

Indigo Girls bring unique sound, message to Hult

The folk rock duo known for speaking out on social issues hits Eugene on Nov. 14

By Yael Menahem
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An inspiration to cause change. That's what people experience when they listen to the Indigo Girls.

"These two voices can consistently reach out in the darkness and make a bunch of strangers feel at home, understood, inspired," is how one reviewer describes the Grammy-winning folk duo.

Amy Ray and Emily Saliers are bringing that sound and intimacy to Eugene for a Nov. 14 concert at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts.

Ray and Saliers met when they were ages 10 and 11, respectively, and since recording their first cassette "Tuesday's Children" in 1985 under the name B Band, they have sold more than seven million albums worldwide, recorded seven CDs and have earned respect in the music industry.

Their latest release is "Come on Social" and calls on people to challenge social issues and take action to change what is socially accepted, but perhaps unjust.

Since their early days, the two have written several anthem-like songs. The most prevalent one is likely "Closer to Fine," always a favorite at live concerts.

Other well-known Indigo Girls songs include "The Water is Wide," as well as a cover version of Dire Straits' "Romeo and Juliet," which helped create the Indigo Girls' signature style.

Among their successful CDs is the "Rites of Passage," as well as "Swamp Ophelia," which includes the first time — on the track "Touch Me Fall" — the duo swapped acoustic for electric guitars.

The music is well-received, but the Indigo Girls are also known for promoting social changes through their songs and concerts. Ray and Saliers are very vocal in their support for gay rights, anti-gun laws and women's rights.

They have toured on the Lilith Fair circuit since it began in 1997, and went on the road with their own Suffragette Sessions Tour, which Ray described in a press release as "a socialist experiment in rock and roll — no hierarchy, no boundaries."

If their past concerts are any indication, the stop in Eugene will



The Indigo Girls' 15 year career has spurred social change with the good music.

be full of artist-audience interactions, with Ray and Saliers encouraging the audience to sing along.

The Indigo Girls perform Nov. 14 at the Hult Center's Silva Concert Hall. Ticket prices range from \$27 to \$37.50. For more information, call 682-5000.



courtesy of W.W. Norton & Company

University grad and author of "Fight Club," Chuck Palahniuk, reads from his new book "Invisible Monsters," tonight at 7:30 in the Knight Library.

Hiphop

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interview from his home in Oakland, Calif.

The positive energy he spoke of permeated the phone lines as members from both Blackalicious (Gift of Gab and Chief Xcel) and Latyrx (Lyrics Born and Lateef the Truthspeaker) contributed to the conversation. Using the excuse of still being tired from coming home at 6 a.m. from a show the night before, they allowed themselves to get a little silly.

"Expect to see hump-back whales and penguins on stage," Gift of Gab said, softly chuckling to himself. As soon as that was out there, the door was wide open for the rest of the guys to chime in with their own performance fantasies.

"There will be kangaroos carrying their kids in their pouches who will sing with us," one member added.

"There will also be monkeys swinging from trapezes," another said.

Though it's doubtful Blackalicious and Latyrx travel with a circus, their conversation is evidence of the band's humorous and positive nature.

In fact, Chief Xcel told Blaze

Magazine in May of 1999 that the then-recently recorded full-length LP, "Nia," means "purpose" in Swahili.

When asked if such a heavy theme is the norm for Blackalicious' recordings, Gift of Gab told Pulse that they always strive to "give people a clear-cut reflection of ourselves. It's a spiritual, soulful, hip-hop journey."

Blackalicious' work is heavily influenced by life experiences. Bands like Latyrx, and artists like Stevie Wonder and Bob Marley, who "really dig into themselves" when making their music, also inspire the band.

This current tour is in celebration of the release of "Spectrum," a collaboration between Blackalicious, Latyrx and DJ Shadow. Cuts from Blackalicious' "Nia" will also be performed. It should be a show from not only great musicians, but good people who care both about their art and pleasing their audience without compromising either.

Tickets are \$11 in advance or \$13 at the door. They are available at the WOW Hall, House of Records, Record Xchange, CD World, Boardsports and EMU Tickets. Doors open at 9 p.m. and the show starts at 10 p.m. This is an all ages event.

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