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SPOTLIGHT

X band to come to Eugene, open for Warren Zevon

By Chris Metzler
Emerald Contributor

In an telephone interview with X, after the band had endured a twenty-hour bus jaunt from Houston to Denver, a not-so-coherent John Doe and Excene talked a bit about their tour with Warren Zevon.

Have you blown him away?

"It's happened a couple times," Doe admitted with a sense of humbleness.

It started in Los Angeles during the beginning of what somebody has labeled "punk rock." X stood heads above the rest in talent and energy of the rawest sort. Ten years later, X has not moved much further in popularity ("It gets frustrating," they admit), but they have attained a well-earned respect among their loyal fans, and Doe said, "musically, our songs are shown better in later songs."

X has often been described as the biggest underground cult act, but they have always longed to be rid of the false label and become famous. The only thing original about X is their unwillingness to give up their ideals.

X has recently experienced "guitar player turn-over." Original guitarist Billy "perma-grin" Zoom was the first to leave.

"Billy was tired of touring and playing the same places," said Doe. "At first, it was upsetting, but in the final analysis it helped the band a lot to have change and renewed interest."

Is "Anyone Can Fill Your Shoes" about Zoom?

Doe is unsure, so Excene jumps in. "It's about guys who pick up girls in bars." Oh, OK.

Then there was Dave Alvin who left brother Phil behind with the Blasters to take over for Zoom.

"He worked for us for a year and six months," said Doe. "After we finished 'See How We Are,' then he decided he wanted to do his solo act. Dave had everyone singing his songs except himself."

The present guitarist is Tony Gilkyson, who also does mean splits in the rock 'n roll fashion. He will hopefully stay put in X's "Hot House." Gilkyson formerly played with Lone Justice, but he is just filling the "guitar shoes" fine, judging by X's last Oregon appearance.

X's sixth album, "See How We Are," uses their third producer, Alvin Clark. Their first four albums were produced by Ex-Door Ray Manzerek. "We had enough working with him. You have to feel excited about going into the studio," said Doe.

The band's 1985 release "Ain't Love Grand," sold well, due in part to its dense "hard rock" sound. "That sold the best of all the records," said Doe. "It got the most airplay, etc. If you play the game, higher-ups will throw you dog bones."

Touring with Zevon has exposed X to an older crowd who will hopefully take notice.

"There's only so many avenues you can take to get your music across. MTV and radio are dead-end streets. You tour and the same people always come because the others are afraid," said a frustrated Excene. "His (Zevon's) audience doesn't want to dance, but they also don't know our



The quartet called X, which performs Tuesday in the Hult Center, are (clockwise, from top left): John Doe, D. J. Bonebrake, Excene Cervenka, and Tony Gilkyson.

songs."

What does the future hold for X?

"We're gonna release a live album in the spring from various European shows and some upcoming shows at the Whiskey will be on it," said Doe. One of X's most interesting projects was a folk group, The Knitters, that plays the songs they grew up on. "The Knitters happen when people have time," said Excene, who will be saving her next poetry book for after Christmas. This guy named Zevon has played with

about everyone you can think of underneath the banner of critic's favorites — REM, Jackson Browne, Neil Young and Dylan to name a few. "Sentimental Hygiene" is his first release in five years. From a guy who's only had one top 10 hit ("Werewolves of London"), you might wonder why in tarnation he is headlining.

X will be opening for Warren Zevon Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Hult Center. Tickets are \$15.50 and are available at the Hult Center.

Brubeck, dance troupe perform 'visual jazz'

By Kathy Proffitt
Emerald Contributor

For those with a passion for jazz and a thirst for joyous, fast-paced dancing, the combination of the Murray Louis Dance Company and The Dave Brubeck Quartet will fully infuse the senses with a mixture of color, movement and sound.

These two world-renowned ensembles together create a unique blend of highly energized visual jazz that practically leaps off the stage. A new collection of works by the two groups will be performed at 7 p.m. Sunday in the Hult Center's Silva Hall. Music and dance have probably never before complemented each other so completely and harmoniously.

Jazz aficionados are certainly familiar with Brubeck's personal piano style — his use of odd-metered time signatures and emphasis on improvisation and harmonic experimentation that first excited audiences in San Francisco in the late '40s. His most popular album, "Time Out," sold over one million copies, becoming the first gold record for modern jazz.

Having received national attention by 1954 as the subject for a Time magazine cover story, in which he was known as the man responsible for the "rebirth of jazz," Dave Brubeck and his Quartet toured Eastern Europe and the Middle East, spreading their original sound. They later incorporated ethnic music they had heard into stimulating, new jazz.

Not only was their music bouncing off the walls of every college dorm by this time, but it reverberated through the White House as well. Brubeck and his Quartet have performed before every president since John Kennedy, and they have also been chosen to entertain visiting heads of state at The White House.

It seems only appropriate that music generating such world appeal and excitement should be coupled with the unique, powerful choreography of Murray Louis. The collaboration of these two groups has received



The Murray Louis Dance Company is scheduled to dance to Dave Brubeck's jazz Sunday in the Hult Center.

rave reviews throughout the United States, Europe and Japan since 1984.

Like Brubeck, Louis' popularity began in the '50s when he formed the Murray Louis Dance Co., and began touring the United States. Louis has since choreographed over 100 works, including pieces for the Royal Danish Ballet, the Bat Sheva Dance Co., in Tel Aviv, the Hamburg Opera Ballet, the Scottish Ballet, the Berlin Opera Ballet and other smaller companies in the United States and Canada.

Additionally, Louis has a collection of essays on dance titled "Inside Dance," and a five-part film series, "Dance as an Art Form," that has received international acclaim.

The program to be performed at the Hult Center Sunday evening will feature the exuberant collaboration of Brubeck and Louis in the "New Show," sponsored through a grant from the UCLA Center for the Performing Arts. The two groups will perform together first, and after intermission a solo set of Brubeck's music will be heard, followed by a smashing finale in which the dancers interpret "Four Brubeck Pieces."

Tickets for this performance are \$15, \$10 and \$7.50 with a limited number of student and senior discount tickets. They are available at the Hult Center and the EMU Main Desk.

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The folk trio Peter, Paul and Mary will perform Saturday in the Hult Center.

Peter, Paul and Mary to play Hult Saturday

By Cami Swanson
Emerald Reporter

Through the years Peter, Paul and Mary have become one of the most recognized folk groups in America. The popularity of Peter, Paul and Mary still remains high. The trio will perform before a sold-out crowd at the Hult Center this Saturday at 8 p.m.

Famous for such songs as "Leaving on a Jet Plane," "If I Had a Hammer," and "Puff, the Magic Dragon," Peter Yarrow, Noel "Paul" Stookey and Mary Travers have been performing together for over 25 years.

The group came together in 1961 at Greenwich Village's Bitter End coffee house, when

folk music was just beginning to dominate the decade. In 1963, Peter, Paul and Mary's remake of Bob Dylan's "Blowing in the Wind" sold 300,000 copies in the first two weeks, and won a Grammy for the Best Folk Music Record.

In 1970, Peter, Paul and Mary broke up to pursue their separate careers, but it wasn't for lack of success as a group. By that time, the trio had earned eight gold and five platinum albums, and their song "Leaving on a Jet Plane" was working its way up the charts to where it was to become their first number-one hit.

After they disbanded, each member of the group stayed involved in music to a varying degree. Travers recorded five albums, produced, wrote and starred in a television series for the BBC, lectured and gave concerts across the

country.

Stookey later turned to Christianity and settled with his family in Maine, where he sang about 40 gigs a year. In 1971, he wrote, in honor of Yarrow's marriage, "The Wedding Song (There is Love)."

Yarrow remained active in the folk movement, appearing on folk shows and taking part in various concerts and festivals. He was also a political activist in humanist causes.

Performing in about 50 concerts a year, Peter, Paul and Mary have continued to voice their concerns about the eighties with songs such as their independently released singles "El Salvador," about the Salvadorian government's use of U.S. aid, and "Light One Candle," about Jewish dissidents in the Soviet Union.

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