

# Weinhard's pours wide variety of tunes sparking full-flavored success

by Jocelyn Gauthier, Feature Editor and Patrick Lundstrom, Staff Writer

Featuring alternative, rock, funk, rap, folk, acoustic, blue grass, country, jazz, gospel, rhythm, blues, latin, ethnic and various mixtures in between, the Musician's Ball (formerly the Mayor's Ball) was a success.

Promoted by various radio stations and beer distributors, the ball was presented by Henry Weinhard's and produced by the Portland Music Association from 5 p.m. to midnight last Saturday.

The wide selection of music proved to draw a wide variety of people. Despite the use of the word "Ball," very few people dressed up. Most wore jeans and T-shirts.

It was the sort of affair where just about anything would go.

The acoustics of some of the stages were not perfect. The stages in the arena had the most noticeable distortion. It was somewhat better on the arena floor, but was the best at the top row of seats, near the center of the arena. Music from the arena spilled out into the concourse, and vice versa. The best sound was to be found in the rooms on the lower level. These rooms put us in close proximity to the speakers, providing loud sound.

Some people recommended ear plugs, others just put their fin-

gers in their ears.

It was impossible to hear absolutely every band that performed, but we managed to hear most of them by only staying for one or two songs each.

The Weyerhaeuser Room was one of the consistently popular rooms the entire evening. Aside from the first and last sets, by "Doris Daze" and "Fate," respectively, the room was packed. One of the reasons may have been the lineup of largely alternative bands. The heavy, punk, pop, rock band "90 Proof," thrashed. The Weyerhaeuser Room turned into a mosh pit. The room filled with police and event security. Soon after, a man was dragged kicking and screaming from the front of the pit. At least five men were required to bring him down.

A person who was filming the band at the time tried to get some shots of the arrest. He was quickly apprehended, removed from the situation and not permitted to film any of the police treatment.

Another popular room was the Plywood Room, in which we heard the bands "Haymaker," "Gravel Pit," "Glass Chunk," "Hitting Birth" and "Falls Road."

"Haymaker" was described as alternative country, and "Gravel Pit" was described as having the same sort of roots, but with more thrash added for a punkier trip to

the country. "Falls Road," a new-ish Neo-Celtic band, was great, and has been getting good reviews.

"Creatures of Habit" played in the International Pulp and Paper Room, providing a pleasant semi-sixties sound. Unfortunately, we left early and couldn't get back in later as the room filled up.

The largest crowd we saw in the arena was during the "Five Fingers of Funk" performance. Their mix of hip-hop and acid-jazz is best described simply as *runky*.

"La Mayor Salsa," perhaps the top Latin band in the city, engaged hearts, hips and feet, along with "Conjunto Alegre," which could make someone want to take up Latin ballroom dancing!

Since this was the first year back for the ball after a two-year break, it was sort of a "test drive" to determine if future balls would be worth producing.

Each band member was guaranteed \$40 for the night, with a possible increase in pay based on attendance, which picked up as the evening continued.

You have to go next year. It is simply one of the "coolest" Portland things to do, and it's a "swell" way to find out all about the local groups. You will be very impressed at the talent found in our very own little town.

# Dark Horse Comics present the 'Mask'

by Jon Roberts  
Staff Writer

When most people think of the "Mask," they think of Jim Carrey parading around in a yellow suit with a green mask on, saying "SSSSSmokin'."

What people don't know is that the Mask has been around, in one form or another for almost five years.

Before the "Mask" was a blockbuster movie, it was a comic book from a small Oregon comic book company called Dark Horse Comics.

They have been producing quality comics for almost a decade.

Dark Horse produces such comics as "Star Wars," "Aliens," "Predator" and many other high-quality comics. Dark Horse comics is based out of Milwaukie and has quite a following across the nation.

Dark Horse also has some other not so well-known comics that are also pretty "cool." Watch out for comics such as "Barb Wire," "X," "Sin City" and "Ghost".

The "Mask" was one of these. Now it is a big seller and it's going to get bigger with the "Mask" cartoon coming out by the end of the year. The "Mask" has had two comic miniseries

and now he has an ongoing series that is two issues old and going strong.

The "Mask" was originally called the "Masque" and premiered in a comic called Mayhem, about five years ago. The character was basically the same as the one we all know but he was a little more violent.

The character really took off, so Dark Horse changed the character's name to "Mask" and gave him his own comic. The "Mask" became popular enough for Dark Horse to give him a second mini-series.

The popularity the "Mask" kind of decreased, but with the movie, popularity has skyrocketed to new heights. Not only is the "Mask" getting a cartoon, which features the voice of Jim Carrey, he is also getting a line of toys.

There is talk of a new "Mask" movie in about a year or two, but nothing for sure. Only time will tell if fans will get their wish and be able to see Jim Carrey put on the "Mask" again.

Dark Horse Comics have burst into the mainstream, and they don't have plans of leaving anytime soon. Watch out for Dark Horse Comics because they're here, and if you don't like it, get out of their way.



# Gender-bending version of the 'Tempest': risky departure

by Jay Milton Osborne, III  
Contributing Writer

Tygres Heart Shakespeare Company has a reputation for taking risks by continually pushing the artistic envelope in their productions. This production of "The Tempest" is certainly one of the bolder and broader stretches they have taken. The play is immensely entertaining, but it is not at all that it should aspire to be as a work of Shakespeare.

The island set, which is appropriate to the story line, is expertly crafted by Larry Larson. In the opening scene, where the tempest's storm is at full thrust, the stage director and actors utilize the set design to the fullest.

Unfortunately, in the later scenes, Glenn Williams' stage direction focuses too frequently to one side of the stage.

In another delightful departure from the expected, the exotic costumes are beautiful and intriguing. Ashley Smith's Middle Eastern designs enhance, but never overpower or obscure the characters.

Perhaps the most interesting costumes were those of the spirits. Bits of bright colored tinsel and raffia are explosively combined with feathers and attached by arm and leg bands to the near naked, painted bodies of the spirits.

It is very hard to pinpoint the



Photo by Jamie Bosworth  
Rebecca Lowe and Eleanor O'Brien as Prospera of Milan and Miranda in Tygres Heart's "The Tempest."

exact cultural origin of the spirits' costumes, but they appear to have escaped from "Carnival" in Rio, or the Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

By far, the most daring departure from the expected is however the bold gender reversal of the lead character.

Prospero is transgendered into Prospera. Williams decision to focus on the Earth-Mother qualities of the character diminishes much of the strength, magic and mystery of the male counterpart, Prospero. Unfortunately, the relationship between Prospera and Miranda suffers from this change; after all, a mother-daughter relationship is very different form that of a father and daughter.

Also, Prospera, as portrayed by Rebecca Lowe, gives away her power as a wizard and a witch, and thus loses her command of the tempest.

Throughout the performance, in a character reversal, the spirits dominate the action. At times, they become almost irritatingly omnipresent, while yelping, snarling and growling from all corners of the theater.

If Prospera's character was given the strength to command the spirits and the magic, the result could be an improvement in clarity.

This gender-bending version of the Tempest will certainly provide you with a new look at Shakespeare.



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