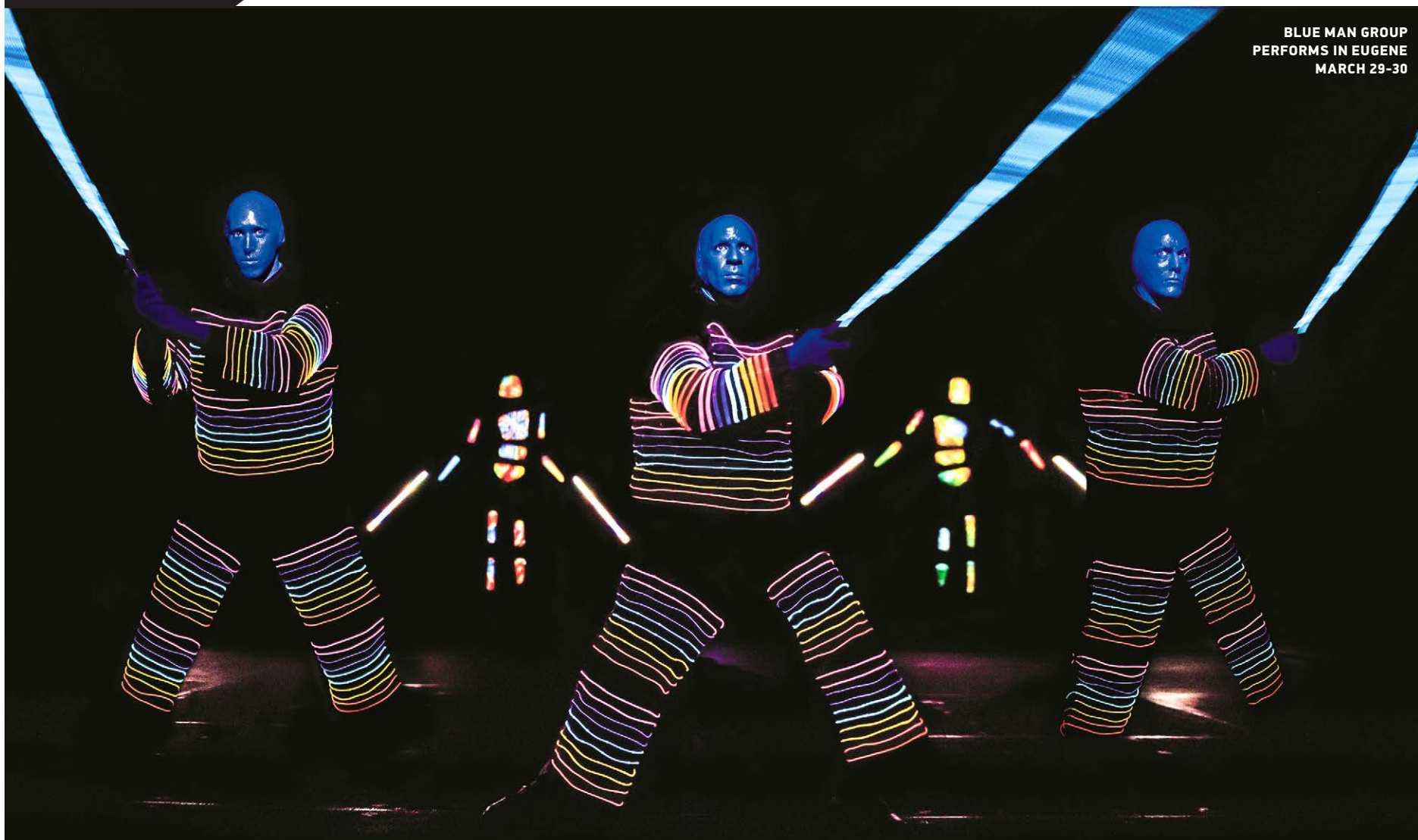




PAINT IT BLUE

Blue Man Group plays with music, paint and light at the Hult Center

Blue Man Adam Erdosy has spent much of the last 10 years being ... blue.

"It's a special shade called 'Blue Man blue'" Erdosy says. "It gets pretty much everywhere, which is actually pretty fun."

For the uninitiated, Blue Man Group features a trio of tall, bald men painted blue and wearing jumpsuits, who engage in artistic stunts, make wacky music and generally cause a kind of contained mayhem. Founded by original Blue Men Matt Goldman, Phil Stanton and Chris Wink, it's a recipe that has stood up for a quarter-century.

"The show itself, in its most fundamental, is an exploration of creativity, innocence and childhood joy," says Erdosy, who joined the group in 2006. "It's about connecting to people all around you."

Those connections, notes Erdosy, might be fewer and far between than they were 25 years ago, as technology has taken ever more space in our lives:

"The media, social networking, gives a sense of connection, but it's really only on the surface," Erdosy says. "But the skeleton of the show is our physical interaction, and connecting to each other and the audience, on a primal level."

A veteran performer, Erdosy points to our culture's lack of play as another by-product of our modern lives.

"We do not play enough," he says. "When we're kids, we have that unbridled exuberance, like my 4-year-old son — his creativity is exploding; there's no mold, he doesn't judge himself. He doesn't have any concept yet, of the things that stop him from creating."

Blue Man Group is continually adapting, adding and

tweaking content, Erdosy explains, but the Blue Men remain forever blue.

"The story goes, the original Blue Men knew it would be blue, even before they were calling themselves Blue Men," Erdosy notes. "There's a mystery to it, it conveys the character, the emotion, more than any other color."

And what about Blue women?

"Sure, they're always searching for women," Erdosy says. "And women are always auditioning. The producers are always looking for someone who can play the Blue Man character." (But this is show biz, and to fit the role, people looking to audition need to be between 5'10" and 6'2".)

Erdosy says he enjoys touring, and keeps it fresh by playing music and practicing martial arts.

"I tend to find that the more dynamic and active I am outside of the Blue Man show, the more fun I have onstage," says Erdosy.

When you're a Blue Man, every performance is a party.

"With music, paint and light, it's a celebration," Erdosy says. ■

Blue Man Group will perform two nights in Eugene at 7:30 pm Tuesday and Wednesday, March 29-30, at the Hult Center; \$38-\$97.



INSIDE LOOK: COVER ARTIST JEREMY OKAI DAVIS

When *Eugene Weekly* commissioned Portland-based artist **Jeremy Okai Davis** to do an illustration of Hillary Clinton for our cover, he had never done a political portrait in his career. Davis does most of his illustrative work for *American Songwriter* magazine, so his mug roster gears more towards the faces of Paul Simon, Taylor Swift and Tom Waits, but he says he approaches all portraits the same.

"Whether it's Hillary Clinton or a good friend of mine, I try to humanize the person and not put them on a pedestal," Davis tells *EW*. But, he adds, "I wanted her to appear powerful, especially being the first viable female candidate to run for president."

Davis painted the cover image in acrylic on a 14-by-19 inch sheet of paper over the span of a few days. To see more of his work, visit work.jeremyokaidavis.com.

— Alex V. Cipolle