

Milwaukie's 'Music Haven'

Adam J. Manly

The Clackamas Print

For anyone out there wishing for something to do in Clackamas County, Music Haven is the answer. It hosts free events occurring on the first Saturday of each month, and is a non-profit organization which succeeds in providing a safe, local music venue.

The idea for Music Haven began with the passing of young musician Charles Loftus-Cole.

"His parents wanted to create a venue in his memory," said Ro Zapanta, one of two current stage

managers. "The closest venue that [bands] were able to play at was in downtown Portland."

Zapanta, who himself was mugged at the Paris Theater in Portland, says safety was one of the things discussed by those conceiving the Music Haven idea.

"We brainstormed ideas, thoughts, and stories - like how I got mugged - and decided to try to create a safe environment for people of all ages to come and listen to music," said Zapanta.

Music Haven events take place at Milwaukie Presbyterian Church at 2416 SE Lake Rd.

"We started from scratch, we needed a place and [Loftus-Cole's]

church decided to offer their basement," Zapanta explains. "Even though the music venue isn't church oriented, they let us play anyway."

Music Haven holds events from 7 to 10 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month except January. Typically, three bands are allowed to play per function. However, there are special occasions, like the Summer Haven event, in which more bands are allowed to play.

"The next event is Dec. 3," said Zapanta. "We will be having a 'Share The Holidays With Music Haven' event. First ever."

The function will feature two acoustic performers, Michael Lansing and Zapanta's solo project,

Curbside, and the full band Finding Lenny. Additionally, there will be a raffle, and the proceeds will go to charity.

"We'll be raffling out tickets to The Bravery," Zapanta added. "They're doing one of the series of shows for 'December To Remember.'"

More information on Music Haven can be found at the organization's website, www.musicshaven.org. Music Haven, as well as many of the bands it features, can also be found on the popular friend networking site www.myspace.com.

Any musicians wishing to perform at a Music Haven event may contact Zapanta at 503-504-3795.

'Walk the Line' stays loyal to Cash's legacy

Megan Cline

Contributing writer

Sometimes, when one has high expectations for a movie, disappointment is often the result. When hearing about the release of "Walk the Line," expectations were high. After all, it was chronicling a well-known music legend, and the leads were important people in other projects. One will go to the movie with high expectations and leave without disappointment.

"Walk the Line" tells the story of the legendary Johnny Cash from childhood to the early years of his career. Joaquin Phoenix ("Gladiator"), picks up the role of Cash at age 19 when he joined the Air Force and started writing "Folsom Prison Blues."

The story focuses mainly on Johnny's love affair with June Carter (played brilliantly by Reese Witherspoon) and how she rescued him from his drug addiction. Without her, he wouldn't have become the legend he became.

Phoenix is perfectly cast as Cash. He possesses the well-worn, world weary quality needed to play the man in black.

The biggest surprise was Witherspoon, who shed her "Legally Blonde" image to portray Carter. It was doubtful at first about her playing Carter. She doesn't bare a very striking resemblance to Carter and usually she's in romantic comedies. Within a few minutes of her first appearance, all doubts were erased. She

brought a light, charisma, and brilliance to the role. She also brought the right amount of comedy.

This was especially evident in a scene where she runs into Cash backstage and gets tangled in his guitar strap just as she's expected to go onstage. While Cash tries to free her, she turns the situation into a comedy routine by shouting backstage how she got tangled in Johnny Cash's guitar strap.

She assures the smitten Cash that "[she] can keep this funny for at least two minutes."

Phoenix and Witherspoon recorded all of their own vocals for their roles. Their voices were amazing. However, in Phoenix's rendition of "Ring of Fire," one can barely tell the difference. Their vocal performances were so brilliant that if either of them decided to quit acting and go into music, their albums would be popular.

The term "Oscar Buzz" has been tossed around since before a trailer was even released. This is no gimmick; this movie should get at least four nominations: Best Picture, Actor, Actress, and Director for James Mangold, who masterfully captured the intensity of the music and beautifully recreated the era when this legend was born.

In a time where ticket prices are at an all time high and movie theaters are losing business to DVDs, "Walk the Line" is worth the full ticket price.

Nada Surf doesn't wipe out



Ben Maras

Co-Editor-in-Chief

INTERNET PHOTO

shines on. No heartless posturing or fake sneers here; everything sounds as natural as one could hope for.

The track before it, "Do It Again" is an example of Nada Surf at their best. The song starts with a twisting bass line supported by a driving drum beat and tamed by clean-strummed guitars before it takes off in a surprising direction with the chorus.

What it does lack is another anthemic rocker - what "Hi-Speed Soul" was to the "Let Go" album. What they give us instead makes up for it.

If there's one thing that makes this album worth its cost, it's "In the Mirror." By far the most creative - and weirdest - thing the band has done, it sounds more like Radiohead than their typical fare.

One continuous build-up of acoustic guitars, feedback and electronic drums, the band creates order from what could be chaos. Although the song never "goes anywhere," the ride is so much fun the destination is meaningless.

From here it goes on to "Armies Walk" (which could easily be the best all-around song on the album), and the final track "Imaginary Friends." Going from Guided by Voices-esque pop-rock to an ambient jam and back again, it provides the perfect close to the album.

Having played together for more than 11 years, no one can accuse them of being a flash in the pan ... and they should really get a purple heart just for being together for that long (anyone who has been in a band knows what I mean). With another tour to support the album they show no signs of bowing out now. Let's just hope their next release is as much of a gift as this one is.

I'm tired of having a musical inferiority complex to the British. It seems that every rock band that comes out is British, or trying to be British (not that there's anything wrong with being British ...). Ladies and gentlemen, I have found the cure.

Say hello to Nada Surf. I believe you've met.

Many of us remember Nada Surf from the mid '90s, when their novelty hit "Popular" was on the lips of every high school football hero who did not seem to understand the irony of the lyrics. But popularity was not all it was cracked up to be for Nada Surf, and the world closed their ears to the band when they refused to put out a "Popular" clone.

Disowned by their label it looked like they were destined for failure until a couple years ago, when indie label Barsuk Records adopted the orphans and released "Let Go." Music snobs were forced to take a second look at what was right under their noses the whole time.

Now with the help of producer Chris Walla (of Death Cab for Cutie fame) they are at it again with their newest release "The Weight is a Gift."

Their first single "Always Love" is a bit disappointing. The music isn't bad, but it's those damn preachy lyrics, one of the worst songs vocalist/guitarist Mathew Caws ever wrote in that sense. It seems so suffocated in its own self-righteousness you'd think Nada Surf was fronted by Bono.

But even this song doesn't sound as forced as U2 or the last Coldplay record. One of Nada Surf's best traits still

ST. NICHOLAS FAIRE

Saturday, December 3, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sunday, December 4, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Enjoy the fun and festivity of an old-fashioned English-style Christmas celebration. There will be vendors, arts and crafts, baked goods, raffles for gift baskets and an opportunity for kids to have their photos taken with St. Nick (Saturday from 1:00 - 3:00 pm and Sunday, noon - 2:00 pm).

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

822 Washington Street
Oregon City

Join the Fun at "Scrapbook Saturday"

Catch up on your scrapbooks or start new projects. Bring your favorite photos and materials and enjoy uninterrupted scrap-booking time. Materials will be available for purchase if needed. Free morning and afternoon workshops. Refreshments, Door Prizes, and Child Care provided (donation requested). Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 10, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Call Jackie Flowers at 503-657-7181 for more information. RSVP requested.

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Oregon City

The DP

Jeff Sorensen

The Clackamas Print

Dear Santa:

For Christmas I would like a leather jacket, a new car, and an X-Box 360.

It seems like nothing more than a schoolyard rumor floating about the gaming community, but I'm sure, the new X-Box 360 is poised to be out by now, but I haven't actually seen one of the demo at Target. Well, I've decided that this will be a white whale, and if you can't bring it through, I have a plan.

I didn't have the option of camping out overnight in front of my local Best Buy, and even though I know the gaming stores themselves couldn't even fill all of the pre-orders so my new plan, named as "Plan B," will involve a little patience, a little more persuasion, and a lot more persistence.

I'm going to start by hiring a team of four people, or "Red One." Two people from Red One will be responsible for working their way through the Yellow Pages to call every video game retailer and department store in the entire Willamette Valley to find which stores have filled pre-orders and which ones never took orders to begin with. The other members of "Red One" will be responsible for watching the retailers in two alternating 12-hour shifts for any signs of re-stocks before Dec. 25, or "Zero Hour."

"Red Two" will consist of three people. Within Red Two there will be three cells of two, and each cell there will be a dispatcher, a driver with a cell phone. For each retailer that replies to an operator of Red One that the 360 is in stock, it will be Red Two's job to hire a driver to that retailer and attempt to retrieve the X-box as well as a pre-determined list of peripherals such as extra controllers and sets for online play.

As "Red Leader," it will be my job to delegate any positive responses from Red One to the three cells in Red Two, as well as manage food and housing for the duration of operation "Plan B" to all of the Red Team members.

Now, Santa, I know you're thinking ... how am I going to get 10 people to work for me? It's pretty simple ... all I have to do is promise the Player 2 spot. Red One operative with the fastest retail response, and Player 3 and 4 when I get my X-Box 360 go to the two members of the Red Two cell that retrieves it.

You may call me Santa, because I promise that I will conquer this "White Whale" story will live on. I will retrieve the X-Box 360 with or without so if you can't come through, don't worry about it. You see ... I never grew up on Capture the Flag and Counter-Strike, so my team will have a leg up on the competition. I'm willing to bet my 3rd grade Pogo collection that when the phone call that my Red One operative has captured an X-Box it will be my finest hour.

Oh, and please make my car black, because I want to go with my new jacket. But not charcoal black, because that's funny.

Thanks,
Jeffy, age 21

thedpad@gmail.com