 4-1/2 star menu, including famous gourmet pizza, unique eats and vegetarian fare. Getting There: Located on beautiful Lake James above Bledsoe's Beach. Hours: 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sun.-Thurs.; 11 a.m.-midnight or later Fri.-Sat. Alcohol: Full Service; PMT: MC, Visa, Disc

### Calendar • Live Music & Comedy

TODD HARROLD & NICK BOBAY DUO -R&B/blues/variety at Duesy's Sports Bar, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 484-0411

AILHOUNDS — Rock at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no WAILHOUNDS cover, 483-5526

THE WHY STORE — Rock at Mitchell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., \$5, (260) 387-5063

### Saturday, February 18

ANDY PAUQUETTE AND THE DJYPSTERS -Swing/blues/variety at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 426-3442

BACKWATER — Country / country rock at VFW Post 2689, Huntington, 8 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 494-5364

Big Caddy Daddy — Rock at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., cover, 483-1311 DAN SMYTH — Acoustic at WeHop,

Angola, 7:30-10:30 p.m., no cover, 665-7070 FORT WAYNE KARAOKE - Karaoke at

Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m., no cover, 483-5526 Gunslinger — Country rock at Traxside

Bar & Grill, Garrett, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., no cover, 357-4287 HOLBROOK BROTHERS BAND -Hamilton House, Hamilton, 9 p.m.-1

a.m., no cover, 488-3344 Hubie Ryan Trio — Surf guitar at American Legion Post 215, LaGrange, 7-11 p.m., \$35, 463-

THE ILLEGALS - Rock at O'Sullivan's Italian Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 422-5896

JAGGED EDGE W/DONELL JONES, KELLY PRICE — R&B at Auer Performance Hall, Rhinehart Music Center, IPFW, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m., \$55-\$100 (on sale January 6), 481-6555

Joe Five - Rock at Rack & Helen's, New Haven, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, (260) 749-5396

Joe Stabelli - Jazz at Don Hall's Gas House, Fort Wayne, 5:45-9 p.m., no cover, 426-3411

JOHN CURRAN & RENEGADE - Country at American Legion Post 499, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 483-

Jon Durnell - Acoustic variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 489-2524 KIER — Musical comedy at Club 250

Bluffton, 6:30-9 p.m., \$30, 824-2728 LOOSE GRIP - Variety at Jimmy's on

James, Angola, 5-8 p.m., no cover, 833-9676

Magrie — Rock at American Legion Post 409, Leo, 8 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 627-2628

MONTAG'S FIRE -Blues/variety at Eagles Post 248, Fort Wayne, p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 478-2482

MOTORFOLKERS - Folk/variety at Club Paradise, Angola, 8 p.m., no cover, 833-7082 SIDECAR GARY'S KARAOKE & DJ W/KEVIN

— Karaoke at Dicky's 21 Taps, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 486-

SUSAN MAE & NEW YESTERDAY Contemporary R&B/jazz at Nick's Martini & Wine Bar, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 482-6425

Tested on Animals — Rock at The Venue, Angola, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., \$2, 665-3922

TODD HARROLD & NICK BOBAY DUO -R&B/blues/variety at Mad Anthony Tap Room, Auburn, 8 p.m., no cover, (260) 927-0500

### Sunday, February 19

Blues JAM HOSTED BYLEE LEWIS AND FRIENDS - Open jam at Checkerz Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m., no cover, 489-0286 HEARTLAND SINGS - We Are the Dream:

A Musical Commemoration to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Library Theater, Main Branch, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, 2 p.m., free, 421-1225

Notre Dame Children's Choir - Choral at Trinity Episcopal Church, Fort Wayne, 4-5 p.m., free, 423-1693

YESTERDAY'S HEADTRIP - Variety at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

### Monday, February 20

ADAM BAKER - Variety at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 6:30-8 p.m., no cover, 432-8966

FORT WAYNE KARAOKE -- Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

OPEN BLUES JAM - Blues at Red Rok BBQ & Bourbon Saloon, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., no cover, 444-5637

OPEN MIC NIGHT — Variety at Checkerz Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 489-0286

### Tuesday, February 21

CHILLY'S TALENT & TACOS — Open mic at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 483-5526

KEVIN PIEKARSKI TRIO FEAT. DAVID STREETER — Jazz at Trolley Bar, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m., no cover,

OPEN MIC COMEDY — Comedy at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 7-9 p.m., no cover, 485-1038

TUBA AND EUPHONIUM STUDIO RECITAL -Classical at Rhinehart Recital Hall, IPFW, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., \$4-\$7, 481-6555

### Wednesday, February 22

Chris Worth — Variety at Nick's Martini & Wine Bar, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., no cover, 482-6425 FORT WAYNE COMEDY CONNECTION

Comedy at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

FORT WAYNE KARAOKE W/JOSH -Karaoke at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m., no cover, 422-5055

HUBIE ASHCRAFT & MISSY BURGESS -Acoustic at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m., no cover, (260) 426-2537

Live DJ - Variety at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 422-5055

Open Mic — Variety at Pedal City, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m., no cover, 415-6167

OPEN MIC - Hosted by Chilly Addams at Beamer's Sports Grill, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 625-1002 PAUL NEW STEWART - Variety at The

Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m., \$1, 482-1618

SHUT UP AND SING - Karaoke at Duesy's Sports Bar, Fort Wayne, 7-11 p.m., no cover, 484-0411

### Thursday, February 23

Bucca Karaoke w/Bucca - Variety at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 432-8966

CHRIS WORTH — Variety at Mitchell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, (260) 387-5063 COLUMBIA STREET UNPLUGGED FEAT. SHELLY DIXON & JEFF MCRAE -

Variety at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 422-5055 FORT WAYNE KARAOKE & DJ'S -Karaoke at Nick's Martini & Wine

Bar, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 482-6425 FORT WAYNE KARAOKE - Variety at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne,

10 p.m., no cover, 483-5526 Hubie Ashcraft — Acoustic at Beamer's Sports Grill, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m.,

no cover. 625-1002 JEFF McDonald - Folk at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m.,

no cover, 489-2524

### natzup PERF **ACOUSTIC VARIETY COUNTRY & ROCK**

ACCOUNTE VAINLIT		COUNTRY & NOON	
Adam Strack		Sugar Shot	260-225-3181
Basketcase	260-431-1416	ORIGINAL ACOUSTIC	
Jon Durnell	260-797-2980	Dan Dickerson's Harp Condition	260-704-2511
Mike Conley	260-750-9758	The Holy Rebels	260-460-7009
CLASSIC ROCK & COUNTRY		ORIGINAL ROCK	
The Joel Young Band	260-414-4983	FM90	765-606-5550
BLUES ROCK		PRAISE & WORSHIP	
Big Dick & The Penetrators	260-248-2070	Jacobs Well	260-479-0423
CLASSICAL		ROCK	
The Jaenicke Consort Inc	260-426-9096	Big Caddy Daddy	260-925-9562
COUNTRY & COUNTRY ROCK		ROCK N' ROLL	
BackWater	260-494-5364	Biff and The Cruisers	260-417-5495
HORN BAND		TROP ROCK & CLASSIC ROCK	
Tim Harrington Band	765-479-4005	Party Boat Band	260-438-3710
KARAOKĔ/DJ		VARIETY	
Sidecar Gary's Karaoke/DJ	260-343-8076	Dueling Keyboard Boys (Paul New Stewa	art) 260-440-9918
OLDIES ROCK		Night to Remember	
The Bulldogs	260-357-3694	Who Dat (Paul New Stewart)	
California Country	260-403-0234	`www.whatzup.com/musician	
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----- www.whatzup.com ---------- February 16, 2017 

### Spectacular Concoctions

This is a bit of a departure from my typical restaurant reviews, but there's a new rising star in our midst that I simply have to write about. Late last year a new ice cream shop, Yummi Bunni, opened a few doors down from Fort Wayne's Famous Coney Island on Main Street, and it has had a line out the door, literally, ever since. I have visited several times and have always had to wait - once for over an hour on a Saturday night. The line was out the door and wrapped

halfway around the building! So what's all the fuss about?

This hip little ice cream shop offers an array of interesting flavors and unconventional top-

Their claim to fame is the Yummi Bun which costs \$5. It is an ice cream creation with a heaping helping of ice cream sandwiched between two halves of a freshly made Tom's glazed or unglazed donut and topped off with fun toppings like cookies or breakfast cereal. The whole thing is wrapped up so you can enjoy a handheld experience, just like an ice cream sandwich.

I will admit I was a bit skeptical. Yes, all of those ingredients are delicious by themselves, but together? I wasn't sure. But, this was love at first bite, and I am not the only one who feels that way (as is evident from

the throngs of people you can find there on any given day).

The inspiration for the Yummi Bunni comes from the owners' travels. They love to visit Southern California and ran across something similar there. The idea grew and they eventually found the perfect

location in Fort Wayne for their business.

At the time, the building was empty and pretty rustic: no flooring, exposed brick, etc. - basically a shell. The transformation is impressive, and the space now is very contemporary with black and white décor, accented with pink neon lights. The company's marketing materials, designed by local phenom Nate Utesh, are clean and instantly recognizable. They have built a very strong brand in a short time, which is impressive in a city that

seems to crawl at a snail's pace when it comes to accepting new things.

My only complaint, and it's not really a com-

### Dining Out AMBER FOSTER

plaint so much as a preference, is that the ice cream is not made locally. They source their product from a Wisconsin ice creamery that Yummi Bunni claims

produces the best ice cream available. I've had some pretty darn good ice cream in my day - like make-your-knees-buckle good - and I can't say what they serve is the best, but it is good. And sandwiched between two halves of a donut, well, it's a pretty delicious combination.

Flavors rotate regularly, and each week they feature a Bun of the Week (BOTW). They also carry dairy-free and vegan flavors, as well.

Here are a few of my favorites:

Fireside: Frozen Dark chocolate ice cream with Oreo, bittersweet chocolate chunks and swirls of marshmallow cream on a glazed bun and topped with honey graham crackers. If you love s'mores, this one is

Velveteen Rabbit: Red velvet ice cream on a glazed bun with white

cookie sandwiches. This one is almost too much, but I managed to scarf it down in record time. The Red Velvet was spot on, and I like the substance of the cookies.

El Jefe: Horachata ice cream on a glazed bun with Cinnamon Toast Crunch. I am a big fan of Horchata

and was very pleased with this bun. However, I did wish it had more Cinnamon Toast Crunch. The sweet crunchiness complemented the smooth ice cream and fluffy donut.

Couch Potato: Butter pecan ice cream on a glazed bun and topped with potato chips. I wasn't sure about this one, but my mom ordered it and let me steal a bite. The salty sweet combo is just right.

Convinced? Get your buns down there and find out for yourself what all

### NIGHTLIFE

### MAD ANTHONY TAP ROOM

Music/Rock • 114 N. Main St., Auburn • 260-927-0500 EXPECT: The eclectic madness of the original combined with handcrafted Mad Anthony ales and lagers. The same 4-1/2 star menu, including one of the best pizzas in America and a large vegetarian menu. Getting There: Take I-69 to State Rd. 8 (Auburn exit); downtown, just north of courthouse. Hours: 11 a.m.-12 a.m. Sun.-Thurs.; 11 а.m.-2 а.m. Fri.-Sat. Alcohol: Full Service; Рмт: MC, Visa, Disc

### MAIN STREET BISTRO & MARTINI LOUNGE

Music/Variety • 200 E. Main St., Fort Wayne • 260-420-8633 EXPECT: A downtown dining destination with something for everyone, from pizza and wings to fine steaks and seafood. Main Street Goes Live with DJs, live entertainment and special events every Friday and Saturday at 10 p.m.; new menu, low prices, great quality food.

GETTING THERE: In the First Source Bank Building, corner of Barr and Main streets, downtown. Hours: 11 a.m.-close Wednesday-Friday; 4 р.m.-3 a.m. Saturday. Alcohol: Full Service; Рмт: MC, Visa, Disc,

### MITCHELL'S SPORTS & NEIGHBORHOOD GRILL

Sports & Music • 6179 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne • 260-387-5063 EXPECT: Family-friendly atmosphere, great food, all sports packages on over 40 TVs, craft beers and more. Great food from wings and pizza to gourmet sandwiches and entrees; breakfast and blood Mary bar Saturdays & Sundays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. GETTING THERE: On the corner of Getz and Jefferson Blvd., southwest Fort Wayne. Hours: 4 p.m.-close Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-close Friday-Šaturday. ALCOHOL: Full Service; PMT: MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

### NICK'S MARTINI & WINE BAR

Dining & Music • 1227 E. State Blvd., Fort Wayne • 260-482-6425 EXPECT: Specialty martinis, craft beers and cocktails served up in a classic martini lounge with live music nightly. Serving a variety of small plate appetizers with weekly featured tapas plates and drink specials. Getting There: One block east of Crescent on State Blvd., next to the Rib Room. Hours: Open at 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday. ALCOHOL: Full Service; PMT.: MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

### STATE GRILL

Pub/Tavern • 1210 E. State Blvd., Fort Wayne • 260-483-5618 EXPECT: 1st Tavern to pour beer after Prohibition; located in a fun and friendly neighborhood; home of the XKE Cranials & most dangerous jukebox. Daily drink specials include \$2 Tall Boy PBR all day, everyday, great craft beer selection. Golden Tee. Free WIFI. Fort Wayne's Sammy Hagar bar & Beach Bar Rum, Riverbend Pizza. Getting There: Corner of State and Crescent. Hours: 3 p.m.-3 a.m. Mon., 1 р.m.-3 a.m. Tues.-Fri., noon-3 a.m. Sat., noon-1 a.m. Sun. Alcohol: Full Service; PMT.: Cash only; ATM on site

### STEEL MILL TAVERN

Live Auctions

Every Friday

Pub/Tavern • 2123 Taylor St., Fort Wayne • 260-436-5787

EXPECT: Friendly, small bar with craft beer selection, karaoke Friday and Saturday night and never a cover. Kitchen features handmade pizza and grinders, sausage rolls and chicken wings. GETTING THERE: From downtown, take Fairfield south to Taylor; turn right; one mile west on left. Hours: 12-11 p.m. Mon.-Wed., 12 p.m.-12 a.m. Thurs., 12 р.m.-3 a.m. Fri.-Sat. Alcohol: Full Service; Рмт.: MC, Visa, Disc, Amex, ATM on site

**BELL TOWER** 

AUCTIONS

123 E. Van Buren St., Columbia City

260-580-3184 | belltowerauctions.com

Doors @ 4pm

Auction @ 6pm



Yummi Bunni

123 W. Main St.

Fort Wayne

260-422-6636

Hours:

3-11 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.

3 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday



Service   Serv	Calendar • On	the R	oad	
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Deticil	Cold War Kids w/Middle Kids	Mar. 21	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit

There are a lot of huge announcements to know about for the coming summer concert season. Of course there is the just-announced Metallica/Volbeat/Avenged Sevenfold tour. You might also know that Deftones and Rise Against plan to join forces for a



tour kicking off in Chicago on June 9 and stopping in Detroit the following night. Then there's **Jack Johnson**. He is hitting the road in June to help promote his environmental causes and plans to visit Chicago June 2. Finally, **Korn** and **Stone Sour** have put together a short stint together hitting Detroit July 30 and Cincinnati August 1

Two legendary artists, **Alice Cooper** and **Deep Purple**, have announced a joint tour of the summer sheds that stops in Indianapolis August 30, Detroit September 3, Chicago September 6, Cleveland September 9 and Cincinnati September 10. **The Edgar Winter Band** opens all dates.

**John Mayer** and his tremendously huge ego have booked dates for a tour promoting songs from his upcoming album *The Search for Everything*. Mayer will split his shows into three parts presenting songs solo, with a full band and with **The John Mayer Trio**. He visits Chicago April 11 and Cleveland the following night. Mayer's ego plans a 45-minute set to open the shows.

**Dispatch** haven't toured since 2013, but that's about to change. The often hard to categorize band has announced a 15-city tour that stops in Columbus, Ohio on June 27, Indianapolis on June 28, Chicago on July 1 and Detroit on July 2. **Guster** will take a break from writing and recording for their new album in order to provide support on the tour.

Another hard to categorize band, **Opeth**, has signed up for a short run of U.S. dates as well. The progressive Swedish rockers released their 12th studio album, *Sorceress*, last year and continue to promote it. Check them out May 9 in Chicago or May 14 in Indy. **The Devin Townsend Project** and the Grammy-nominated **Gojira** are scheduled to open both shows.

**Richie Kotzen** is hitting the road to support his newest solo venture called *Salting Earth*. You might know Kotzen from his stints in **Poison** and **Mr. Big** or from his current band **The Winery Dogs**. Or you might just know him as a phenomenal guitarist that often gets overlooked when discussing phenomenal guitarists. *Salty Earth* is Kotzen's 21st solo album, so it's a sure bet he will have plenty of material to choose from when he plays Chicago May 4 and Detroit the following night.

An interesting pairing of two strong front women has yielded a co-headlining tour featuring **Blondie** and **Garbage**. The front women are, of course, Blondie's **Deborah Harry** and Garbage's **Shirley Manson**. The tour, dubbed the Rage and Rapture tour, runs for about a month and includes a stop at the Ravinia Festival in Chicago on July 22.

**Prince**'s former backing band **The Revolution** looks to continue cashing in on The Purple One's death by playing a few dates in his honor. The band played on Prince's *Purple Rain*, *Around the World in a Day* and *1999*, but officially disbanded in 1986 and has been rarely heard from since then. They will play the Paisley Park celebration in Minnesota honoring Prince then head to Chicago's Metro/Smart Bar on April 23.

### christopher hupe @aol.com

Colin Hay	Mar. 10	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Cory Branan	Mar. 29	Ignition Music Garage	Goshen
The Cosmic Situation	May 11	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Daedmau5	Apr. 15	The Fillmore	Detroit
The Damned	Apr. 23	House of Blues	Chicago
The Damned	Apr. 26	Deluxe	Indianapolis
The Damned	Apr. 27	Bogart's	Cincinnati
The Damned	Apr. 29	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit
Dan + Shay	Apr. 7	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Dan + Shay	Apr. 9	Egyptian Room	Indianapolis
Dave Alvin and The Guilty Ones	May 5	Magic Bag	Ferndale, MI
Dave Mason	Feb. 25	T. Furth Ctr., Trine Univ.	Angola
David Lindley	Apr. 6	The Ark	Ann Arbor
David Phelps	Apr. 14	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert, Ohio
Davina & The Vagabonds	May 4	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Dawes	Mar. 1	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Daya	Mar. 26	House of Blues	Chicago
Daya	Mar. 29	House of Blues	Cleveland
Deafheaven w/This Will Destroy You, Emma Ruth Rundle	Mar. 17	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit
Delbert McClinton	Mar. 6	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Demrick w/1 Ton from Potluck, Blaze 1 and Lil Bam, Prince Kobba, Aeth Wonder,			
The Joker Ring, Tray Dee, JoJo	Mar. 14	Covergirls	Fort Wayne
Dick Hickey w/HandWringer, MRDR	Mar. 18	Skeletunes	Fort Wayne
Dinosaur Jr.	Mar. 11	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit
Dinosaur Jr.	Mar. 12	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
Dinosaur Jr.	Mar. 13	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Dinosaur Jr.	Mar. 16	Bluebird Nightclub	Bloomington, IN
Doctor Smoke w/Wild Savages, Riverbottom Nitemare Band	Mar. 18	Brass Rail	Fort Wayne
Dorothy w/The Georgia Flood	Feb. 21	Shelter	Detroit
Drake White and the Big Fire	Apr. 21	8 Seconds Saloon	Indianapolis
Duke Tumatoe	Apr. 13	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Eilen Jewel	May 3	The Hi Fi	Indianapolis
Eisley	Mar. 10	Shelter	Detroit
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Mar. 13 Apr. 8 Mar. 15 Mar. 17 Mar. 17	The Hi Fi Old Town School Hi Fi	Indianapolis Chicago	JoJo	Mar. 31 Apr. 21	Newport Music Hall Majestic Theatre	Columbus, Ol- Detro
Mar. 15 Mar. 17 Mar. 17	Hi Fi					Detro
Mar. 17 Mar. 17			I I ALL II D	14 40	00 101	
Mar. 17	The Art	Indianapolis	Josh Abbott Band	Mar. 10	8 Seconds Saloon	Indianapoli
	The Ark Magic Bag	Ann Arbor Ferndale, MI	Journey Journey	Mar. 31 Apr. 1	Allen Co. War Memorial Colise Ford Center	um Fort Wayn Evansvill
Feb. 23	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis	Juicy J w/Belly, Project Pat	Mar. 9	House of Blues	Clevelan
Feb. 24	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland	Juicy J w/Belly, Project Pat	Mar. 10	The Fillmore	Detro
Feb. 25	Palace of Aubum Hills	Aubum Hills, MI	Juicy J w/Belly, Project Pat	Mar. 12	Egyptian Room	Indianapoli
Apr. 13	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL	Juicy J w/Belly, Project Pat	Mar. 17	House of Blues	Chicago
Mar. 11	Buddy Guy's Legends	Chicago	Julian Lage w/Chris Eldridge	Feb. 26	Old Town School	Chicago
	Murat Theatre	Indianapolis	Julian Lage w/Chris Eldridge		The Ark	Ann Arbo
						Chicago
						Indianapoli
						Chicago Chicago
						Grand Rapids, M
7.0	Tunida mada	o i i o ago	Keith Sweat, K-Cl & JoJo, 112, El DeBarge	Apr. 15	Fox Theatre	Detro
Feb. 17	CS3	Fort Wayne	Keller Williams w/Leo Kottke	Mar. 10	Park West	Chicago
Mar. 30	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH	Keller Williams	Mar. 16	Blind Pig	Ann Arbo
Mar. 31	Vic Theatre	Chicago	Keller Williams	Mar. 17		Grand Rapids, M
	01.1.1	F				Northfield Park, Oh
			7			Carme
						Blufftoi Chicago
			·			Chicago
Feb. 22	Nationwide Arena	Columbus, OH	The Knocks w/Bipolar Sunshine, Gilligan Moss	Mar. 16	Shelter	Detro
Apr. 23			Larry McCray	Mar. 31	C2G Music Hall	Fort Wayn
Feb. 19	Thalia Hall	Chicago	Las Cafeteras	Mar. 3	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Feb. 24	Emens Auditorium	Muncie	Laura Marling	May 7	Metro	Chicago
Mar. 15	Howard Schrott Center	Indianapolis	Lettuce		The Intersection	Grand Rapids, M
						Chicago
						Chicago
						Indianapoli Chicago
						Red Ke
Feb. 17	The Ark		Lilacs	Mar. 4	Metro	Chicago
Mar. 7	Hi Fi	Indianapolis	Lily & Madeleine	Feb. 25	Deluxe	Indianapoli
Mar. 10	Metro	Chicago	Lionel Richie w/Mariah Carey	Apr. 11	Palace of Auburn Hills	Auburn Hills, M
Apr. 14	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH	Lisa Lampanelli	Feb. 17	Sound Board	Detro
Apr. 28		Indianapolis	Local Natives	Mar. 31		Royal Oak, M
						Kalamazo
						Grand Rapids, M
						Grand Rapids, M Battle Cree
			,			Indianapoli
Feb. 28	Hill Auditorium		Lunasa	Mar. 25	Old Town School	Chicago
Feb. 18	House of Blues	Chicago	Mako	Mar. 17	Double Door	Chicago
Mar. 11	Majestic Theatre	Detroit	The Marcus King Band	Feb. 16	Buddy Guy's Legends	Chicago
Mar. 12	House of Blues	Chicago	Marcus King Band	Mar. 22	C2G Music Hall	Fort Wayn
May 6	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert, Ohio	Margo Price	Apr. 5	The Hi Fi	Indianapoli
			•			Chicago
						Clevelan Cincinna
						Elkhai
						Carme
Apr. 14	Egyptian Room	Indianapolis	Matthew Logan Vasquez	May 5	The Hi Fi	Indianapoli
Apr. 26	The Fillmore	Detroit	Mayday Parade w/Knuckle Puck, Milestones	Apr. 22	House of Blues	Chicago
Mar. 18	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert, Ohio	Mayday Parade w/Knuckle Puck, Milestones	Apr. 25	Deluxe	Indianapoli
Mar. 21	The Ark	Ann Arbor	Mayday Parade w/Knuckle Puck, Milestones	Apr. 27	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, Ol
Mar. 24	Thalia Hall	Chicago	Me First and the Gimme Gimmes	Apr. 12	House of Blues	Clevelan
		Ann Arbor				Cleveland
						Chicago
						Chicago Wabasi
						Detro
Feb. 24	House of Blues	Cleveland	Mike Milligan and Steam Shovel	Mar. 18	Key Palace Theater	Red Ke
Feb. 27	House of Blues	Chicago	Modern Baseball w/Kevin Devine, Sorority Noise, The Obsessives	Apr. 18	Concord Music Hall	Chicago
Apr. 27	Huntington Center	Toledo	Modern Baseball w/Kevin Devine, Sorority Noise, The Obsessives	Apr. 19	Egyptian Room	Indianapoli
Feb. 16	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI	Molly Hatchet w/Davy Knowles	Apr. 22	Lemer Theatre	Elkhai
Mar. 14	Blind Pig	Ann Arbor	Moving Units w/Viktor Fiction, Soviet	Mar. 9	Brass Rail	Fort Wayne
	Bluebird Nightclub	Bloomington, IN				Detro
						Van Wert, Ohio
						Fort Wayne Chicago
						Columbus, Ol
Feb. 26	House of Blues				House of Blues	Chicago
Feb. 26	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH	Night Riots	Mar. 25	Old National Centre	Indianapoli
Mar. 8	Deluxe	Indianapolis	Night Riots	Mar. 26	St. Andrews Hall	Detro
Mar. 10	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH	Night Riots	Mar. 29	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OF
Mar. 14	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit	Night Riots	Mar. 31	House of Blues	Clevelan
Mar. 12	Concord Music Hall	Chicago	Nouvelle Vague	Mar. 27	Metro	Chicago
Mar. 30	House of Blues	Cleveland	The Oak Ridge Boys	Mar. 17	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsav
	Mar. 30 Mar. 31 Mar. 6 Feb. 23 Mar. 5 Mar. 5 Mar. 5 Mar. 5 Mar. 22 Apr. 23 Feb. 19 Feb. 24 Mar. 15 Apr. 26 Apr. 29 Mar. 11 Mar. 27 Feb. 17 Mar. 7 Mar. 10 Apr. 14 Apr. 28 Mar. 30 Apr. 1 Feb. 23 Feb. 25 Feb. 25 Feb. 27 Feb. 18 Mar. 11 Mar. 12 May 6 Apr. 27 Apr. 28 Feb. 18 Mar. 11 Mar. 12 May 6 Apr. 27 Apr. 28 Feb. 18 Feb. 18 Feb. 19 Feb. 18 Feb. 19 Feb. 21 Feb. 23 Feb. 24 Feb. 27 Feb. 16 Feb. 21 Feb. 23 Feb. 24 Feb. 27 Feb. 16 Feb. 21 Feb. 23 Feb. 24 Feb. 27 Feb. 16 Feb. 21 Feb. 23 Feb. 24 Feb. 27 Feb. 16 Feb. 21 Feb. 23 Feb. 26	Mar. 23 Fox Theatre Apr. 26 House of Blues Mar. 25 C2G Music Hall Mar. 30 Concord Music Hall Apr. 17-18 Riviera Theatre  Feb. 17 CS3 Mar. 30 Newport Music Hall Mar. 31 Vic Theatre  Mar. 6 Skeletunes Feb. 23 Clowes Memorial Hall Mar. 5 Embassy Theatre  Mar. 5 House of Blues Feb. 22 Nationwide Arena Apr. 23 Multi-Flex Theater, Indiana Te Feb. 19 Thalia Hall Feb. 24 Emens Auditorium Mar. 15 Howard Schrott Center Apr. 26 St. Andrews Hall Apr. 27 House of Blues Mar. 11 T. Furth Ctr., Trine Univ. Mar. 27 Joe Louis Arena Feb. 17 The Ark Mar. 7 Hi Fi Mar. 10 Metro Apr. 14 Newport Music Hall Apr. 28 The Hi Fi Mar. 30 Shelter Apr. 1 Double Door Feb. 23 Murat Theatre Feb. 27 Qol Monroe Live Feb. 28 Hill Auditorium Feb. 18 House of Blues Mar. 11 Majestic Theatre Feb. 27 Vol Monroe Live Feb. 28 Hill Auditorium Feb. 18 House of Blues Mar. 11 Majestic Theatre Mar. 12 House of Blues Mar. 11 Majestic Theatre Feb. 27 Apr. 28 Hill Auditorium Feb. 18 House of Blues Mar. 11 Majestic Theatre Mar. 12 House of Blues Mar. 11 Majestic Theatre Mar. 12 House of Blues Mar. 13 House of Blues Mar. 14 Egyptian Room Apr. 28 The Hill Fi Feb. 18 House of Blues Mar. 19 The Intersection Mar. 12 B-Side Mar. 16 Fox Theatre Apr. 27 Maglic Bag Apr. 28 The Hill Fi Feb. 28 House of Blues Mar. 19 The Intersection Mar. 12 B-Side Mar. 16 Fox Theatre Apr. 14 Egyptian Room Apr. 26 The Fillmore Mar. 18 Niswonger P.A.C. Apr. 27 Maglic Bag The Hill Fi Feb. 18 Auer Hall, IPFW Feb. 21 Newport Music Hall Apr. 17-18 The Ark Apr. 19 The Intersection Mar. 12 House of Blues Feb. 27 House of Blues Feb. 28 House of Blues Feb. 29 House of Blues Feb. 20 House of Blues Feb. 21 House of Blues Feb. 23 House of Blues Feb. 24 House of Blues Feb. 25 House of Blues Feb. 26 House of Blues Feb. 27 House of Blues Feb. 28 House of Blues Feb. 29 House of Blues Feb. 20 House of Blues Feb. 21 House of Blues Feb. 22 House of Blues Feb. 23 House of Blues Feb. 24 House of Blues Feb. 25 House of Blues Feb. 26 House of Blues Feb. 27 House of Blues Feb. 28 House of Blues Feb. 29 House of Blu	Mar. 23         Fox Theatre         Detroit           Apr. 26         House of Blues         Cleveland           Mar. 25         C2G Music Hall         Fort Wayne           Mar. 30         Concord Music Hall         Chicago           Feb. 17         CS3         Fort Wayne           Mar. 30         Newport Music Hall         Columbus, OH           Mar. 31         Vic Theatre         Chicago           Mar. 6         Skeletunes         Fort Wayne           Feb. 23         Clowes Memorial Hall         Indianapolis           Mar. 5         Embassy Theatre         Fort Wayne           Feb. 23         Clowes Memorial Hall         Indianapolis           Mar. 5         Embassy Theatre         Fort Wayne           Feb. 22         Nationwide Arena         Columbus, OH           Apr. 26         Authorianapolis         Cleveland           Feb. 24         Emens Auditiorium         Muncie           Mar. 15         Howard Schrott Center         Indianapolis           Apr. 26         St. Andrews Hall         Detroit           Apr. 28         Deluxe         Indianapolis           Mar. 10         Her Fi         Indianapolis           Mar. 27         Joe Louis Arena	Mar 23	Mar. 25	Mar   20

and		Cal	endar•(	On the	Road			
The Oak Ridge Boys	Apr. 28	Hoosier Park Casino	Anderson	Texas Tenors		Mar. 17	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Opeth	May 9	Vic Theatre	Chicago	The Texas Tenors	S	Mar. 18	Lerner Theatre	Elkhart
The Orwells	Mar. 16	Metro	Chicago	The-Dream	W.L. D.H.:	Feb. 25	Metro	Chicago
Panic! at the Disco w/MisterWives, Saint Motel Passenger	Mar. 8 Mar. 17	Wolstein Center Riviera Theatre	Cleveland Chicago	Thomas Rhett w/ Tim McGraw & F		Mar. 2 Apr. 29	Allen Co. War Memorial Colise Bankers Life Fieldhouse	eum Fort Wayne Indianapolis
Pat Benatar w/Neil Giraldo	Mar. 11	Stranahan Theatre	Toledo	Toronzo Cannon		May 6	C2G Music Hall	Fort Wayne
Pat Benatar & Neil Giraldo	Mar. 12	Sound Board	Detroit	The Tossers w/G	allows Bound	Mar. 17	Metro	Chicago
Patti S <u>m</u> ith	Mar. 11	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI		/Basement, Cities Aviv	Apr. 21	House of Blues	Chicago
Paul An <u>ka</u>	Mar. 30	Clowes Memorial Hall	Indianapolis		/Basement, Cities Aviv	Apr. 23	House of Blues	Cleveland
Paul An <u>ka</u> Paul Thorn	Apr. 1 Apr. 27	Honeywell Center The Warehouse	Wabash Carmel	Travis Tritt	/Basement, Cities Aviv	Apr. 25 Feb. 18	St. Andrews Hall Stranahan Theatre	Detroit Toledo
Penny and Sparrow w/Lowland Hum	Apr. 22	Ignition Music Garage	Goshen		/Natalie Cressman	May 5	Egyptian Room	Indianapolis
Pierce the Veil w/Falling in Reverse, Crown the Empire	Feb. 28	The Intersection	Grand Rapids, MI		/Natalie Cressman	May 6	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Pink Martini w/Fort Wayne Philharmonic	Mar. 4	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne	Trollphace w/Trar	mpa, Skism	Mar. 3	Concord Music Hall	Chicago
Pink Ta <u>lking</u> Fish	Mar. 11	Park West	Chicago	TroyBoi		Mar. 1	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
PJ Harvey	Apr. 24	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI	TroyBoi		Mar. 3	Majestic Theatre	Detroit
Pop Rocks w/Revolution Brass Band, Cats on Holiday Portugal, The Man w/Hdbeendope	Mar. 4 Mar. 25	House of Blues Majestic Theatre	<u>Cleveland</u> Detroit	Tweed Funk Twiztid		Apr. 13 Feb. 22	Buddy Guy's Legends Front Row Live	Chicago Kokomo
Puddle of Mudd w/Saving Abel, Tantric	Mar. 25	Harpos Concert Theatre	Detroit		Boondox, G-Mo Skee, THe R.O.C., Lex the Hex Master	Apr. 20	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit
Purdue Varsity Glee Club w/IPFW Singing Dons	Apr. 1	Mirro Center	Fort Wayne	UFO & Saxon		Mar. 28	House of Blues	Cleveland
Quiet Hollers w/James and the Drifters	Feb. 17	Brass Rail	Fort Wayne	Under the Street	amps	May 5	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Rachelle Ferrell	Mar. 23	Sound Board	Detroit	Valerie June		Feb. 20	Park West	Chicago
Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles	Mar. 6	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert, Ohio	Vanessa Carlton	w/Insten	Feb. 22	Schrott Center, Butler Univ.	Indianapolis
Real Estate w/Frankie Cosmos The Real Group	May 10 Mar. 24	Majestic Theatre Auer Hall, IPFW	Detroit Fort Wayne	Vanessa Carlton Vanessa Carlton	w/Tristen	Feb. 22 Feb. 23	Howard Schrott Center St. Andrews Hall	Indianapolis Ann Arbor
rne Real Group Red Hot Chili Peppers	May 13	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland	Vanessa Williams		Mar. 9	St. Andrews Hall Sound Board	Ann Arbor Detroit
Red Hot Chili Peppers	May 18	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis	The Vegabonds	-	Feb. 16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
The Reen Family Singers	Mar. 16	Eagles Theatre	Wabash	Vince Gill		Apr. 23	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Regina Spektor	Mar. 23	The Fillmore	Detroit	Vince Staples w/h		Mar. 18	Metro	Chicago
Regina Spektor	Mar. 24	Chicago Theatre	Chicago	Vince Staples w/h		Mar. 19	Metro	Chicago
Rev. Peyton's Big Damn Band	Mar. 17	The Hi-Fi	Indianapolis	Vince Staples w/h		Mar. 20	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
The Revivalists	Mar. 18	Concord Music Hall	Chicago	Vince Staples w/h		Mar. 22	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
The Revolution Richard Ashcroft	Apr. 23 Mar. 30	Metro House of Blues	Chicago Chicago	Vince Staples w/h Vishten	NIO NST	Mar. 23 Mar. 2	Majestic Theatre The Ark	Detroit Ann Arbor
Rick Smiley & Friends	Apr. 20	Sound Board	Detroit	Vulfpeck		May 4	Metro	Chicago
Rick Springfield & Richard Marx	Feb. 16	Fox Theatre	Detroit	Vulfpeck		May 5	Metro	Chicago
Rival Sons w/The London Souls	May 9	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit	The Way Down V	Vanderers	May 5	Ignition Music Garage	Goshen
Rocktopia Live	Apr. 2	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne	Ween		Mar. 16	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Roger Hurricane Wilson	Apr. 8	Key Palace Theatre	Red Key		//The Steel Woods	Apr. 13	House of Blues	Cleveland
Ronnie Milsap	Mar. 10	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH		attle Decapitation, Goatwhore, Allegaeon	Feb. 26	House of Blues	Cleveland Plannington IN
Ruthie Foster San Fermin	Feb. 16 Apr. 12	House of Blues Thalia Hall	Carmel, IN Chicago	Whitney The Why Store		May 8 Feb. 17	Bluebird Nightclub Mitchell's	Bloomington, IN Fort Wayne
The Schwag	Feb. 25	The Hi Fi	Indianapolis			Feb. 22	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Secondhand Serenade w/Hawthorne Heights, Ronnie Winter	Mar. 5	Big Shots	Valparaiso	Wilco		Feb. 23	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Secondhand Serenade w/Hawthome Heights, Ronnie Winter	Mar. 6	Metro	Chicago	Wilco		Feb. 25	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Secondhand Serenade w/Hawthorne Heights, Ronnie Winter	Mar. 8	House of Blues	Cleveland	Wilco	8.18	Feb. 26	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Senses Fail w/Counterparts, Movements, Like Pacific	Mar. 25	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit	The Wild Reeds v		Mar. 6	The Hi Fi	Indianapolis
Senses Fail w/Counterparts, Movements, Like Pacific  Senses Fail w/Counterparts, Movements, Like Pacific	Mar. 26 Mar. 28	House of Blues Concord Music Hall	Cleveland Chicago	William Singe & A	Nex Alono  Sub-Surface, The Eights, Sankofa	Feb. 18 Mar. 11	Concord Music Hall Brass Rail	Chicago Fort Wayne
Shawn Holt And The Teardrops	May 5	Kingston Mines	Chicago	Zac Brown Band		Aug. 25	Klipsch Music Center	Noblesville
Shawn Holt And The Teardrops	May 6	Kingston Mines	Chicago	ZZ Top		Feb. 25	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH
Shawn Mullins	Apr. 7	The Ark	Ann Arbor					,
Shiner w/Milemarker	Feb. 25	Thalia Hall	Chicago					
Silversun Pickups	Apr. 29	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH		Road		<b>9</b> 7	
Simple Plan W/Set It Off  Sir Charles Janes W/Millis Clartes Rigg Babb Riches Bullwinkle Shirley Proven TV Soul	Apr. 4	House of Blues	Cleveland		Bulldogs		The Livery, Ber	nton Harbor MI
Sir Charles Jones w.Willie Clayton, Bigg Robb, Bishop Bullwinkle, Shirley Brown, TK Soul Skillet w.Sick Puppies, Devour the Day	Mar. 11 Feb. 19	Fox Theatre Egyptian Room		March 18	American Legion # 470, Coldwater, OH	ivialUII ZJ	Hubie Ashcraft Band	itori i iaiboi, IVII
Skillet W/Sick Pupples, Devour the Day Sleigh Bells	Mar. 21	Metro	ndianapolis	June 11	Callaway Concert in the Park, Elwood		The D	
Smooth Hound Smith	Feb. 25	Bluebird Nightclub	Bloomington, IN	June 24	Renaissance Festival, Maria Stein, OH	March 24	Old Crow River	North, Chicago
Snarky Puppy	Mar. 16	Hill Auditorium	Ann Arbor	July 11	Allen Co. Fairgrounds, Lima, OH		Old Crow Wrigle	
Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes	Mar. 18	House of Blues	Cleveland		Covered Bridge Days, Centreville, MI Madison Co. Fair, Alexandria		St. Dan's Summe	
State Champs w/Against the Current, With Confidence, Don Broco	Apr. 9	Concord Music Hall	Chicago		Hickory Acres, Edgerton, OH		Little Nashville Festiv	
Steve Martin & Martin Short w/Steep Canyon Rangers	Mar. 5	Murat Theatre	Indianapolis South Bond	Aug. 5	State Line Festival, Union City, OH	Oct. 6	Old Crow, River	North, Chicago
Steve Martin & Martin Short w/Steep canyon Rangers Stevie Nicks w/The Pretenders	Mar. 17 Mar. 29	Morris P.A.C.  Bankers Life Fieldhouse	South Bend Indianapolis		Elkhart Co. Fairgrounds, Elkhart	Oct. 7	Old Crow, Wrigle	yville, Chicago
Stevie Nicks Wilne Pretenders Sticky Fingers	Mar. 4	Double Door	ndianapolis		City Park, Quincy, MI		The Distille	
Sting w/Joe Summer, The Last Bandoleros	Mar. 3	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago				Tequila Cowboy,Rulli's Bella Lu	
Strand of Oaks	Mar. 18	Thalia Hall	Chicago		4-H Grounds, Gas City		Cowboy U	
Styx	Mar. 23	Wabash		Nov. 4	Key Palace Theatre, Redkey		Tequila Cowbo	
Summerbruise w/Stay Away, Jess Flame Thrower	Mar. 24	Brass Rail	Fort Wayne	E-5 47	Earphorik	lues 0	Loose Grip	Coldt 141
Susan Werner	Mar. 24	The Ark	Ann Arbor	Feb. 17	Thomas St. Tavern, Charlotte, NCAsheville Music Hall, Asheville, NC		Camp Buckeye JT's Billiard Bar	
Switchfoot & Relient K Taizhou Luantan Opera	Feb. 16 Mar. 19	House of Blues Embassy Theatre	Cleveland Fort Wayne				Camp Buckeye	
Taiznou Luantan Opera Tennis	Mar. 19	Thalia Hall	Chicago	Feb. 25	Time and Space, Louisville	Aug. 26	JT's Billiard Bar	Coldwater, MI
Tennis w/Overcoats	Mar. 10	Magic Bag	Ferndale, MI	March 8	Scarlet & Grey Café, Columbus, OH		Camp Buckeye	
Terry Fator	Mar. 4	Fox Theatre	Detroit		Urban Artifact, Cincinnati	Ma 5	Zephaniah	" 'دندا المس
Terry Fator	Mar. 5	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH		The Mousetrap, Indianapolis Lamasco, Evansville	мау 5	Royal Skate & Appa	rei, Lansing, IL
Tesla	Feb. 17	Firekeepers	Battle Creek, MI		Blind Pig, Ann Arbor	Fort Wayr	ne Area Performers: To ge	et vour aias on
Tesla	Feb. 18	Star Plaza Theatre	Merrillville_	March 16	Founders, Grand Rapids		ive us a call at 691-3188, fa	
Tesla	Feb. 21	The Fillmore	<u>Detroit</u>	March 17	The Loft, Lansing	691-3191,	, e-mail info.whatzup@gma	il.com or mail
Testament w/Sepultura, Prong Testament w/Sepultura, Prong	Apr. 28 May 2	Majestic Theatre Concord Music Hall	Detroit Chicago	March 18	Tonic Room, Chicago	to whatzu	ıp, 2305 E. Esterline Rd., C	Columbia City,
nodamon moopulata, i iong	May 2	CONTOURA INIUSIO I IAII	Orlicago	March 24	Vegetable Buddies, South Bend		IN 46725.	
4.4				_			<b></b> .	46 0045

### Google Earth & Happy Endings

As Oscar night approaches, I am on my annual hunt to see as many nominated films as possible. (Thanks, local theaters for making that so easy this year!) I make a special effort to see all the Best Picture nominees, which this year led me to the strange experience of, just days apart, seeing two movies, both Best Picture nominees, about lost boys.

Moonlight is the story of a boy nearly lost without ever really getting too far from family and home. Lion is the story of a boy lost far from home and his search to find the family he lost. Both stories are told in three stages. Both begin at about the same time, in the 1980s. Poverty and hardship play a significant role in each story. Though their stories could be argued to prove that we are all more alike than different, their stories are very different.

Lion is based on the incredible true story of Saroo Brierly (adapted from his memoir A Long Way From Home). As a five-year old boy, Saroo was separated from his family and adopted by an Australian couple. Twenty-five years later, with the help of the newly invented Google Earth, Saroo is able to pinpoint where his family lived and is reunited with his mother.

Lion begins with Saroo in Khandwa, in western India. (Newcomer Sunny Pawar is impossible to resist.) He and his brother Guddu (another wonderful newcomer Abhishe Bharate) help their mom (the lovely Priyanka Bose) by collecting rocks and doing whatever they can to help relieve their extreme poverty.



Saroo insists on going with Guddu on a work trip that will take several days. But the little guy falls asleep in an empty train car and wakes up hundreds of miles from home in Kolkatta, unable to speak the language with no brother or familiar sites in view.

He can't explain to the caregivers at the orphanage that takes him in where he is from or what his family name is. As a result, they can't find his family and Saroo is adopted by an Australian couple, Sue and John Brierly (Nicole Kidman and David Wenham).

This phase of Saroo's story is the most compelling. Lost children tug at the heart, even when you know they will come through unharmed. The vastness and beauty of India is well portrayed, and in the middle is one little boy alone.

In Australia Saroo finds a warm and welcoming home. The Brierly's adopt another boy. Saroo's adopted younger brother experiences many more difficulties adjusting to life in Tasmania, though he and Saroo stay connected, even when family relationships are strained.

As a young man, Saroo is played by Dev Patel. He

Continued on page 16

### Bad Things Happening with LEGOs

Tops at the Box: The LEGO Batman Movie is probably a sign of very bad things to come. The idea of studios crossbreeding franchise films feels like a new low. That the LEGO Batman film did so well, selling over \$55 million in the U.S. over its first three days and almost \$100 million worldwide, means that we'll definitely see a sequel. And a Superman film. And probably a Spider-Man film. But maybe now. Maybe I'm just cynical. But hey, why not do a Silence of the Lambs or Il Soprasso remake with LEGOs? Sounds rad.

Also at the Box: No. 2 at last weekend's U.S. box office was the new low-brow, hornball classic, *Fifty Shades Darker*, starring Dakota Fanning and directed by Who Cares. The movie sold a surprising \$47 million over its first three days of domestic sales. It also sold another \$100 million abroad. Oh no.

Taking the No. 3 spot at last weekend's box office was *John Wick: Chapter 2* which sold a decent \$30 million over its first three days of release in the U.S. Reviews are not great, but word of mouth seems to be pretty strong, considering it's a sequel to a very mediocre Keanu Reeves film.

M. Night Shyamalan's *Split* took the No. 4 spot at last weekend's box office, selling another \$9 million, bringing the flick's four-week sales totals to \$112 million in the U.S. and \$170 million worldwide.

Rounding out last weekend's Top 5 was *Hidden Figures* which has now sold and impressive \$131 million in the U.S. Whoa. Not the kind of film that's going to win a lot of awards, as planned, but a decent, satisfying feel-good drama that at least sort of suits the times.

Also of note, the James Baldwin documentary *I* Am Not Your Negro had a decent opening weekend, selling almost \$1 million in tickets despite playing on only 115 screens. Metacritic recently released their list

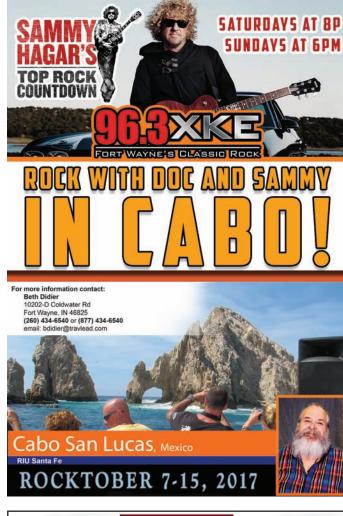


of the best reviewed films since 2000, and *I Am Not Your Negro* is the No. 6. Whoa. The company is legit, too.

New This Week: Gore Verbinski's A Cure for Wellness opens wide this weekend. Looks good. Ish. Also out everywhere is The Great Wall, the new white savior film from Zhang Yimou, a director we love for such films as Hero, House of Flying Daggers and Happy Times. The movie stars Matt Damon and Willem Dafoe and has already sold over \$224 million abroad. I don't see it doing well here, but who knows? And finally we have comedy Fist Fight, starring Ice Cube and ScreenTime favorite Charlie Day. Looks like a fun enough mainstream comedy. Day is a pretty magical comedy talent, so it's probably worth seeing. Though not at the theater, I'd guess. I don't imagine Fist Fight is especially cinematic.

ScreenRant: I scanned over the release schedule for the next many weeks, and I have to say things aren't looking so good. Spring is historically the worst time of year for new films, and this year seems to be a shining example of that trend. In fact, there's not a film set to see wide release over the next two months that I imagine I'll go out to the theater to see. There are some smaller movies that might be interesting, but nothing, if I'm being honest, that gets me too worked up. And football season is over. And basketball season is winding down. Rather than doing my annual viewing of *The Wire* in the fall, maybe this year I'll do it in the spring. What do you plan to watch this spring?

gregwlocke@gmail.com





### Was *Seinfeld* Built to Last?

Seinfeldia, by Jennifer Keishin Armstrong, Simon & Schuster, 2016

Jennifer Keishin Armstrong begins Seinfeldia, her encyclopedic history of the rise of Seinfeld, with a scene about a Seinfeld Night event at a minor league baseball game. The story, with its hokey promotions and contests built around a Seinfeld theme, is meant to drive home the idea that Seinfeld has moved far beyond just being a TV show and has settled into a unique place in our national folklore.

Armstrong's careful and detailed tracking of the show's entire history, though, points out what a cul-

tural fluke the whole thing was, and it makes one wonder if its legacy will really be as profound as we once thought it would be.

After the introduction, in which Armstrong reminds us of what Seinfeld became, she backtracks to the time before it was born. Back then, Jerry Seinfeld was the kind of successful comedian who appeared on Johnny Carson's Tonight Show a lot, and his surly pal Larry David was a moderately successful writer who was respected by other comedians but otherwise virtually unknown. When NBC tried to convince Seinfeld to create a show for the network, he and David threw together a lazy idea about a comedian who didn't really do anything except try to think of funny things; it would be a show about noth-

From there, Armstrong chronicles the show's rise to become one of the most popular programs on TV, much of its success coming despite the ambivalence of its creators. If anything, NBC executives deserve all the credit for the success of Seinfeld, as they nurtured the series through poor ratings, giving it renewals when it didn't really deserve them, moving it around the schedule to find a place where it might work. The network ordered more episodes even when David didn't want to produce them because he was afraid he would run out of good ideas.

NBC saved Seinfeld from obscurity by giving it the gift of a slot in the network's hugely popular Thursday-night lineup. There, Americans learned to appreciate the show's writers' low-effort approach to humor, finding a willingness to find unfunny things



funny just because Jerry, George, Elaine and Kramer found them funny. If anything, it's that embrace of meaninglessness that's Seinfeld's true legacy, and it haunts our culture to this day.

There is no question that Seinfeld was a cultural touchstone for GenXers who were young in the 90s.

We all know the jokes behind "master of my domain" and "not that there's anything wrong with that." But will those in-jokes and catchphrases stand as an enduring part of our culture? I'm not so sure. It might very well be that the ambivalence of the show's creators will relegate its impact to a single generation. In the decades since the series ended, it's lived on in the old-fashioned corners of television - that is, endless syndication on cable networks like TBS - and on also-ran digital platforms (meaning

But young people don't watch TBS or Hulu. They watch Netflix and YouTube and HBO (where David can't be bothered to produce more episodes of his self-starring se-

ries, Curb Your Enthusiasm, no matter how much fans want them). My kids have no idea who Jerry Seinfeld is (except maybe as the host of that boring version of "Carpool Karaoke" that doesn't have Bruno Mars or Lady Gaga on it), and to them a "double dipper" isn't any more meaningful than "sock it to me' or "you bet your sweet bippy" was to me when I was young. My kids are going to carry an appreciation of Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Gilmore Girls into the next generation. Seinfeld, not so much.

Seinfeldia is chock full of details about all the writers, actors, plots and twists that marched through the series' offices and sets over the nine seasons it ran. Because of that, it's likely to be a difficult slog for anyone who isn't intrigued to learn the life story of the guy who wrote "The Junior Mint" episode. Real fans, though, will probably drool over all the minutiae. Not that there's anything wrong with that.

evan.whatzup@gmail.com

### From Page 15

is considerably buffed up and carries more confidence than in previous roles in Slumdog Millionaire and The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel movies. Saroo is enrolled in a hospitality management program in Melbourne and is making a success of his life.

He has a sweet girlfriend, Lucy (Rooney Mara) and a collection of friends. But some of his Indian friends know so much more about where they came from, and the fact that he doesn't know starts to wear

Soon it does more than just grate on him. He begins to withdraw from family and friends. He discovers Google Earth and starts searching. He soon be-

This part of Lion is less compelling. Saroo goes from being unconcerned about his family in India to crazed to find them, to the exclusion of school and adopted life much too quickly and extremely. A messy apartment and a bulletin board covered with maps, photos, connecting strings and push pins comes across

Luke Davies' screenplay for Lion is Oscar-nominated, clearly not on the strength of these scenes. Lion is the feature directorial debut of Australian Garth Davis, perhaps best known for his collaboration with Jane Campion on the Top of the Lake series on Netf-

Davis and his cinematographer Greig Fraser (Oscar-nominated for his work here) do their best work in the scenes shot in India. Eventually, Saroo does figure out where he is from and makes the journey to find his mother and brother.

Lion ends first with a mother and child reunion and then with footage of the real Saroo and his mother meeting. As usual, the emotions the real people evoke eclipse even the excellent performances by the actors. If you want a film with a very happy ending, Lion is

ckdexterhaven@earthlink.net

### **Current Exhibits**

22ND ANNUAL VALENTINE'S INVITATIONAL - Works from local and national artists, Tuesday-Saturday and by appointment thru March 31), astle Gallery Fine Art, Fort Wayne, 426-6568

2017 SCHOLASTIC ART & WRITING **Awards** — Award-winning works from northern Indiana and northwest Ohio middle and high school students, Tuesday-Sunday thru April 9, Fort Wayne Museum of Art \$5-\$7 (members, free), 422-6467

AFROS: A CELEBRATION OF AFRICAN HAIR BY MICHAEL JULY — Contemporary photography exhibit by Brooklyn author/photographer, daily thru April 14, D'Agostino Art Gallery, Indiana Tech, Fort Wayne, 399-

BEESWAX & BASKETS - Works of encaustic painting, basketry and woven sculpture from Ruth Koomler, Monday-Saturday thru Feb. 28, Orchard Gallery of Fine Art, Fort Wayne, 436-0927

DECATUR SCULPTURE TOUR — 31 original sculptures and 15 permanent exhibits on display, walking tour maps available, **thru April 1**, Decatur,

EMILY GEODESKY — Contemporary photographs, Sunday-Friday thru Feb. 26 at First Presbyterian Art Gallery, First Presbyterian Church, Fort

Wayne, 426-7421 Entropy — Daniel Swartz solo exhibition explores relationship between death and mourning through combinations of mythology, mathematics, multi-dimensional physics and pop culture, Monday-Saturday thru April 1. Jennifer Ford Art. Fort Wayne, 740-1309

FORT WAYNE ARTIST GUILD EXHIBITIONS Works by Darlene Selzer Miller at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Alice Siefert at Allen County Retinal Surgeons, John Kelty at Citizens Square (2nd and 3rd floors), Curtis Rose at The Einhaus Group for Women's Health, Dick Heffelfinger at Heritage of Fort Wayne, Čarolyn Stachera at Ophthalmology Consultants (Southwest), Linda Binek at Ophthalmology Consultants (North), Doni Adam at Rehabilitation Hospital of Fort Wayne, Anita Trick at ResCare Inc. Adult Day Service and Town House Retirement, Karen Harvey at Visiting Nurse Hospice and Brenda Baeumier and Randy Roberts at Will Jewelers, thru Feb. fortwayneartistguild.org.

FORT WAYNE, AMERICAN MONOLOGUE - A new body of Fort Wayne-based works by Oakland, California-based artist Brett Armory, Tuesday-Sunday thru Feb. 26, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, \$5-\$7 (members, free), 422-6467

GENERATIONS: A VIEW OF WHO WAS Wно — Works by Romare Bearden, Kara Walker, Alma Thomas, Jacob Lawrence and other African-American artists, Tuesday-Sunday thru April 9, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, \$5-\$7 (members, free), 422-

GLASS: A MEDIUM IN ART AND Auтомовіles — Dale Chihuly blown glass and fiberglass auto, daily thru Sept. 8, Auburn, \$7.50-\$12.50,

IPFW CONTINUING STUDIES PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY GRADUATE EXHIBIT Photographs from 2017 graduates, Friday-Sunday thru March 5, Garrett Museum of Art, Garrett, 704-5400

LIFE IN FULL BLOOM - Metal sculpture focused on a spirit of hope for women with breast cancer. Sunday-Friday thru Feb. 26 at First Presbyterian Art Gallery, First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne,

A Mary Poppins Garden Party — Child-oriented garden exhibit, Tuesday-Sunday thru April 1, Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5 (2 and under, free), 427-6440

----- Calendar • Art & Artifacts -----

MILTON GLASER: SIXTY YEARS OF **DESIGN** — Works from the one of the nation's preeminent graphic designers, daily thru Feb. 21, Weatherhead Gallery, USF Rolland Art Center, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, 399-7999

OUTDOOR SCULPTURE INVITATIONAL -Fifteen outdoor sculptures from regional artists, daily thru April 30, School of Creative Arts campus, University of Saint Francis North Campus, Fort Wayne, 399-7999

PATRICIA BIESEN: PASTELS, INK DRAWING & Acrylic — Works from Chicagobased artist recently relocated to Fort Wayne, Tuesday-Sunday thru Feb. 29, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5 (2 and under, free), 427-6440

A PEEK AT THE STUDIO CREATIONS OF DOC WIEDMAN: TRADITIONAL CARVER of Wood Since 1980 — Nearly 70 original works by Huntington-based wood artist, Monday-Friday thru Feb. 28, Balentine Gallery, Arts, Commerce & Visitors Centre. Bluffton, 824-5222

TIM BRUMBELOE RETROSPECTIVE - A retrospective of local photographer's works over the past 25 years, Monday-Friday thru March 17, Lupke Gallery, University of Saint Francis North Campus, Fort Wayne,

TRIANGULATIONS - Etchings and giclee prints, daily thru Feb. 28 Old Crown Coffee Roasters, Fort Wayne, 797-9821

WOODCARVINGS BY DR. LARRY WIEDMAN — "A peek at the studio creations of Doc Wiedman: traditional carver of wood since 1980," Monday-Friday thru Feb. 24, Balentine Gallery, Arts Commerce & Visitors Center, Bluffton, 824-5222

### Artifacts

FWAG OPENING RECEPTION — Opening reception for the Fort Wayne Artists Guild Members Show, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24, Jeffrey Krull Gallery, Main Branch, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, free and open to public, fortwayneartist-

ARTRAGEOUS GALA AND AUCTION - Live and silent auctions featuring art, jewelry and luxury travel packages live music, dinner and desserts, 6 p.m. Friday, March 3, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, \$175-\$225, 422-

2ND THURSDAY IN THE PARADIGM GALLERY - Night of coloring for kids and adults with local coloring book artist and ceramist Rebecca Graves, 5-8 p.m. Thursday, March 9, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, free, 422-

3RD ANNUAL PI(E) DAY CHARITY AUCTION Charitable fundraiser featuring art made using pie pans, 6 p.m. Saturday, March 18, Sweets So Geek, Fort Wayne, 312-5758

### **Upcoming Exhibits**

### **FEBRUARY**

MOMENTS IN TIME: REFLECTING ON THE Human Spirit — Elizabeth Opalenik photographs from her recent Amish series A Journey Home and her Reflecting on the Edge exhibition, daily, Feb. 27-March 26 (artist reception and lecture, 5-7 p.m. **Thursday, March 2**), Visual Arts Gallery, IPFW, Fort Wayne, 481-

### Calendar • Stage & Dance -----Now Playing

42nd Street — Classic song-and-dance fable of Broadway, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, Honeywell Center, Wabash, \$35-\$58, 563-1102

DANIEL TIGER'S NEIGHBORHOOD LIVE! From the animated TV series, live, interactive musical adventure for children, **6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16,** Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$22-\$78 thru Ticketmaster and Embassy box office, 424-5665

не Little Prince — Fort Wayne Ballet Youth Company performs dances based on the story of a young prince who has fallen to Earth from a tiny asteroid, **10 a.m. &** 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, Fort Wayne Ballet Studios, Auer Center for Arts & Culture, Fort Wayne, \$10, 422-4226

**И**Eмрніs — Fort Wayne Civic Theatre production featuring music from the underground dance clubs of 1950s Memphis, Tennessee, 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Feb. 17-18; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 24-25; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26, Arts United Center, Fort Wayne, \$17-\$29, 424-

TUPID **F\*@%ing B**IRD — IPFW Department of Theatre's performance of a comedic send-up of Anton Checkov's *The Seagull*, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 17-18; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19 (sign-language performance); 8 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, Feb 23-25, Williams Theatre, IPFW, Fort Wayne, \$5-\$16, 481-6555 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S ROMEO AND JULIET — all for One productions' immersive-theater adaptation of the Shakespeare tragedy, 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 17-18; 2:30 Sunday, Feb. 19; 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 24-25; 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26, PPG ArtsLab, Auer Center for Arts & Culture, Fort Wayne, \$11-20, 422-4226

### **Asides**

### **AUDITIONS**

DISNEY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID (APRIL 22-May 7) — Auditions for Fort Wayne Civic Theatre production, 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19 (callbacks 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 20), Arts United Center (check in at rear entrance), Fort Wayne, sign up at 422-8641 ext. 226

James and the Giant Peach (May 11-13)

— Fort Wayne Youtheatre auditions, 4-6 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, March 28-29, Arts United Center, Fort Wayne, 422-4226

### SPECIAL EVENTS

NORTHEAST INDIANA PLAYWRIGHT FESTIVAL - Fort Wayne Civic Theatresponsored workshop featuring Janet Allen (executive artistic director of Indiana Repertory Theatre), live productions of winning play (One Foot in the Gravy), readings of 2nd- and 3rd-place winning plays (My Dead Clown and The Unpredictability of Fire) and reception, **10 a.m.** Saturday, March 18, PPG ArtsLab, Auer Center for Arts and Culture, Fort Wayne, \$20-\$40 for festival package, \$10-\$20 for individual events. 424-5220

### **Upcoming Productions**

### **FFBRUARY**

PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE - Steve Martin's absurdist comedy involving a conversation between Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso in a Parisian cafe in 1904, 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 23-25 and 2 p.m Sunday, Feb. 26, USF Performing Arts Center, Fort Wayne, \$10-\$12, 422-4226

### MARCH

THE BALLAD OF 423 AND 424 — IPFW Department of Theatre's production of Nicholas C. Pappas' short (30-minute) play based on William Shakespeare's 23rd Sonnet, 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, March 2-3, Studio Theatre, Kettler Hall, IPFW, \$5 thru IPFW box office 481-6555

Murderous Crossing — Wells Community Theater's comedic murder mystery/dinner theater production, 6:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 3-4; 4 p.m. Sunday, March 5 (show only), Arts Commerce & Visitors Center, Bluffton, \$25 (\$10 for non-dinner performance), 824-

THE LITTLE RED HEN - Children's musical performed by students of Fort Wayne Area Homeschool Drama Camp, **7 p.m. Friday, March 3,** Woodburn Missionary Church, Woodburn, freewill offering, 493CELEBRATING DR. SEUSS — Fort Wayne Ballet Youth Company performs dances based on the stories of Dr. Seuss, 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 4, Fort Wayne Ballet Studios, Auer Center for Arts & Culture, Fort Wayne, \$10, 422-4226

ESTHER — The story of Queen Esther performed by Fort Wayne Area Homeschool Drama Camp students 1 p.m. Saturday, March 4, Woodburn Missionary Church, Woodburn, freewill offering, 493-

PIPPIN — Musical featuring acrobatics and feats of magic, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 5, Honeywell Center, Wabash, \$35-\$58, 563-1102

Мамма Mia! — Broadway at the Embassy production based on Abba songs, **7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 7,** Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$30-\$65 thru Ticketmaster and Embassy box office, 424-5665

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Book and Lyrics by JOE DIPIETRO

Music and Lyrics by DAVID BRYAN



February 17-26 260.424.5220 fwcivic.org





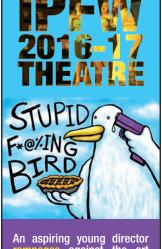
intensity



MARCH 17 & 18 @ 7:30 PM • MARCH 18 @ 2:30 PM



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the art created by his mother's generation. nubile young actress wrestles with an aging Hollywood star for the affections of a renowned novelist. everyone discovers just how disappointing love, art, and growing up can be in this contemporary, and very funny remix of Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull*.

Feb. 17–25, 2017 Williams Theatre

ipfw.edu/theatre ipfw.edu/tickets 260-481-6555

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE | IPFW





Performances at the PPG ArtsLab 300 E. Main St CALL 422-4226 for tickets www.tickets.artstix.org

www.allforOnefw.org

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### Maybe This Time They'll Live

ROMEO & JULIET

all for One Productions

7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday,

Feburary 17-18 & 24-25

2 p.m. Sunday, February 19 & 26

PPG ArtsLab

Auer Center for Arts & Culture

300 E. Main St, Fort Wayne

\$11-\$20, 260-422-4226

You never forget your first Shakespeare. Trust me on this. If you have never seen the Bard live on stage and you think you're "just not into that kind of thing," let me challenge you. Go see just one show and then decide whether Shakespeare is for you. Sure, you may have read *Julius Caesar* in high school. You remember that everybody talked funny, with lots of "thee" and "thou" spread trhoughout, but that's not really what Shakespeare is all about.

I was a freshman, and my knowledge of Shakespeare was more or less limited to the operatic *Hamlet* episode of *Gilligan's Island*. But when Larry Life di-

rected a production of *Romeo* & *Juliet* at IPFW, my mom and I were eager to attend. We saw it four times.

I've enjoyed a fair amount of Shakespeare productions over the years. And all for One has talked about the possibility of doing one ourselves, eventually. But the time never felt right until now. As I thought about this season, knowing that I wanted to do a show in the round, in an inti-

mate, immersive style, suddenly the idea of producing our first Shakespeare seemed to fit the bill perfectly.

A newspaper interview with Larry Life way back when (1976 or so) included an idea which struck me as profoundly true: when you're doing a well-known classic tragedy, you have to make the audience care so deeply about the characters that they hope against hope that this time the story will end differently. That



is a big assignment, but it is definitely how we've approached this production.

The proximity of the audience to the stage helps to draw them into the action. Depending on where you sit, you will be identified as either a Capulet or a Montague – and treated accordingly. There is no "fourth

wall" to speak of, so the actors will speak directly to the audience much of the time. You will be near witnesses to several deadly sword fights, a masked ball, a young couple falling in love, an older couple scheming to arrange a lucrative marriage and a well-meaning priest who tries to bring everyone to a happy ending. Will it work? The actors will make you hope so!

So you don't understand every word. You will understand the plot of this, one of Shakespeare's most accessible plays. *Romeo & Juliet* truly has something for everyone, from the buffoonery of the servants to the wit and wordplay of Mercutio, from the swordsmanship of Tybalt to the tender passion of the young lovers. Do yourself a favor: before you write off Shakespeare as "not your thing," see *this* thing.

### A Metatheatrical Take on Chekhov

STUPID F\*@%ING BIRD

8 p.m. Friday-Saturday Feb. 17-18

2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19

8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday,

Feb. 23-25

Williams Theatre, IPFW

2101 E. Coliseum Blvd., Fort Wayne

Tix.: \$5-\$16, 260-481-6555

One of the advantages of having a university theater department in your hometown is that you do not have to travel to Chicago or New York City to experience some of the most contemporary theater being performed today. We train our students in these new works and techniques, in turn entreating our audiences to experiences they will not find anywhere else in the region.

And so it is with *Stupid F*\*@%*ing Bird* by Aaron

Posner and directed by Jeff Casazza, which runs Feb. 17-25 at IPFW's Williams Theatre.

Posner's takeoff on Anton Chekhov's somewhat dusty 19th-century play *The Seagull* is a combination of extreme silliness and searing insight that makes *Stupid F\*@%ing Bird* not just engrossing, but also emo-

tionally resonant in a startling sort of way. Chekhov was revolutionary in his time, and Posner has made him so again. He has taken Chekhov's classic and run it through a post-modern, post-theatrical shredder, taking the actors and audience on a wild and crazy "meta-theatrical" ride.

Stupid F\*@%ing Bird became something of an instant classic in its own right when it debuted at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company in 2013 in Washington, D.C. It has been one of the most produced contemporary plays in recent years and was called "the best Chekhov adaptation in two decades" by L.A. Weekly.



### Director's Notes

**JEFF CASAZZA** 

So what is meta-theater anyway? Meta-theater describes aspects of a play that draw attention to its nature as theatre, or to the circumstances of its perfor-

mance. Those aspects often include actors directly addressing the audience, dropping the notion of a fourth wall, and the acknowledgement of the fact that the people performing are actors and not actually the characters they are playing.

You don't have to know *The Seagull* to enjoy

the production, but if you do know Chekhov's play, you're bound to be surprised and delighted by these meta-theatrical actors/characters as they navigate the murky waters of this insightful play.

Stupid F\*@%ing Bird concerns a roundelay of romantic and emotional entanglements amongst a group of family members and their friends gathered at a large beach house. Emma, a famous diva who is not about to relinquish the spotlight, is surrounded by Sorn, her genial doctor brother and her son Con, a tor-

Continued on page 19

### **Featured Events**

ARTLINK EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS —
Art classes offered by Artlink
Contemporary Art Gallery, dates
and times vary, Artlink, Fort
Wayne, fees vary, 424-7195

FORT WAYNE DANCE COLLECTIVE
WORKSHOPS — WOrkshops and
classes for movement, dance, yoga
and more offered by Fort Wayne
Dance Collective, dates and times
vary, Fort Wayne Dance Collective,
Fort Wayne, fees vary, 424-6574

IPFW Community Arts Academy— Art, dance, music and theater classes for grades pre-K through 12 offered by IPFW College of Visual and Performing Arts, fees vary, 481-6977, www.ipfw.edu/caa

Live Trivia — Trivia night with live host, **7-9 p.m. Tuesdays**, Duesy's Sports Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, free, 484-0411

SWEETWATER ACADEMY OF MUSIC —
Private lessons for a variety of
instruments available from professional instructors, ongoing weekly
lessons, Sweetwater Sound, Fort
Wayne, call for pricing, 432-8176,
academy.sweetwater.com

TEAM TRIVIA — Trivia for teams of up to 6 players, 7 p.m. Thursdays, Crazy Pinz/Coconutz, Fort Wayne, free, 969-9336

TINCTURE TRIVIA — Trivia night for teams of 4 or 6 people, **7-9 p.m. Tuesdays**, Nick's Martini & Wine Bar, Fort Wayne, free, 482-6425

### Current

ADAC Horse Drawn Tours — Tours of Yarn Bomb instillation with artists meet and greet, 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, downtown Auburn, free, www.adacinc.org

Taste of the Sister Cities —
Fundraising gala featuring cuisine form Germany, Poland, Japan, China and Myanmar, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 18 Mirro Center for Research and Innovation, Parkview Regional Medical Center, Fort Wayne, \$100, 2017gala.brownpapertickets.com

WINTER SPIEL NACHT — Game night featuring euchre and corn hole tournaments, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18 (partner draw at 6 p.m.), Fort Wayne Sport Club, Fort Wayne, \$15, 432-6011

### <u>Lectures, Discussions,</u> <u>Authors, Readings &</u> Films

NICHELLE M. HAYES — Librarian in charge of Indianapolis Public Library's Center for African-American Literature, Culture and Black Experience conducts a two-hour seminar on African American genealogical research, 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, Discovery Center, Main Library, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, free, 421-1225

HAVE YOU BEEN SERVED? HUMAN DIGNITY, THE COMMON GOOD AND THE PURPOSE OF BUSINESS — SISTER Helen Alford, O.P. examines the human side of business, 7 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center, Fort Wayne, \$10-\$15, 300.8112

GROWING UP IN FORT WAYNE WITH TIES TO MYANNAR (BURMA) — Panel discussion with community leaders and students with ties to Myanmar, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, Walb Classic Ballroom, IPFW, Fort Wayne, free, 481-6555

Indiana's All-Time Greatest Sports Stories — George R. Mather lecture with Blake Sebring, 2 p.m. Sunday, March 5, History Center, Fort Wayne, free, 426-2882

----- Calendar • Things To Do ------

CHRISTIANITY, HISTORY AND THE COMMON GOOD — Dr. John Bequette speaks, 3 p.m. Sunday, March 5, Brookside Ballroom, University of St. Francis, Fort Wayne, free, philosophy.sf.edu
What's Your Legacy? — Jewish

Federation of Fort Wayne sponsored lecture featuring best selling author and television host Brad Melter; dessert reception and book signing to follow, 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 6, Congregation Achduth Vesholom, Fort Wayne, free, 402-6149

Healing Our Community with Hope:
Part 2 — Olympic Gold Medalist
Allison Schmitt talks about her
struggles with mental illness and
depression; Q&A session to follow,
2:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 7, USF
Robert Goldstine Performing Arts
Center, Fort Wayne, free, 399-8050

BIRTHING A BOOK: FROM SKETCHING TO SELF-PUBLISHING — GEOTGE R. Mather lecture with local artist Diane Groenert; book signing to follow, 2 p.m. Sunday, April 2, History Center, Fort Wayne, free, 426-2882

DR. Bennet Omalu — Omnibus lecture with doctor who raised awareness of CTE after performing an autopsy on NFL center Mike Webster and was chronicled in the film Concussion, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 4, Rhinehart Music Center, IPFW, Fort Wayne, free, tickets required, 481-6555

TOWARDS A PHILOSOPHICAL THEORY OF PRACTICE — Dr. Vincent Wargo speaks, 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, Brookside Ballroom, University of St. Francis, Fort Wayne, free, philosophy.sf.edu

### **Call for Entry**

HOBNOBBEN FILM FESTIVAL (June 15-18, 2017) — Call for narrative, documentary, experimental, animated, family, student and short film submissions, regular deadline Thursday, Feb. 16 (late deadline Thursday, March 3), Fort Wayne, \$20-\$40, to submit a film visit www. hobnobben.org

### **Storytimes**

STORYTIMES, ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS AT ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY:
ABOITE BRANCH — Born to Read Storytime, 10:30 a.m. Mondays, Smart Start Storytime, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays & Thursdays, Baby Steps, 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays, 421 1320

421-1320 DUPONT BRANCH - Born to Read Storytime, 10:15 a.m. Mondays, Baby Steps Storytime, 10:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Tuesdays, Ants in Your Pants Storytime, 10:30 & 11:30 a.m. Wednesday & Thursdays, PAWS to Read, 4 p.m. Wednesdays, Bookworms Storytime, 11:15 a.m. Thursdays Smart Start Storytime for ages 3-5, 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 10:30 a.m. Thursdays, 421-1315 GEORGETOWN BRANCH — Born to Read Storytime, 10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Mondays, Baby Steps Storytime, 10:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays; Family Storytime, 10:15 & 11 a.m. Thursdays, 421-

GRABILL BRANCH — Born to Read, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays; Smart Start Storytime 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays, 421-1325

### Calendar • Things To Do ------Dance

LITTLE TURTLE BRANCH — Storytime for toddlers & preschoolers, 10:30 a.m. Mondays and Tuesdays; Babies and Books, 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays, 421-1335 Main Library — Babies and Books, 10 a.m. Fridays; Family Story Time, 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays; Storytime for preschoolers, day cares and other groups, 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays; Toddler Time, 10:30 **& 11 a.m. Fridays**; 421-1220 New Haven Branch - Babies and

p.m. Thursdays 421-1350

TECUMSEH BRANCH — Smart

Start Storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Teen Thursdays, **3:30 p.m. Thursdays**, 421-1355

Thursdays, 421-1360

Tuesdays, 421-1365

Tuesdays, YA Day for teens 5

p.m. Wednesdays, Wondertots reading for ages 1-3, 10:30 a.m.

Shawnee Branch — Born to Read

Storytime, 10:30 a.m. Thursdays,

WAYNEDALE BRANCH - Smart Start

Storytime, 10:30 a.m. Mondays & Tuesdays, Born to Read Storytime

for babies and toddlers, 10:15 a.m.

WOODBURN BRANCH - Smart Start

Storytime, 10:30 a.m. Fridays,

Sports and Recreation

Formula for Life 5K — 5K walk and run; proceeds benefit residential

and nutritional needs of Haitian

University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, \$15, 399-7700 ext.8210

HEROES AND VILLIANS 5K — Costumed

Rivergreenway Boat Dock, Fort

Wayne, \$18-\$28, 786-709-5108

HG PATRIOT RUN — St. Vincent

American Heritage Girls Troop

IN3712 fundraiser featuring 1 mile

kids run (3:30 p.m.), 5k (4 p.m.)

and prizes for most patriotic cos-

YMCA Pavilion, Dawsons Creek

Blvd., Fort Wayne, \$3-\$100, 433-

FORT WAYNE KOMETS - Upcoming home

games at Allen County War Memorial

FRIDAY, FEB. 17 vs. Kalamazoo, 8

SATURDAY, FEB. 18 vs. Brampton,

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22 vs. Quad City,

SATURDAY, FEB. 25 vs. Wichita, 7:30

SUNDAY, FEB. 26 vs. Wheeling, 5

SATURDAY, MARCH 4 vs. Wheeling,

SUNDAY, MARCH 5 vs. Wheeling, 5

FRIDAY, MARCH 17 vs. Tulsa, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22 VS. Norfolk,

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 vs. Cincinnati,

Sunday, March 26 vs. Florida, 5

Wednesday, March 29 vs. Alaska,

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5 vs. Toledo, 7:30

SATURDAY, APRIL 8 vs. Quad City, 7:30

**Spectator Sports** 

Coliseum, Fort Wayne

7:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

p.m.

p.m.

tume, Sunday, May 21, Parkview

5K walk and run, 10 a.m. (registration, 8:45 a.m.) Saturday, May 20,

orphans, Sunday, April 23,

CONTRA DANCE — Old time dance with live caller and live music from Spy Run String Band, no partner necessary, 8-11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, books for kids birth to age 2, **10:30** а.m. Thursdays, 421-1345 Ронтіас Вкансн — Smart Start Fort Wayne Dance Collective, Fort Wayne, \$6-\$9, 244-1905 SUNDAY NIGHT SINGLES DANCE - Open Storytime for preschoolers, 10:30 dancing with DJ, cash bar and pot luck carry-in, **6-9 p.m. Sunday**, a.m. Fridays, PAWS to Read, 5

### **February**

YLNI MARDI GRAS MASQUERADE BALL -Black tie event playing off the seven deadly sins with casino games, music, dancing, drinks and dinner, 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, Embassy Theatre Ballroom, Fort Wayne, \$55-\$100, www.ylni.org

Feb. 26, American Legion Post 47,

Fort Wayne, \$7, 409-3321

EMBODY DANCE— Guided dancing for

adults of all ages and abilities to exercise the mind, body and spirits,

7-8:30 p.m. first and third Sunday

of each month, Fort Wayne Dance

Collective, Fort Wayne, \$10 sug-

gested donation, 244-1905

ROTARY BIG EASY FEAST — Mardi Gras celebration featuring traditional foods to raise money for Riverfront Development projects, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, Lincoln Financial Event Center, Parkview Field, Fort Wayne, \$30, 423-2130

### March

MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & SWAP -Dozens of tables featuring model railroad equipment, operating model railroad layout and more, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, March 4, Coliseum Bingo, Fort Wayne, \$5-\$7, 482-2203

St. Catty's Day - St. Patrick's day celebration with sanctuary tours and visits with captive-raised and displaced exotic animals, 1-4 p.m. Saturday, March 18, Black Pine Animal Sanctuary, Albion, \$7-\$10,

FORT WAYNE F.A.M.E. FESTIVAL -Works of art by area student, music, stage and dance performances, appearance by Taizhou Opera Company and more, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, March 18 and 12-5 p.m. Sunday, March 19, Grand Wayne Center, Fort Wayne, \$5, 427-7325

GUIDED HISTORY TOUR AND LUNCH - TOUR of Allen County Courthouse and Swinney Homestead with lunch at the Homestead, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, March 23 (reservation and payment due by Thursday, March 16), tour begins at Allen Co. Courthouse, Fort Wayne, \$25, 747-1501

Puttin' on the Ritz —Active 20-30 club fundraiser with live music from Chris Worth and Company, gourmet edibles, wine and beer, live and silent auctions; black tie optional 7 p.m. Saturday, March 25, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$50-\$90, 450-2844

Marquee Gala - Embassy Theatre fundraiser featuring cocktails, four-course dinner, behind-thescenes tours and performance by Billy Porter of Kinky Boots, 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 29, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$250, 424-

THERESA CAPUTO — Appearance by Long Island Medium, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 30, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$39.75-\$123.75, 483-1111

### The Clyde at a Critical Juncture

For the Clyde Theatre, the moment of truth is nigh.

Several moments of truth, in fact.

In the next month, the long-shuttered south side cinema will either rise from the dead as a live music venue or sink back into oblivion.

The man who has been trying to revitalize the venerable Bluffton Road movie house is Rick Kinney.

Kinney recently took on one of the best equity partners that a young music industry entrepreneur could hope to befriend: Sweetwater Sound founder

"I first went to Chuck earlier in 2015," he said. "I visited with a lot of people to seek the right partners on this. As it turned out, I was running into some problems with the bank's side of it, and it was getting complicated with our other partners."

Surack subsequently became "re-interested" in the project, Kinney said.

'As it turned out, he was the right partner for us," Kinney said. "Chuck is really supportive of the city of Fort Wayne becoming a destination for entertainment, culture, music and community. He's just really interested in building a strong community here.

Given Surack's track record of personal success and public philanthropy, Kinney said he is thrilled to collaborate with him.

"The way that I feel having Chuck on as a partner is that I am honored to have the opportunity to earn his trust and respect," he said.

The 23,000-square-foot Clyde Theatre, part of Quimby Village, was built in 1950. It was one of the first shopping center-based movie theaters in the country and operated under various owners until 1995. A church subsequently rented the space for a time and there was a flashy, if fruitless, attempt to transform it into a nightclub specializing in Latin music.

Kinney acquired the Clyde in 2012 for \$500.

His vision for the theater involves turning it into a scalable, general admission concert venue with a capacity ranging from 400 to 2,200 people, depending on how it is configured. The theater will primarily be a standing (as opposed to sitting) venue, although some limited seating will be available.

Every aspect of the revamp has been subject to rigorous research and analysis.

Kinney said he studied more than 100 venues across the country - as patron, performer, stagehand and stage technician – and everything that he learned was brought to bear on renovation plans for the

"I even recently spent two years as the technical director of the Embassy Theatre," he said. "Through these experiences, I have learned what makes a venue good or bad ... I have literally played all of [the roles associated with operating a theater] at one time or another.

"Unless your reader has visited the venues I have studied,' Kinney said, "it is hard to describe what the Clyde will offer without opening the doors and giving them the experience."

Renovation – which will include upgrades, equipment purchases and a parking lot repaving - will cost



### Fort Forward **STEVE PENHOLLOW**

Three of the biggest pieces of this funding puzzle. Kinney said, are a \$1.5 million bank loan, a \$1 million Regional Cities grant and a \$1 million Legacy Funds

Each piece is fully dependent on the others.

"If we don't get the million from Regional Cities and don't get the one million (Legacy Funds loan) from the city," he said, "then we don't get the bank loan and I don't get the private equity commitment from Chuck," Kinney explained.

Kinney went before the Northern Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) again on Feb. 14. If the RDA recommends Regional Cities funding, the Indiana Economic Development Commission (IEDC) will have 30 days to grant final approval.

He will go before the Legacy Committee on Feb. 16. The terms of the Legacy loan will then be negotiated with the Redevelopment Commission. The City Council must grant final approval.

There's a 50/50 chance, Kinney surmises, that these pieces will come together.

If they do, construction will start in late April or early May.

Kinney hopes the theater's success will be contagious in that area.

"I cannot tell you how excited I am to see further investment in Quimby Village and the surrounding

area if the Clyde gets fully funded," he said. "Although tons of exciting possibilities exist, it really would be up to the private sector to step in at that point. This will be the beginning of a domino effect of truly blighted, forgotten real estate blossoming into a tax-generating, entertainment and retail district." The Hall's Restaurant chain owns riverfront prop-

erty nearby that Kinney believes could be developed in much the same way as The Deck at the Gashouse was developed downtown.

While it's great to have a vibrant downtown, Kinney said, no vibrant downtown is an island. A vibrant downtown needs "strong cornerstones."

"We can build downtown up all day, but if you drive five blocks out of what they call downtown, you're still pretty much downtown," he said. "And if it's blighted and economically distressed, it's really not going to be a healthy and thriving community.

'One thing that has been proven by many other cities across the U.S. is that our downtown core will only be as strong as its foundational cornerstones and neighborhoods," Kinney said. "The thriving success of corridors and neighborhoods such as Broadway to Rudisill; the GE Campus and Quimby Village; Wells Street and North Anthony and Calhoun Street and the many others will be absolutely essential to long term downtown development and population growth in our region as a whole.

steve.penhollow@gmail.com

### - From Page 18

tured artist who demands too much from the world and gives little in return. Emma's proud and pompous lover Trigorin is tempted by the love of Con's life, the ambitious, but soon to be tragic Nina, while timid Dev swoons for Goth girl Mash, who channels her depression by writing and singing happy ukulele tunes about the harshness of life and love.

And while these may not be the most likable selfabsorbed characters (Chekhov's weren't either for that matter), you'll never, ever be bored by them. From the beginning, they fill the stage with bursts of energy and enthusiasm through dialogue filled with hilarious lines that critique both each other and the play they're

Yes, these characters know that they're in a play, and they happily comment on the relevance of theater in the 21st century. It will give you a refreshing look at how theater embraces our world today.

February 16, 2017 -----



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