

Great music for a great cause

Sam Krause
The Clackamas Print

This Thursday and Friday, a group of nationally known musicians are raising money for non-profit organization the Pangaea Project with their jam-band, The Everyone Orchestra.

Participating in this year's event is a lineup of stellar performers from many different "jam" bands. Included are Kai Schardt of Garaj Mahal, Tye North of Leftover Salmon, Billy Nershi and Michael Travis of Long Cheese Incident, and Jon Fishman of Phish. Also involved is the Everyone Orchestra founder Matt Butler. Each concert uses the band and the audience to create awe-inspiring performances.

On the second day of the event, there will be two community workshops for musicians and interested persons. One workshop will be a community drum and percussive session. This workshop will be headed by Fishman, Travis and Travis, the drummers of the band. However, if you are not interested in participat-

ing in what seems to be a really exciting and large drum circle, then the other workshop might be for you. At the same time as the drummers' workshop, there will also be a singer/songwriter workshop with Billy Nershi, vocalist Libby Kirkpatrick and guitarist/mandolinist Scott Law. This is the first time the workshops have been organized, and they may prove to be fun, as well as educational.

The Everyone Orchestra is a nationwide effort to promote non-profit organizations by bringing accomplished musicians together for monumental jams. Past performances have raised money for the Conscious Alliance, the Sierra Club, the Buckeye Forest Council, and the Make-a-Wish-Foundation.

Deb Delman and Stephanie Tolck are the founding members of the Pangaea Project. The organization was created to send low-income teenagers from the northwest to non-western countries. Students that qualify go through four-and-a-half months of intensive training and education. Subjects studied include local customs, history, religion,

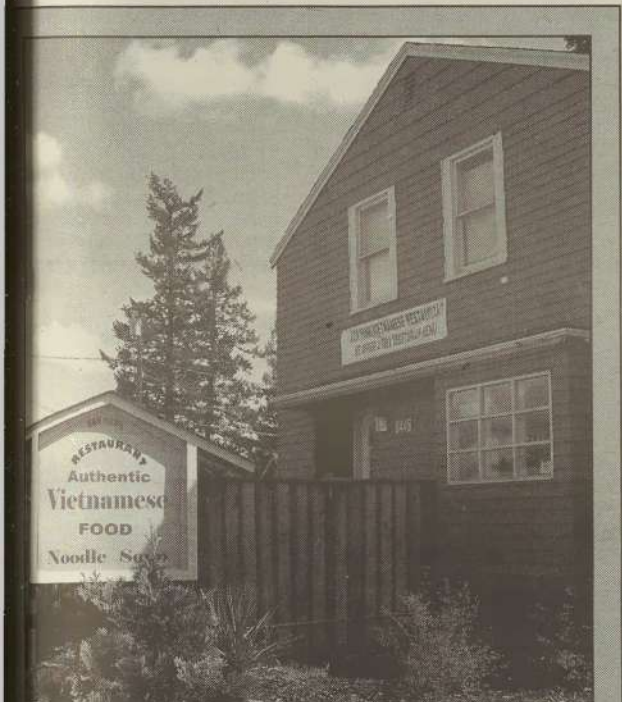
gender roles, local language and dialects.

During the summer, students are paired off and spend a month with a host family. They will explore local traditions and issues that might plague the nation or village. After the trip, students are expected to participate in local community activities that are relevant to what they have learned abroad. Once all of the students have completed the program, they present what they have learned in an artistic medium.

Show times are April 14 and April 15 with doors opening at 8 p.m. and festivities to start at 9 p.m. The workshops will also be at the Crystal Ballroom at 4 p.m. on the second day of the concerts. Tickets for one show are \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door. If so inclined, a two-day pass is available for \$35. But wait, there's more! A VIP pass ranges from \$35 to \$70, but this includes a meet-and-greet with the band after the shows and entitles you to a poster signed by the performers. Remember, this show is for a good cause, which is hard to find these days.



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Joanne Bergstrom Clackamas Print

Van Hanh is located at 8446 S.E. Division in Portland and offers many inexpensive vegetarian dishes.

Vegetarian food find

Joanne Bergstrom
The Clackamas Print

When you are driving down Division St. towards I-205, you may have noticed a little sign that says "Vegetarian Vietnamese Restaurant."

It is in a little house, next to a little Vietnamese flower shop called Annie's. The actual name of the restaurant is Van Hanh.

If you should have the courage to go in, you will be very well rewarded. That is, if you like tofu in numerous forms.

There is fake ham, chicken, beef, pork, shrimp, fish, and even actual tofu. It is all prepared in a traditional Vietnamese fashion, with fresh sauces and vegetables.

I happened in around New Year's, and they had all sorts of prepared delicacies to go.

"Just like the Catholics," the waitress explained, "at

certain times people eat vegetarian food." People were streaming in to get their good luck New Year's meals.

As long as it was all there, I took home some "fake," or soybean-based chicken thighs with lemon grass, ham, and rice roll with mungbean paste inside. I would have liked to try the fake salmon, but maybe next time.

The food ranges from canh or soup, vermicelli or noodles, to steamed buns and spring rolls. Hot tea is served with the meal.

The service can be slow if it gets busy, but this is because they will sit down and explain what each menu choice is. Even if you are not Asian, when you walk into Van Hanh, you are treated like family.

Prices average about \$5 per entrée, with \$2 appetizers.

At those prices, I will go back and be adventurous.

The Shins rock their hometown



Katie Wilson Clackamas Print

James Mercer works the crowd as The Shins channeled their energy for an amazing show at the Crystal Ballroom last Thursday night. Opening were The Kingdom and The Minders.

Katie Wilson
Ben Maras
The Clackamas Print

Music fans and enough beer (in the 21 and over bar) to kill a herd of elephants packed the Crystal Ballroom in downtown Portland last Thursday.

As a cardboard cutout of John Wayne made announcements from the stage, tech guys scurried around randomly turning dials and making ear-piercing sound checks.

Finally, a little after 9 p.m., the first opening band popped up onstage.

The band called themselves The Kingdom, which should have warned us. They promptly launched into a prolonged nasal whine, which we later found out was called a song. Our ears have yet to recover.

Their set was a bit like eating a handful of raisins that turned out to be flies. Let's put it this way: If you turned Hilary Duff into a man (but kept her voice), gave her a guitar and had pianos fall on her while she sang disco songs like a country singer, it would still not approach the awfulness of this band.

When the second opening band took the stage, we didn't know what to expect, but fortunately, Portland band The Minders were a pleasant surprise.

They performed an energetic

and exciting set, mixing the bass with catchy guitars and drums, original (that's meant in a good way) keyboards, and a vocalist who could—gasp—sing!

The Minders could have easily stolen the show had The Shins not risen to the occasion for what was their first concert in some time.

"Hey, everybody! Nice to see you," said excited keyboardist and bassist Marty Crandall to the roaring welcome of the crowd, before launching into "Caring is Creepy," from their first CD "Oh, Inverted World." Everyone in the audience went into their respective happy-highs.

The band was loaded with an energy channeled by making the songs faster and louder, sprinkling acoustic fare in between so that the pace never got too slow or too fast.

Lead singer James Mercer, who rarely spoke between songs, seemed to have a more nasally voice than usual, but we'll forgive him that because otherwise The Shins' performance was perfect.

"Hopefully," said Crandall, "we'll have a new album together by the end of the year."

The band demoed some new songs (they sound good, but they still need to be polished) and played nearly all the songs from their first two releases. Some of the crowd favorites were "New Slang," which introduced a bubble machine and a smoke machine, "Pink Bullets," and "Kissing the

Lipless," which was performed with a fake snowstorm which grew to a blizzard so thick that the band could barely be made out by some audience members.

"Thanks for coming to see us! You make us feel good," said Crandall as they closed the song and exited the stage through the torrent of fake snow (read: soap suds).

The crowd—not ready for the concert to end—kept on applauding. That failing to produce the desired results, they began to stomp. We were lucky the floor didn't break under us.

Eventually, Mercer stepped back onto stage, followed by drummer Jesse Sandoval, guitarist Neal Langford and Crandall.

They played a long, trance-inducing instrumental set that morphed into "Pressed in a Book" off their first release. All the while more bubbles rained down from on high, popping upon a grateful fan base. To close the concert, they selected a faster and more upbeat version of the painfully catchy "So Says I."

"Thank you, people of soap!" said Crandall, blowing bubbles into the audience.

All in all, the concert provided excellent entertainment, and a musical kick in the sh—well, you know.

If you missed The Shins, don't worry—John Wayne says they're coming back in May to play two consecutive nights in their hometown of Portland.