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Pulse Picks

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Friday: Buy those 'N Sync tickets ...
Saturday: Hurry, they're almost gone!
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Thursday, January 24, 2002



Local musicians (from left) Patrick Adams, Trevor Brown, Kyle Guyer and Jake Portrait are an 'Easy Target' for fans.

Courtesy photo

JUST A HOMETOWN ROCK BAND

Promoters say Easy Target is 'really kicking butt' in the Northwest

By Jen West
Oregon Daily Emerald

Rock band Easy Target has aimed and hit the mark with Eugene audiences, becoming one of the biggest names in the local music scene.

Easy Target will open for RX Bandits at the Wild Duck Music Hall on Jan. 29. The doors open at 8 p.m., and the show starts at 8:30 p.m.

"It all started with a 'Fraggle Rock' drum set," drummer Kyle Guyer said.

Then at age 16, Guyer said he began to take his music seriously. In 1998, Guyer and his skating friends, guitarist/vocalist Trevor Brown and guitarist/vocalist Jake Portrait, began writ-

ing songs for their Medford-based band.

Each member said their musical calling came to them early.

"I was always a singer," Brown said. "Then, in seventh grade, I wanted to play the guitar, and that was that."

Brown said he was the only one in the group to receive formal guitar training. Everyone else is self-taught.

Though Medford gave the band their start, they said that Eugene has offered them a home and bassist Patrick Adams, whom they met in 1999.

Guyer said Adams fell in with the band quickly. Adams said his music career also began in middle school when he took up the

trumpet. Then at age 15, he said he started playing bass with friends.

Through jobs and hard work, the band members said they managed to pay bills and school tuition and even build a studio in West Eugene. They said they are self-funded, and though money can sometimes become tight, Portrait said, "you always find a way."

Since the band's inception, Easy Target has created a strong local fan base that has expanded to Portland and Seattle, playing for sold-out concerts with bands such as New Found Glory and The Ataris, according to concert promoter Dan Steinberg.

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University Theatre to play 'Matchmaker' with audiences

■ The charm and innocence of the 1880s comes to the stage in a comic tale of romance

By Mason West
Oregon Daily Emerald

The University Theatre ushers in the first performance of the new year Friday with Thornton Wilder's "The Matchmaker."

Though director Jack Watson said the play may not be familiar, more people may be familiar with its musical incarnation, "Hello, Dolly!"

"The Matchmaker" focuses on Dolly Levi, a woman enlisted by a wealthy store owner to help him remarry. In the midst of this endeavor, other couples fall in love and must overcome their own obstacles — all with a little help from Dolly.

"She is one of the great manipulators of all time," Watson said. Senior theater arts major Jocelyn Fultz plays Dolly, quite a different role from her lead last April in the Greek drama "Electra." Senior theater arts major Rowan Morrison

takes the other lead as "the old coot," Horace Vandergelder.

Morrison said "The Matchmaker" will have an older appeal than past mainstage shows "Electra," and Tony Kushner's two-part play "Angels in America."

Watson said the theater department decided to choose an American play with more general appeal, and he chose "The Matchmaker" for "its ability to be comic and philosophic at the same time."

"I don't think it's meant to be challenging; it's meant to be charming," he said.

The play, first performed in 1938, is based in the 1880s. Morrison said the play is Wilder's attempt to explore the humanity of the characters he creates from this era. While Wilder created a small gap between his own time and the play's era, the gap for Morrison is much larger.

"One of the difficulties for cast members is to relate to this innocence that we just don't have today," he said.

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Adam Jones Emerald

Teresa Koberstein (left), Jocelyn Fultz (center) and Rowan Morrison star in 'The Matchmaker,' the Thornton Wilder play that was the basis for the musical and movie 'Hello Dolly!' The production opens in Robinson Theatre on Saturday.