

Showdown at the Mill Camp

More than 185 bands will compete in the Ticketmaster's 'unsigned band' competition

By Allison Hall
Freelance Reporter

What do most unsigned bands want? Obviously to get signed. If a band is lucky enough to invite artist and repertoire (A & R) representatives — the people who can sign a band to a label — to a gig and actually have the reps show up, then that band is several steps ahead of the rest.

To make things a little easier, Ticketmaster developed the Ticketmaster Music Showcase in 1993. All unsigned bands are invited to send in their demo tapes.

Music industry people choose five bands to play 30-minute sets in local showcases, which are held in 42 cities. Out of 10,174 entries this year, 185 bands were asked to play.

For the past two years, the local showcase has been in Portland, but this year it is in Eugene — on Oct. 19 at the Mill Camp Saloon, which is actually in Springfield.

There is a rotating panel of 12 industry people, ranging from A & R reps to managers to publishers, and three to six of these panelists attend each of the performances.

The panels, past and present, have included reps from Atlantic Records, Concrete Marketing, Geffen Records, Polygram Music Publishing, Sony Music Entertainment and several others.

Bands are rated on songwriting, originality, musicianship, performance and overall potential, according to Ticketmaster publicist Bonnie Poindexter.

At the end of the 42-city tour, 20 bands will advance to the regionals, which are held in San Francisco, San Antonio, Chicago and Tampa.

Those 20 bands get approximately \$1000 and an all expenses-paid trip to the nearest city. From there, five bands receive a \$2500 development grant and a trip to New York City to perform in the National Ticketmaster Music Showcase.

Whichever band is chosen as the finalist gets a week-long recording session at Bad Animals studio in Seattle.



NATALIE MONTGOMERY/Emerald

Mill Camp Saloon in Springfield will host the local showcase on Thursday evening.

But even the bands that don't advance after the local set are still getting the chance to play for influential people in the industry, and Poindexter said that is a major accomplishment in itself.

There are six bands playing at the Mill Camp tour stop: Phamous Phaces and the American Girls from Eugene; Doris Daze, Skin Horse, In June and Tales Untold all from Portland.

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CONCERT

Ticketmaster Music Showcase

at Mill Camp Saloon
doors open Oct. 19 at 8 p.m.
cover charge is \$1.92

Depictions of violence response to society

It is obvious there is a correlation between violence in society and violence in media; however, there is no strong evidence of causation between the two occurrences.

On the contrary, a wealth of valid, scientific studies exists, indicating that socioeconomic factors have the most profound effect on violence in society.

Images of violence through artistic expression are portrayed in response to increased violence and strife in the environment. No compelling evidence suggests that, historically, art has ever caused the moral decline of a society.

However, there is historical basis for the subsequent moral decline of society based on censorship. As was the case in Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia, restriction of information from the public forum served only

ON THE SCENE

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to worsen social problems.

Organized crime and violence in America have historically been the most problematic during periods of economic and social chaos.

Consider the Industrial Revolution when workers were terribly underpaid and overworked. You won't find any gangster rap or film on the charts during those periods.

Artists express their feelings about the world around them. One example is the suggestion by Neo-Nazi groups that the awful images painted by concentration camp survivors in the Holocaust Memorial were commercially motivated. This is insulting.

In a similar fashion, the young

men and women who face death every day in our nation's inner cities are only expressing the horror that exists around them.

The fact that residents of America's most rural towns and wealthier suburbs are graphically aware of the horrors that exist in our inner cities is not due to the federal government's efforts to promote altruism through public education.

We are aware of the pain that our less fortunate fellow Americans suffer because we learn about their lives through music, film and journalism.

Politicians like Republicans Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich are wrong when they finger pop cultures for the moral decline of society.

Americans do not pay attention to these messages because they are

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Master flutist opens series

Master flutist G.S. Sachdev opens the School of Music World Music Series with a performance at 8 p.m. on Saturday at Beall Concert Hall.

G.S. Sachdev moved to the United States in 1970, and since then he has been a major spokesman, teacher and performer of Indian music. Tickets for the concert are \$8 students, \$10 general. For more information, call the Music Hotline at 346-3764.