

Local musicians perform at 'Open Mic Night'

Café Paradiso is one of several establishments in Eugene offering locals a change to showcase their musical talent

by Jeramie Brown
For the Emerald

The tables are full by 8 p.m. on Tuesday night at Café Paradiso. People wait in line at the counter to order food and drinks. The air is hot and heavy, but it doesn't stop the flow of people coming into the café. Here, you can find all varieties of people from all walks of life. Some sit in the back of the café or outside to find their own space, but most are here for a reason: Tonight is Open Mic Night.

The applause comes up for the previous performer as he finishes his two-song set. The room focuses now on Jasmine Ash, an up-and-coming musician, as she takes the stage. This is the first time Ash has played at Café Paradiso and

she seems understandably nervous. She sets up her microphone, adjusts her guitar and begins to play. Ash has only been playing live since the end of April, but, for the next 10 minutes, Café Paradiso is hers to delight and entertain with her soft, yet soulful and energetic sound.

Ash is just one of many who come to play their music for those who wish to listen at Café Paradiso. Open Mic Night, which happens every Tuesday beginning at 7 p.m., is a long-standing tradition that has been a part of the café ever since its opening eight years ago. It has become a popular place for musicians to come together and showcase their talents while getting some practice.

"The purpose of Open Mic Night is to bring the community closer together," said Daniel Parlish, the organizer for Open Mic Night.

Since 1994, the café has been



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Open Mic Night, held every Tuesday at Café Paradiso, gives local performers an audience to hear their music.

doing just that and has only shut the program down three times in its eight-year history. All three times, the shutdown was short-lived and the show was brought back by popular demand.

"I think we have a great show," said Greg Fleener, the owner of Café Paradiso. He says that since they upgraded the sound system about a year and a half ago, the show has only attracted better and better performers.

Evin Langley is glad to have an opportunity like Open Mic Night to be able to express himself. This is only the second time that Langley has performed at Open Mic Night.

"I came last week not knowing what to expect, but I had I blast," said Langley. "I play music all the time — at work or school — whenever I can."

Open Mic Night is not just music. It offers the opportunity for anyone to get up on stage and express him or herself. Poetry and politics are other popular themes.

For Khi, a homeless man for the past 11 years, Open Mic Night is an opportunity to get on stage and practice his stand-up comedy act, which he has been working on for the past six months. Khi hopes

that he'll someday get a lucky break and make it big.

Some, like Ash, are already on their way to making it big because of open mic nights like the one at Café Paradiso. Ash will be releasing her first album, "Penelope's Diary," on Tuesday.

Jeramie Brown is a freelance photographer for the Emerald.



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For Khi, Open Mic Night is a chance to get some exposure at a community event.

Local venues offering open mic nights

•Café Paradiso, 115 W. Broadway:
Open Mic Night Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

Big Mouth Babes*,
Sundays, 7 p.m.

•Black Forest, 50 E. 11th Ave.:
Open Mic Sundays, 9:30 p.m.

•Jo Federigo's, 259 E. Fifth Ave.:
Chestnut
Open Mic Mondays, 6 p.m.

•Quackers, 2105 W. Seventh Ave.:
Blues Jam Wednesdays, 8 p.m.

•Sam Bond's Garage, 407 Blair Blvd:
Bluegrass Jam Tuesdays, 9 p.m.

* This is a winter show

O 2002 Oregon Football Student Ticket Release Dates



Students enrolled for Fall 2002 classes can pick up one ticket for each game at the ticket offices located in the EMU or at the Len Casanova Center. Student tickets are funded by the ADFC through student incidental fees.

Only 2,550 tickets will be available for the first four games - Mississippi State, Fresno State, Idaho, and Portland State - so students should act quickly. Tickets will be available for Mississippi State and Fresno State beginning August 19. 6,100 tickets will be available for the remaining games. Any remaining student tickets will become available to students for purchase for their friends and family the week before game day.

Game Date

August 31, 2002
September 7, 2002
September 14, 2002
September 21, 2002
October 19, 2002
October 26, 2002
November 2, 2002
November 16, 2002

Opponent

Mississippi State
Fresno State
Idaho
Portland State
Arizona State
USC
Stanford
Washington

Release Dates

Monday, August 19
Monday, August 19
Tuesday, September 3
Monday, September 9
Monday, October 7
Monday, October 14
Monday, October 21
Monday, November 4

For more information, students should contact the Duck Ticket Office at (541) 346-4461 or the ASUO at (541) 346-3724.