

# The String Cheese Incident will occur at Hult

■ Nearing the end of their Winter Carnival Tour, The String Cheese Incident will drop in on Eugene Monday

By Rebecca Wilson  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The sun is shining, daffodils are blooming and the umbrellas are languishing in the closet. Mother Nature is surely just playing a nasty trick on Eugene's light-deprived citizens, but one thing is certain: Winter is almost over. And so is The String Cheese Incident's Winter Carnival Tour.

The String Cheese Incident will bring its bright-eyed jam rock to the Hult Center Monday after playing three nights of sold-out shows at The Warfield in San Francisco. The Winter Carnival Tour ends March 18 in Whistler, British Columbia — just in time to give the band a short break before it begins touring April 12 in Austin, Texas, for Spring Cheese 2001.

Busy? You bet. The String Cheese Incident has often been compared to the likes of the Grateful Dead, Phish and Dave Matthews Band for its grueling tour schedule and an insatiable enthusiasm for live performances.

"From the very beginning," bassist Keith Moseley told Westword magazine, "we've looked at this as a long-term project, some-

thing we wanted to be doing 10 or 15 years down the road. And we realized that to do that, we had to push ourselves creatively."

And like those aforementioned bands, The String Cheese Incident goes beyond the basic band setup of drums, bass, lead and rhythm guitars. Kyle Hollingsworth plays keys, Rhodes and accordion; Michael Kang plays electric guitar, acoustic mandolin and violin; Keith Moseley plays bass; Bill Nershi, acoustic guitar; and Michael Travis, percussion.

The five hail from Crested Butte, Colo., and joined their musical forces in 1993.

"There's a lot of clubs around here," Kang told the music magazine Pollstar "The Colorado music scene is pretty supportive of bands. So we just kind of built up a following doing that."

Evidently, the band has acquired support outside of Colorado. The String Cheese Incident is beginning to acquire the same sort of hardcore fan base characteristic of Phish and the Grateful Dead. According to the band's publicist at Madison House Publicity, "The fusion of music, spirit and community is at the heart of The String Cheese Incident and as their circle grows larger, it becomes more unique to them."

Part of the band's unique culture is its anti-technology lifestyle. ("I



Courtesy

The String Cheese Incident will perform one of its final shows of the tour at the Hult Center before finishing off in Whistler, B.C.

don't have a computer," Kang told Yahoo's Internet magazine.) The band also avoids the commercialization that has become all-too familiar in modern music.

"They can't stuff us in a package and market us in the same way as Britney Spears," Kang said.

While nobody would confuse The String Cheese Incident with Britney Spears, the band manages to attract a diverse cross-section of the music-listening population,

even without the fancy packaging.

The band's diverse concert style is part of the reason they have acquired such a devoted following in a relatively short amount of time.

"You can go to four different shows and hear four different set lists," said one of the band's staff members Reis Baron. "Fans crave the participator experience of it. It's not the band showing this music onto the crowd. It's musical communication and a collective recycling of the crowd's

energy and the music that spawns it."

The energetic music atmosphere is an ideal cure for winter term blues — whether or not the sun is shining. The band won't be stopping in Eugene for the spring tour, so this will be the last chance for Eugene residents to hear the band for at least a year. The Hult Center doors open for Monday's show at 7 p.m. and the music begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$23.50 and are available at the Hult Center or online at [www.sciticketing.com](http://www.sciticketing.com).

# Yet another vibe of urgency sent from Down Under

■ Though only mildly original, Powderfinger still provides better listening than mainstream pop



Powderfinger 'Odyssey Number Five'

Universal Records  
★★★★☆

By Dave Depper  
for the Emerald

Why are Australian bands so damn urgent? Just look at some past Aussie superstars: Midnight Oil, Silverchair, INXS — not subtle folk. These are people who are trying to get their point across with a sledgehammer. Maybe it's something in the water down there. Or maybe it's the fact that they're tired of being thought of as that cute little country

with koalas and Crocodile Dundee.

Powderfinger is the latest band from Down Under trying to make it big over here in the States. These guys are HUGE in their home country: "Odyssey Number Five," their fourth album, was released in Australia last year and it has already been certified quintuple-platinum. Not bad for five guys from Brisbane.

Why should you care about Powderfinger? If you were lucky enough to attend the recent "Coldplay" show up in Portland, then you would have seen Powderfinger's high-energy opening set. If you've seen "Mission: Impossible 2," then you've heard them: "My Kind of Scene" (included on "Odyssey Number Five") was featured on the soundtrack album.

So, what does Powderfinger sound like? Listening to this album gives me a mental image of the band in the recording studio, lights off, candles lit, with singer Bernard Fanning singing in the corner with tightly closed eyes and clenched fists. As far as sonic architecture goes, Pow-

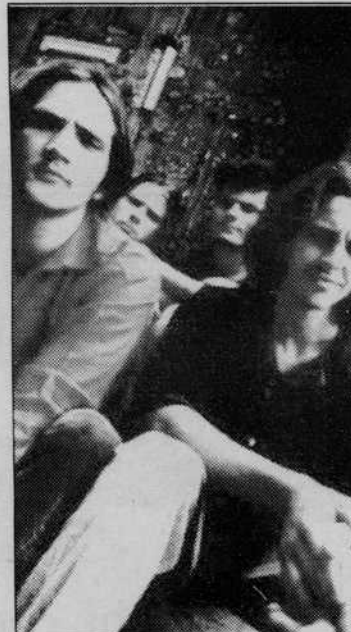
derfinger doesn't stray far from the early Radiohead approach: vocals high up in the mix, prominent acoustic guitar, abrasive electric guitar and solid rhythm section. In fact, many of these songs would fit very comfortably on "Pablo Honey."

Fanning has a very nice voice, somewhat high, fragile and expressive. It's a good vehicle for the unabashedly emotional, personal songs contained on "Odyssey Number Five." In fact, the greatest missteps on "Odyssey Number Five" occur when Powderfinger tries too hard to assert its "rawk n' roll" side. "Like A Dog" chugs along over a sludgy glam-rock riff, while Fanning unconvincingly growls, "If you treat me like a dog and keep me locked in a cage/I'm not relaxed or comfortable/I'm aggravation and rage." Scary stuff, man. The first time I heard this song I couldn't help but chuckle at how silly it sounded.

Thankfully, moments like this are rather scarce on "Odyssey Number Five." In fact, a great many of the tracks are the kind of grade-A, guitar-driven

power ballads that give you goosebumps when they come on over your car radio. In particular, the first three songs on "Odyssey Number Five" are a tour de force of catchy riffage, delicate singing and unbelievably catchy melodies. "Waiting For The Sun" kicks things on with some monstrously chunky guitar playing and the kind of intense singing that will make you either love or hate Powderfinger. The second song, "My Happiness," boasts a chorus that will be stuck in your head for hours and hours whether you want it to be or not. Track 3, "The Metre," manages to add an aggressive string section without sounding overly bombastic, and its chorus may actually be catchier than the one belonging to the previous song.

All in all, "Odyssey Number Five" is an undeniably solid effort. There is nary a second on this album that is not filled with a well-written, straight-faced piece of fine pop writing. Perhaps I am damning "Odyssey Number Five" with faint praise, but I assure you that it is faint praise of the highest order.



Courtesy

The Australian rock group Powderfinger delivers several emotional, guitar-driven power ballads on its latest album.

**BIJOU 686-2458**  
492 E. 13th Ave.  
To receive our weekly WebPage Update, including movie reviews, news and occasional discount coupons, sign-up at [www.bijou-cinemas.com](http://www.bijou-cinemas.com)

3rd Academy Awards  
Bijou's Annual Charity Party  
tickets go on sale  
Tue. 3/12th at 6:30pm

Good for the week of  
3/9 - 3/15

Nominated for 10 Academy Awards

**CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON**  
Nightly at 6:15, 7:45 & 10:15pm  
Sun Mat 2:45pm

Javier Bardem "Best Actor" Academy Award Nomination

**WINNER**

GRAND JURY PRIZE  
BEST ACTOR  
BEST ACTRESS  
ONE OF THE TEN BEST FILMS OF 2000

**BEFORE NIGHT FALLS**  
Nightly at 6:10 & 8:45pm Sun Mat 2:30pm

BIJOU LateNite \$3 TH-SA/S2 SU WE  
Benicio Del Toro & Brad Pitt  
**SNATCH** 11:15pm

**HOUSE OF RECORDS**

**BUY, SELL & TRADE**

New & Used Vinyl's CD's & Tapes

258 E. 13th Eugene  
342-7975

**WOW HALL**  
Community Center for the Performing Arts  
8th & Lincoln

Friday  
**The Lounge Derbies, Courtesy Clerks, West Coast Rhythm Kings**  
Ska / Rock / Swing  
\$7 at the door, 9:00 pm

Saturday  
**Poison Idea, Pass Out Kings, Spread Eagle**  
Punk Rock  
\$10 advanced, \$12 door, 9:00 pm

Tuesday  
**A.F.I., The Explosion, The Snukas**  
Punk Rock  
\$8 advanced, \$8 door, 8:00 pm

All Ages Welcome • 687-2746

**John Henry's Dance Nights**  
136 E. 11th, Eugene  
342-3358

Wednesdays: 10 pm Justice League of America presents Dance Hall House Tunes (Ladies Free)

Thursdays: 10 pm, \$2 80's New Wave, Pop & Butt Rock. Vinyl.

Mondays 9 pm Starter Kit Films Short film skits by local film makers. (donations)

21 and over

Now serving full liquor bar.

great people. great fun.  
great experience.

Don't miss out.  
Work for your college paper.

For more information on how to freelance for the Oregon Daily Emerald call 346-5511.

Get the SCOOP!  
Log on to [www.dailyemerald.com](http://www.dailyemerald.com) to vote in our weekly news polls.