

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Widespread Panic members John Bell -- vocals, guitar; John Hermann -- keyboards, vocals; Michael Houser -- guitar, vocals; Todd Nance -- drums; Domingo S. Ortiz -- percussion, vocals; and Dave Schools -- bass, vocals.

## Widespread Panic Is One Of Most Promising Bands

Over the past eight years, Widespread Panic has developed from one of the most promising new American rock bands into one of the country's greatest live bands, as anyone who caught them on the 1992 or 1993 HORDE tour can attest.

With those credentials as a live band firmly secured, Widespread Panic has gone on to record a definitive studio album, AIN'T LIFE GRAND.

"I think we've really accomplished something with AIN'T LIFE GRAND," said Dave Schools of the band's fourth album. "It's probably gonna be hard to top this one."

AIN'T LIFE GRAND combines the most fully-realized songwriting of Panic's history with the trademark improvisations fans have come to cherish over the years. Most of the songs on the album will be familiar to those who've studied the live shows

carefully.

"That's how we develop a lot of our songs," said Schools. "We play them in concert before we record them - a baptism by fire. We hammer them into shape live so we're all-the-more prepared to go into the studio and record them rather than waste time coming up with arrangements while we're recording. It's fun, too - we can try out different approaches to see how they work and get the audience reaction."

The band returned to its home turf of Athens, Georgia to record AIN'T LIFE GRAND, reuniting with producer John Keane, who worked on Panic's debut, SPACE WRANGLER.

"We knew we could be at our best close to home," said John Bell. "John Keane's direction was largely responsible for the album's sound. He used varied

guitar tones, varied sounds through the songs to create different textures from song to song. We've grown up with John so we're very comfortable with him. It's still very much a party kind of atmosphere with him in the studio, just come and sit in. He added a steel guitar onto 'Ain't Life Grand' which really adds an element to the song."

"It was such a great combination of events and elements," added Schools. "In the past when we'd record it was an eight-week chunk of not touring and not being at home. By recording in Athens we were able to sleep in our own beds at night, party with friends, eat at our favorite restaurants. It was a healthy feeling that translated into the recording."

The developing vision of the band's songwriting is what ultimately stamps AIN'T LIFE GRAND as a classic album.

### Whitney Houston To Perform In South Africa

Music superstar Whitney Houston will celebrate a newly unified South Africa in a series of performances, including a concert televised from Johannesburg by Home Box Office.

The concert will be held Saturday at Ellis Park, a soccer stadium, before an anticipated crowd of 70,000. Houston also plans concerts in the South African cities of Durban and Capetown.

"This concert is very special for me," said Houston. "In 1988, I sang in honor of Nelson Mandela, prison inmate. In November, I sang in honor of Nelson Mandela, elected president of a free and unified South Africa."

HBO chairman Michael Fuchs said the television network, which made a move on Nelson Mandela seven years ago, is excited to be involved in the historic celebration of freedom and unity.

The HBO televised concert, entitled "Whitney, the Concert For a New South Africa," will feature a mix of the superstar's classic hits featured in her current sell-out tour, as well as new material. All money raised by the event will go to support South African children's charities.

### Dan Faehnle Jazz At The Old Church

Guitarist Dan Faehnle's strength is versatility and he brings 20 years of refining his musical craft through rock and roll, top-40, county, big band and his forte, jazz, as the Dan Faehnle Quartet continues the Sunday Jazz at The Old Church concert series Nov. 6th.

Faehnle recently relocated from Ohio and in just a short time has earned critical accolades in Downbeat magazine, Jazztimes, Willamette Week's jazz column, various New York publications and the Oregonian.

His latest recording effort is on Dick Berk's "East Coast Stroll," recorded in New York at Rudy VanGelder's studio, with John Hicks, Ray Drummond and Jay Collins.

Faehnle also has appeared at the Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz, with the Oregon Pops Symphony and at several other jazz festivals.

The concert is a benefit for the new-piano fund at the Old Church, where the concert hall is a favorite of musicians in the Portland area. Doors open at 1 p.m. and jazz starts at 2 p.m. Food, wine and beer are available from Briggs & Crampton Catering. Admission is \$8, available from FASTIXX and at the Old Church. Seating is non-reserved.

The series concludes Nov. 13 with the Nola Jean Bogle Trio with Leroy Vinnegar, Ron Steen and Geoff Lee.

\*\*\*Thou Shalt Not Miss Sunday Jazz\*\*\*

### Oregon Ballet Theatre's Nutcracker Coming To A School Near You

Oregon Ballet Theatre is offering a free, week-long curriculum centered around the all-new \$1.2 million production of The Nutcracker, which premiered last December. Joanne Rosevear of Portsmouth Elementary is presenting the new Nutcracker curriculum to her classroom.

The goal of the curriculum is two-fold: to encourage the development, knowledge and appreciation

of literature, art and music found in this beloved cultural holiday event and to educate students about the political process.

The first part of the lesson includes telling the classic story, playing the riveting music and displaying the imaginative costumes and renderings of The Nutcracker. The program is of value to schools because it offers

an opportunity to educate children with materials such as: a timeline, a lesson outline, a storyteller's story, a musical tape, historical information, color costumes renderings, color set sketches and a newsletter.

Being a political year, it comes to no surprise that the Nutcracker and the Rat King are throwing their hats in the political ring by challeng-

ing one another for the position of Magistrate of Magic. The second part of the political curriculum includes: political process information, Nutcracker and Rat King outlines to color, poster requirements, ballots, bumper stickers and buttons. Teachers will explain the current political campaign, and encourage students to design posters for the political candidate of their choice.

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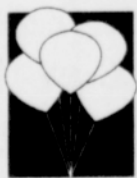
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