

Folk Festival

Now in its 27th year, the Willamette Valley Folk Festival has expanded to include more music acts and a larger variety of activities

By Nikki Okimoto
Entertainment Reporter

If you have a huge paper to write this weekend, or if you don't like music, get out of town. Quick. The 27th Annual Willamette Valley Folk Festival, which begins today and runs through Sunday, will fill the University area with the sounds of a wide variety of music and other activities.

If you like music, dancing, food and craft booths, beer gardens, coffeehouses and songwriting or you want to learn about a new instrument, stick around. This weekend, there'll be something for just about everyone at the folk festival.

This year, the festival has expanded to include more musicians, especially local artists, according to Justin Crellin, festival producer and Heritage Music coordinator for the EMU Cultural Forum.

"This is the biggest folk festival we've ever had before," Crellin said. "We tried to make an effort to include as many people as possible."

The headliners on the main stage this year include The Holmes Brothers, The Mission Project and Peter Rowan.

The Holmes Brothers, playing tonight at 9, are a trio whose music blends blues, gospel, soul, R&B and country. The members, whose musical careers span thirty years, have released six albums since 1989 and were the first American artists to record on Peter Gabriel's Real World label.

The Mission Project, scheduled to play Saturday at 9 p.m., is a Bay Area Latin jazz ensemble led by Herman Clark on saxophone and flute and jazz pianist Ramon Lazo.

Peter Rowan, this year's Folk Festival headliner, will play Sunday at 9 p.m. Rowan's long and varied career as a singer, guitarist and songwriter includes a 1973 collaboration with David Grisman, Vassar Clements, John Kahn and Jerry Garcia on "Old and In the Way."

Since 1979, Rowan has had a successful solo career, as well as collaborations with musicians such as the Nashville Bluegrass Band and Jerry Douglas. He has also written hit songs for other Nashville artists such as Ricky Skaggs and George Strait.

Turn to **MUSIC**, Page 6A

Singer, songwriter and guitarist Peter Rowan is the folk festival's headlining act this year.

FOLK FESTIVAL

■ **WHAT:** 27th Annual Willamette Valley Folk Festival

■ **WHEN:** May 16-18

■ **WHERE:** EMU East Lawn, various rooms inside EMU

■ **COST:** Purchase of \$3 donation button requested

■ **SCHEDULE:** Full schedules for the festival are available at the Cultural Forum office (EMU Suite 2), around the EMU and in this week's *Eugene Weekly*

■ **CALL:** 346-4373 for more information



Lydia Miller

Country performer Lydia Miller from Springfield will sing May 17 at the Wild Duck.

Miller sold out a show at the Hult Center last fall, and she recently recorded her debut album in Nashville. The show will begin at 9 p.m.

Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 the day of the show. The doors will open at 8:30.



Mike 'Boats' Johnson

Stand-up comedian Mike "Boats" Johnson will perform May 17 at Scandal's.

Johnson is a former winner of the Portland International Comedy Laugh Off, and he is currently writing jokes for *The Tonight Show With Jay Leno*.

The show will begin at 9 p.m. Cover is \$6.

Close Ties

The Very Little Theatre will close its season with the play *Close Ties*, which will open May 22. Tickets are \$8. Call 344-7751 for more information.

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

COURTESY PHOTO

REVIEW Ever the Dragon

★★★★
(mediocre acting, great costumes, dancing)

■ **WHERE:** Robinson Theatre

■ **WHEN:** May 16-17, 23-24 at 8 p.m., May 10 at 2 p.m.

■ **COST:** \$4.50 for UO students, \$7 for seniors and UO faculty and staff, \$9 for the public

Play creates Chinese fantasyland

By Dennis Bolt
Oregon Daily Emerald

What do you think of when you see something that is covered in yards of green sequins, feathers and satin and is endowed with outrageous eyelashes? Zsa Zsa Gabor on a good night?

It's not Zsa Zsa, but instead a 15-foot-long dragon that is a major character in the University Theatre's newest production, *Ever the Dragon*. Played by several cast members, the dragon is only one of many fantastically costumed characters that populate this wonderfully rich Chinese Opera-inspired production.

The main character, Jerry, is a student

who is accused of tampering with his computerized school records. This brings him into Dean Lung's office.

Dean Lung decides to teach the boy a mythological lesson. She magically sends Jerry on an adventure in ancient China in a search for eternal truths.

As with all good mythological stories, *Ever the Dragon* relies on many symbolic story lines. In an operatic manner, the action is heightened and the acting is overdone to emphasize certain plot elements.

As in *The Wizard of Oz* or *Star Wars*, Jerry is a young hero who is somewhat reluctantly sent on a journey of discovery.

Turn to **PLAY**, Page 7A



WENDY FULLER/Emerald
Jerry and Mei Lei fall in love in the University Theatre's whimsical *Ever the Dragon*.