

Morrissey comes to McDonald Theatre

Stephen Patrick Morrissey, who is said to have a large fan base in Eugene, is scheduled to sing at the local venue on Aug. 23

By Doug O'Neill
for the Emerald

Very seldom do solo recording artists emerge from the shadow of their beginnings, although Stephen Patrick Morrissey may be an exception to the rule.

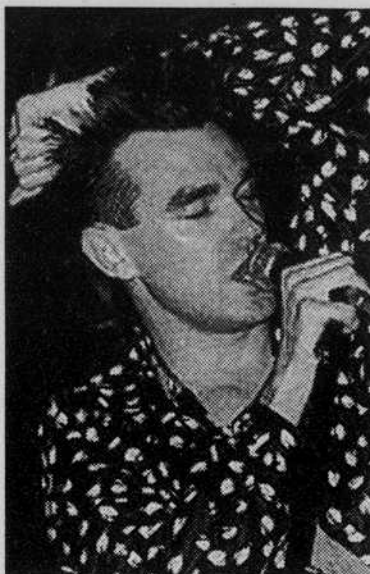
Eloquent, sharp and oh-so-sensitive, Morrissey, who plays the McDonald Theatre on Aug. 23, first established himself as a post-punk poet-hero with The Smiths, winning over disaffected youth who, like Morrissey, weren't sure where they fit in — or if they even wanted to. The music of Morrissey is very hard to categorize: Some say pop, some say early-goth, others say feel-good-“Depeche Mode,” but fans usually just call it “intelligent rock music.”

The Smiths formed in 1982 and became an underground sensation in England with the single “Hand in Glove,” full of ringing riffs and furtive references to homosexuality. Their second album, “Meat Is Murder,” turned the angst-ridden musicians into near-overnight sensations, entering the charts at No. 1, but they remained less well known in the States.

Their career steadily built until 1987, when guitarist Johnny Marr left. Shortly after, Morrissey broke up the band and embarked on his solo career. Morrissey has self-consciously removed himself from the group's legacy, establishing himself as the “international playboy” and a solo artist who is hard to ignore, as each of his solo albums have reached gold album status or better.

“I really related to the intelligence and the angst-filled mood when I first heard his music,” says Dan Huck, 24, of Eugene, who will be at the show. “His lyrics are insightful and deal with the frustrations of everyday life, and I think that always speaks well to people.”

Morrissey should prove to be one of the more popular bands to play the McDonald this summer, said Molly Rogers, manager of the Mc-



Photographer Emerald

Former Smiths band member Stephen Patrick Morrissey is out on tour once again. The solo artist is set to perform locally at the McDonald Theatre on Aug. 23.

Donald Theatre.

“Rarely do you get to see bigger acts such as Morrissey in an intimate setting such as the McDonald,” said Rogers.

Rogers said that the Theatre has been building a reputation of bringing in a broad range of musical acts, and Morrissey is no exception.

“The only true reason for the tour is because I want to sing, and because we want to play,” Morrissey told Rolling Stone. “There is no record company, there is no promotional scheme. I just want to stand on a stage and sing.”

Apparently there's a large fan base in Eugene who is willing to see him stand on a stage and sing. Tickets have been selling really fast, McDonald Theatre publicist Douglas Fuchs said.

Fans are likely to hear new Morrissey material from his as-yet-untitled new album as well as old standards. He may do a few Smiths covers as well.

Tickets are on sale now at all Fastixx outlets and at the McDonald Theatre box office on the day of show beginning at 5 p.m. The show is open to all ages, doors open at 7 p.m., and the show starts at 8 p.m.

Doug O'Neill is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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