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# Sugar Beets dish up the goods

■ Voted Eugene's best band, The Sugar Beets rock the WOW Hall Saturday in their final show of the millenium



## Music

By Sara Jarrett  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Everything started with eight starving musicians jamming together in the University dorms between classes.

Ten years later, not only are The Sugar Beets still together, but the band was just voted as Eugene's best in the Eugene Weekly's readers' poll.

"[We] were born out of and sustained by the Eugene spirit — and gosh it feels good to be acknowledged by the community we came out of," the band's guitarist and vocalist Marty Chilla said of the award.

Chilla stressed that what makes the band unique is that it

has six songwriters and each person in the band contributes to the vocals. The group's performance Saturday at the WOW Hall is its last one until a 10-year anniversary celebration in the spring of 2000.

"We started taking a winter break last year so we can have a love life and stuff like that," Chilla said.

The release of "Once Upon A Time" earlier this year marks the Sugar Beet's fourth recording and second CD.

"I was very happy to hear [the Sugar Beets were voted number one] because they have personally been my favorite local band for some time now," WOW Hall publicist Bob Fennessy said.

Opening for The Sugar Beets on Saturday is The Clumsy Lovers, from Vancouver, B.C. Each band offers prominent fiddle and bluegrass sounds, Fennessy said, but Chilla points out that his band isn't one-dimensional.

"We are a band with strong

bluegrass roots, but we like to use it as a starting point and get creative from there," he said in a press statement. The Clumsy Lovers is a five-member band and has been described as "a combo platter of impeccable musicianship and silly showmanship" by the Seattle Weekly.

"Our sound is bluegrass, Celtic and pop-rock with plenty of high energy and even some ska thrown in," the band's fiddle player and vocalist Andrea Lewis was quoted in the SW. "We play big party, foot stomping type of music."

The Clumsy Lovers have been together since 1993 and have released four CDs; the most recent is called "Barnburner."

All ages are welcome at the show, which begins at 9:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$6 in advance, \$7 at the door and are available at CD World, Face the Music, House of Records, La Tienda & Taco Loco, Record Exchange, the EMU Ticket Office or the WOW Hall, 291 W. Eighth.

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# VLT opens on a 'fantastick' note



## Theater

By Yael Menahem  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

A boy, a girl, their two mothers and the wall that separates the two family's houses. That's the premise for the Very Little Theater's season premiere "The Fantasticks."

The musical is based on Edmond Rostand's 1892 short play called "Les Romanesques" and

has been produced 693 times in 68 foreign countries since first opening in 1960.

The story takes place in one character's imagination. The Narrator — El Gallo, played by Stephen Newbury — is a romantic hero and has control over the other character's actions. The entire play revolves around El Gallo almost "puppeteering" the main characters.

Accompanying El Gallo and the rest of the cast is The Mute and two actors who are also figments of his imagination.

Matt and Luisa have been neighbors since birth and a wall

built to keep them apart is actually a scheme by their mothers to bring them closer together. Matt is conservative and stern, while Luisa is afraid of being ordinary and acts like a princess. Two University students, Tyler Holden and Kimberly Bates, play Matt and Luisa, respectively.

The mothers hire El Gallo to create havoc in the lover's lives by asking him to attempt to kidnap Luisa while the two are walking in the park. The kidnapping is actually referred to as a rape in the song, but the play's program clarified that the original 18th-century meaning of the word meant "to seize and carry off by force." The directors, Jack Powell and Jane Russell, decided to stay true to the original play and added that they do not condone the act of violence that the word represents today.

The kidnapping is staged to portray Matt as a hero who saves Luisa in distress. Then the mothers tell the two that the wall and the disapproval of their relationship is actually a farce.

The first act ends happily with Luisa saved, and with Matt and Luisa to be married.

The play takes an unromantic turn in the second act when El Gallo decides to tear Luisa and Matt apart. The mischief starts with small things like El Gallo influencing Luisa to tell Matt that she likes his face better in the dark.

As a result, Matt decides to take a trip around the world, all courtesy of El Gallo, so he can work his magic on Luisa.

In the end El Gallo hurts Luisa, and when Matt returns, she returns to him and everyone reconciles. El Gallo warns the audience, however, to keep the wall up.

The cast of The Very Little Theater does a good job in bringing the musical to life. They use imaginative tools such as silver confetti thrown by The Mute to create rain, and green confetti to create the illusion of cutting bushes in one of the mother's garden.

The two actors who accompany El Gallo, and appear at his request, add a humorous touch to the musical.

"The Fantasticks" plays through Nov. 6. Very Little Theater is located at 2350 Hilyard St.

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