

DANCE to a different BEAT

A University graduate created the Nexus Club to provide a new type of local entertainment

NEXUS CLUB

■ **WHERE:** 1045 Willamette St.
■ **BEST TIME TO GO:** after 9 p.m. (the later the better)
■ **COVER CHARGE:** week-nights \$2, week-ends \$3-4
■ **SPECIAL EVENT:** Singled Out, April 19 at 11 p.m.

By Nikki Okimoto
Entertainment Reporter

Contrary to popular belief, there is a cool nightclub in Eugene. Of course, you have to be 21 to get in. And it's downtown, so having a car or a friend who has one is pretty necessary.

The Nexus Club has been open since September, and it has been a 21-and-over club since March.

The club is owned and run by a group of University alumni. Owner Jason Steele, 25, graduated with a business degree and decided to put his education to good use by doing something that he actually liked to do. He lived in Portland for a while, where he gathered ideas for his own club.

"I took all the good things from places I saw up there that I thought would work in Eugene," he said.

The Nexus Club features quite eclectic decor, with posters and mirrors on the walls, all sorts of odd booths and old theater-style chairs, coin-operated pool tables and an

original Pac Man arcade game.

"We used our budget, and that's what happens when you get a bunch of college guys who don't happen to have a lot of money," Steele said of the club's decor.

The club's dance floor has a sort of urban atmosphere, with chain link fences on either side of the black and neon spray-painted walls. Black lights and a disco ball complete the room.

According to Steele, the club's 15 or so employees contributed to the unique design of the dance floor area.

"We've painted the dance floor several times, and we usually have these painting parties," Steele said. "The last one was a fluorescent paint can party."

Steele, a Eugene native, wanted to start a club that would be something different and new for people to do in Eugene. He thought about

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Photos by MICHAEL CRISP



Shonen Knife

Japan's pop-punk band Shonen Knife will play at WOW Hall April 14 with Pluto, Cockeyed Ghost and Sub-minute: Radio.

The show will begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12.50.

Jacob Marley's Ghost

Local band Jacob Marley's Ghost will play April 16 at Good Times. The Brainwashers will open the show, which will begin at 9:45 p.m. Cover charge is \$3.

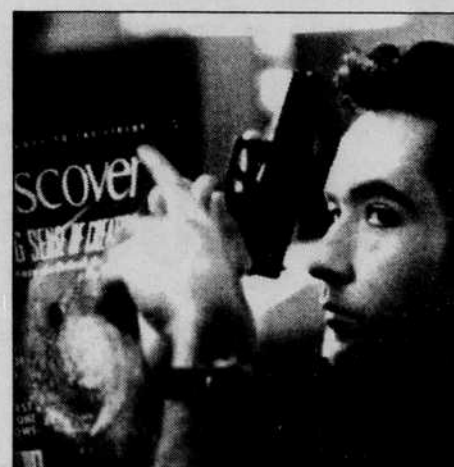


A Midsummer Night's Dream

A Midsummer Night's Dream is still on at Lord Leebrick Theatre Company.

Shows will begin at 8 p.m. April 11-12 and 17-19 and at 2 p.m. April 13 and 20. Tickets are \$9 Thursday and Sunday and \$12 Friday and Saturday.

"Be There" is a weekly column highlighting the week's top local entertainment events.



COURTESY PHOTO

John Cusack plays a hired gun at his high school reunion in *Grosse Pointe Blank*.

REVIEW

Grosse Pointe Blank

★★★
(comedy)

■ **WHERE:** McDonald

■ **STARRING:** John Cusack, Minnie Driver, Dan Aykroyd, Joan Cusack

■ **DIRECTOR:** George Armitage

■ **RATED:** R

Cusack film proves hilarious

By Damon Houx
Freelance Reporter

John Cusack's latest film, *Grosse Pointe Blank*, is a whole lot of fun to watch. Cusack plays John, a contract killer who develops a conscience just in time for his 10-year high school reunion. He is hesitant to go because of his ex-girlfriend, played by Minnie Driver, whom he mysteriously dumped on prom night.

Cusack gives a good performance. He has played this character before, and it's nice to see him play once again the lovable loser who was so charming in *Better Off Dead*.

Dan Aykroyd, who hasn't made a funny film in close to 10 years, delivers a humorous performance as Cusack's fellow hit

man. Also in small but hilarious roles are Joan Cusack as John's secretary and Alan Arkin as John's hesitant psychiatrist. These comic roles make for one of the funniest movies I've seen in a while.

Although it doesn't deliver any big belly laughs, the film remains consistently amusing and enjoyable. The plot is helped along by a soundtrack featuring classic early eighties tunes by The Clash, the Violent Femmes and the English Beat. The only thing that offsets the humor is the violence, which is a little too shocking for a film of this nature.

Altogether, Cusack is one of the most interesting and underused actors of his age, and he has created a film that is funny and quite charming.