

Concert-goers face difficult decision

Luke Mahan
Photo Editor

I have this problem, and maybe you'll be able to help. You see, on Nov. 6, in the great city of Portland, three of what could be the year's best concerts are happening simultaneously. These concerts being Ben Folds at the Crystal Ballroom, Low at the Aladdin, and The Dismemberment Plan at the Hollywood Theatre.



INTERNET PHOTO

Ben Folds may have lost his five, but he's still sure to put on a good show.

If you have heard any two of these bands, you can understand my dilemma. It just so happens that The Dismemberment Plan and Ben Folds (at least with his five) are on my top ten list, even top five at times. Low

hasn't made it that far yet, but to their credit, if I had their albums, it wouldn't be long until that were no longer true. But I do have several mp3s, and acquaintances have told me how amazing they are live, so I can vouch for their greatness. Now, I'm not omnipresent, nor am I even tri-present, a fact which sadly prevents me from attending all three. I must choose! So here I present pros and cons for attending each concert. Perhaps then I can decide which show to go to, and persuade you to attend one as well.

Ben Folds Five: Arguments for: I have seen Ben Folds twice, once with Ben Folds Five, the other with his solo band. Both were simply amazing, two of my top ten concerts ever, up there among Radiohead, Cornelius, and Cake. Nothing can beat his stage presence, talent and all-around amazing showmanship. His bands totally rip. Plus, the two times I have seen him have been at the Roseland, a less-than-desirable venue when compared with The Crystal Ballroom, which is spacious and almost always has great sound.

Arguments against:

I have seen Ben Folds twice, once with Ben Folds Five, the other with his solo band. Nothing can compare to Ben Folds Five, no matter how hard the former front man tries to capitalize on it. To quote the man himself, "You were not the same after that." And for \$20, I don't want to have to endure 45 minutes or more of Duncan Sheik.

But if you actually have \$20 (unlike me) and like Duncan Sheik, by all means, go to this concert.

Low: Arguments for: I love new experiences, and this would be one for me. Low is classic, and I really dig the songs I have heard. If you are unfamiliar with this three piece's

sound, it is for the most part pretty mellow pop/rock, with some ambient vibes. Hayden and Yo La Tengo come to mind. Low is approaching the 10-year mark as a band, and could possibly not be around for much longer, and it would be wise to see them while there's still a chance.

Arguments against: As I said before, I don't know too much about Low. I do like knowing the music before I see a band, so I can compare recordings with live performances. The money issue also figures into the equation, at \$12.50 advance. That's not a bad price, but a guy with \$15.86 in the bank must be scrupulous about his expenses.

The Dismemberment Plan: Arguments for: When they supported Death Cab For Cutie earlier this year, everyone in the crowd knew who should have been headlining. The Plan put on one of the most amazing shows ever (another top-fiver). Their music is progressive and played extremely well. They started as quite the experimental hardcore band a few years back, but have come light years since then. Now their sound is more like Fugazi, mixed with, um,



INTERNET PHOTO

Low's unique brand of ambient pop has been, and will be, an indie-rock staple for years.

hell, I'll just say it: Weezer. Except with drum machines, samplers and keyboards, used in such a unique way that only the Plan can. Their latest album, *Change*, is most definitely on my top-ten. Also, the tickets are \$8 and they are headlining, which could mean a longer set.

Arguments against: The band is just breaking, and will undoubtedly be touring for years to come. This chance is only one of potentially many in the future. I've never been to a show at the Hollywood Theatre, so it could be a lame venue.

Okay, so I lied. I don't have a problem, because I decided on the Dismemberment Plan weeks ago. But you can see where I'm coming from. If you like music, and I think you do, it would be in your best interest to attend any of these shows. You'll thank me later.



INTERNET PHOTO

Washington D.C.'s The Dismemberment Plan has been breaking ground since 1993 and will play the Hollywood Theatre on Nov. 6.

CD pick of the week

Elena Boryska
Sports Editor

wide open to interpretation, many deal with issues of faith, letting go and finding yourself. Rather than just scratching the surface of a song, Lifehouse has the tendency to go far beyond the superficial and begins to explore the unknown.

A perfect compliment to the scratch-your-head lyrics is Jason Wade's incredible lead vocals. At a mere 22 years of age, he has shown amazing talent and depth in both his singing and songwriting abilities that by far outshine his peers. One major change between his sound in this c.d. and the one prior is the fact that he has somehow managed to make the words more difficult to decipher. Try to imagine somebody singing with a mouthful of saltine crackers: in some songs it is completely impossible to know for certain what Wade is saying without looking at the words printed in the liner notes. But that intrigue only adds to the appeal of this album.

One thing that should be noted about "Stanley Climbfall" is the fact that this c.d. sounds like nothing else out there. With the help of Wade's amazing vocals (he is also quite a fiend on guitar), the deep, deep lyrics and the edgy, haunting music that provides the motivation behind this album, Lifehouse has found a way to blaze a trail that is all their own.

On the heels of their double-platinum debut disc "No Name Face," Lifehouse is back with another winner in "Stanley Climbfall."

Now before this goes any farther, some people may be wondering who this "Lifehouse" band really is. So to clear up any confusion, just think back to the most played radio song of 2001, a happy little number called "Hanging By a Moment." Note: if you have never heard this song before, I encourage you to crawl back to the rock you've been living under.

The upbeat sound of "Hanging By a Moment" was what really put Lifehouse on the radar screens of music fans around the world. And now with "Stanley Climbfall," Lifehouse has proven to be much more than a one- or two-hit wonder.

From the opening song "Spin," to the acoustic and mellow bonus track, "Sky is Falling," Lifehouse takes the listener on a ride that explores much more than most bands would dare. Some standout tracks on this c.d. include, but are certainly not limited to, "Anchor," "Wash" and "Take Me Away." While the majority of the meanings of Lifehouse's songs are

Upcoming Events

On Campus:

Tonight - Authors' Night
7 p.m. Gregory Forum

Today, Nov. 6 - Chrysalis: Women Writers
2 p.m. Clairmont Hall

Nov. 7 - Lunch & Learn: The Feng Shui Way
1 p.m. Gregory Forum

Nov. 14-16 - Mainstage Play "Crimes of the Heart"
7:30 p.m. McLoughlin Theatre

Nov. 22 - Vocal Jazz Night
7:30 p.m. Gregory Forum

****Don't Forget - Campus will be closed Monday, Nov. 11 for Veteran's Day****

Off Campus:

Tonight - Ryan Adams
Roseland Theater

Oct. 31 - Thrice
B Complex

Nov. 1 - Dan Savage
Powell's Books

Nov. 3 - Badly Drawn Boy
Aladdin Theater
Railer - Paris Theatre

Nov. 10 - Winfield, Shifty Henry, No Name #2, Hat Trick, Straight Back
Paris Theatre
Flickerstick - Roseland Theater

Nov. 12 - B.B. King & Curtis Salgado
Schnitzer Hall

Nov. 23-24 - Katy McFadden Open Studio
313 SW Maricara, Portland

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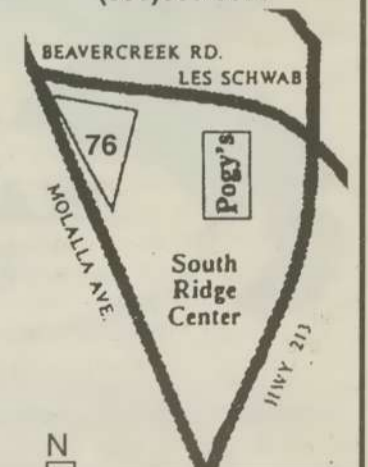
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