

Meat Loaf brings back 'Bat,' mullet

By Liz Travers

The Clackamas Print

It's been 13 long years since Meat Loaf released *Bat out of Hell II: Back into Hell*, and now the world is ready to be torn asunder by the larger-than-life grandeur that is *Bat out of Hell III: The Monster is Loose*.

The entire album is virtually flawless in its triteness.

All of the songs have a sense of urgency and importance, like listening to this CD is the most important thing anyone will ever do with his or her life, which is true.

The only thing missing from the record is Jim Steinman, the songwriter, producer and composer behind the first two *Bat out of Hell* albums. Instead, Steinman is replaced with songwriter/producer Desmond Child, who's collaborated with many high-profile acts such as Aerosmith and KISS. However, Steinman isn't missed entirely, since seven songs he penned

himself appear on *The Monster is Loose*.

Child does an amazing job of recreating Steinman's over-the-top production work, and even takes the "rock opera" style to new heights with songs like "Seize the Night" and "Alive."

The transition from symphony, to ballad-like piano arrangements, to power metal, to a children's chorus in "Seize the Night" is just so insane that it works.

Two of the best songs on this album are "Bad for Good" and "In the Land of the Pig, the Butcher is King." Both songs feature stellar guitar work from a legendary guitarist; Brian May (Queen) tears it up with his frenzied guitar playing on "Bad for Good," and Steve Vai shreds some serious chords and delivers a face-melting guitar solo on "In the Land of the Pig."

Of course, *The Monster is Loose* contains the sappy, cheesy love ballads that made Meat Loaf famous. Songs like the first single, "It's All Coming

Back to Me Now," (a duet with Norwegian singer Marion Raven), "What About Love?" and "Cry Over Me" are so over-dramatic, disgustingly passionate and romantic that the album should come with a free set of razor blades.

The only truly awful song on *Bat out of Hell III* is the title track, which is so nü-metal it hurts. We can thank the guitar work of John 5 (Marilyn Manson, Rob Zombie) for that. May the Gods of Metal smite him for playing in drop D.

Bat out of Hell III: The Monster is Loose is a miraculous record that everyone should purchase this Halloween.

So, pull out those lighters, put the business up front, the party in back, crank the stereo to 11 and get ready for another piping hot dish of Meat Loaf.



Internet Photo

Meat Loaf's new album, *Bat out of Hell III: The Monster is Loose*, continues his powerful style of rock-opera in a grand manner.

Dave Andersen starts new project

By Liz Travers

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Everyone has their preconceived notion about art teaching. The first word that comes to mind is generally "eccentricity." Dave Andersen is no exception to this rule.

Though Andersen has been in Clackamas for a while, he started out as an entomologist, studying insects. Being a great lover of science, this has been a constant theme in his work.

"Art is like a laboratory to me. It is a magical universe in a sense," said Andersen.

One of the biggest challenges Andersen faces as a teacher is the diversity of students he teaches.

"Every student is totally different. You have to be able to understand the psychology of

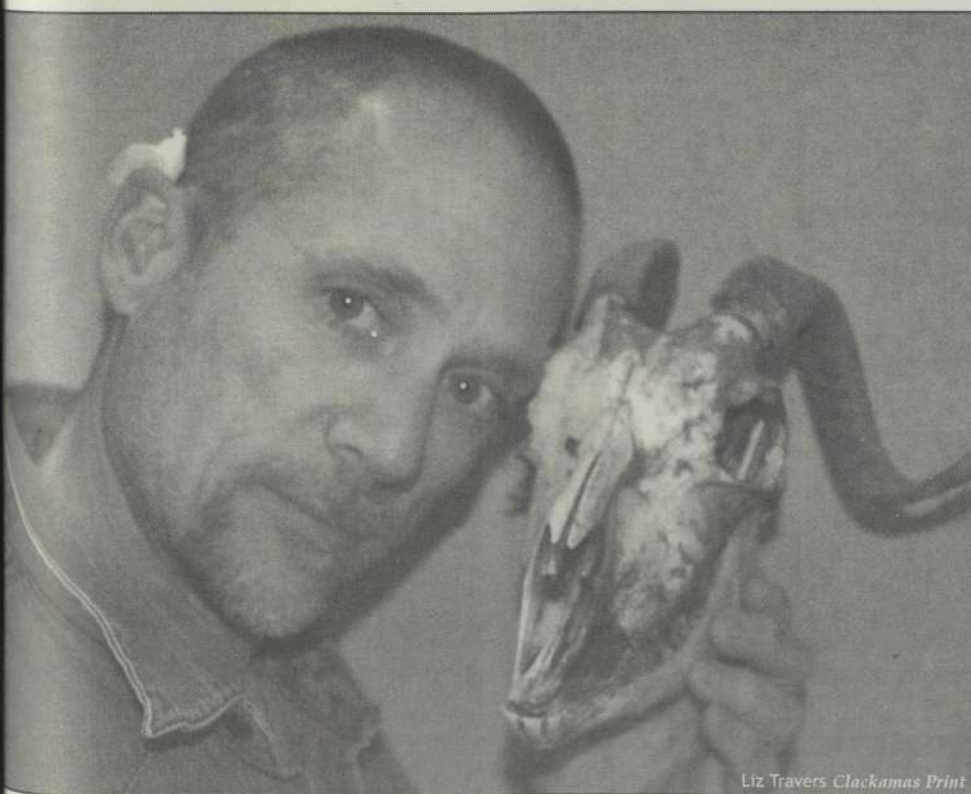
humans," he said. "Art is the can-opener that releases people. To see true beauty, you need to refine your ability to discern it."

In addition to teaching, Andersen is currently starting a new project on 22 acres he recently purchased in Estacada. The idea is a summer program geared towards children in grades kindergarten through sixth, taught by him and his wife, with the aid of guest artists from around the area. Right now, he is in the process of building a large barn, where the classes will take place (he will be looking for volunteers, by the way).

Andersen believes that art is invaluable to a child's education. "Drawing and painting are my vehicles to teach creative problem-solving skills."

Andersen Trivia

- In fourth grade, Andersen was the checker champion of his school district. He spanked the competition.
- The largest tattoo of a cut-throat trout is proudly displayed on his back (sorry everyone, he doesn't show it to just anyone).
- Andersen loves people, but hates humanity
- His first wife was a self-proclaimed "spawn from hell."
- He holds the world-record for catching Utah's largest Blue Gill, and then ate it. "It was fantastically delicious," he said.



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Dave Andersen poses for a picture with the skull of a goat, demonstrating his unique sense of humor that he passes on to all of his students and incorporates into his art.

Flower Farmer delightful

By Sam Krause

The Clackamas Print

I recently drove to the Flower Farmer, located on North Holly in Canby, hoping it would be just the way I left it 16 years ago - small-time, unrefined and delightfully unknown.

The Flower Farmer has been owned and operated by the same family since it opened in the late 1920s. The current owner and operator is Lois Garre. In the past decade, Garre has been adding onto what once was the size of the Streeter Math Lab.

About six years ago, Garre took some initiative and expanded the farm to include a new, bright red retail barn, while the old one is now used as a rental space for parties.

The store isn't much on first inspection, but I quickly learned its finer attributes.

The cooler that covers an entire wall is filled with glass-bottled soda. From Coca-Cola and Pepsi to Grape NiHi and Sioux City Sarsaparilla, the selection is amazing.

After perusing the farm store, I bought my train ticket for \$4. My three-year-old-nephew's ticket was \$3.50.

Hot apple cider waits to be purchased for \$1 and consumed by eager train-riders. And why not grab a pumpkin donut made fresh every day by the local market?

When I was a child, the farm had a miniature train that surrounded the five acres of pasture and rows of corn. These days, they have a slightly larger miniature train - 15-inch gauge, as opposed to less than a nine-inch gauge track. Now, adults aren't balancing precariously on pieces of plywood screwed into castors.

The first stop on the train ride is a petting zoo. It's not necessarily the biggest petting zoo, or even the best. If you want to pet a calf, chickens, or an ornery and elderly turkey, this petting zoo is perfect. After about 15 minutes of this,

the train moves on to the hay pyramid.

The pyramid is 15 bales tall. In late September, Garre builds the pyramid - without any plans or designs - all by himself. He includes a maze at the base, and another, smaller maze is positioned mid-way to the top. Speaking of which, from the top of the pyramid, a panoramic view of Canby farmland can be seen.

The pumpkins are 20 cents a pound, and some are really unique, to say the least. There are traditional-looking pumpkins, but others are pale orange and have thicker rinds. I wouldn't call these pumpkins carving material, but sufficient for pie and roasted pumpkin seeds.

My nephew ran around, up and down, through, over and off of the pyramid. Needless to say, he played so hard he went right to bed when I dropped him off at my sister's house later that night.

About 11 years ago, Garre started the "Spook Train." Monday through Saturday, after 7 p.m., little children can expect to be scared by ghouls hiding in the fields and darkness. While not scary in the least for adults, the "Spook Train" is perfect for children ages three to 13.

My experience at The Flower Farmer didn't hurt my wallet as much as Fir Point Farms has in the past, and it's more intimate than other commercial farms. Garre often rides the train and shows off the animals personally. He has developed friendships with customers who have been coming since he was a youth working on the farm for his dad. That's how The Flower Farmer has lasted for so long.

Other than upgrades to the farm, it's just the same as I left it when I was five years old.

When you and yours go looking for pumpkins, check out The Flower Farmer. It beats the hell out of any experience you get buying pumpkins at Fred Meyer or Safeway.