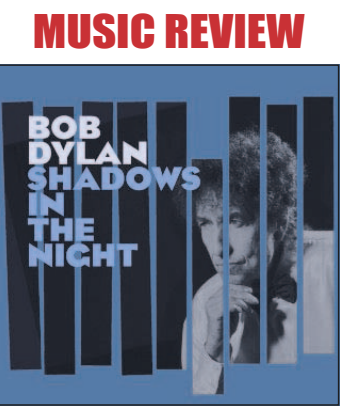




‘Shadows in the Night’
Bob Dylan

Bob Dylan has never called “Shadows in the Night” a Frank Sinatra tribute album. The idea seems nuts: one of the last century’s greatest songwriters challenging perhaps its greatest voice, on Sinatra’s turf. No wonder it was the butt of jokes before anyone heard a note.

The fact remains that each of the 10 standards here, written between 1923 and 1963, was recorded by Sinatra. Some, like “Some Enchanted Evening” or “That Lucky Old Sun,” are fairly well known, others more obscure. Dylan closed his last few concerts with one of them, “Stay With Me.”

The precise, and even more intimidating, comparison is Sinatra’s superb 1955 concept disc, “In the Wee Small Hours.” For these are all songs that come to mind when the night gets long, when missed opportunities, regrets and lost loves come to mind. They’re the songs you’d expect the 73-year-old man sitting at the end of the bar to request. Here they are performed in muted fashion, not with an orchestra, but with Dylan’s band, supplemented by a mournful pedal steel guitar and the occasional subtle horn.

The hushed arrangements put even more emphasis on a voice that, let’s face it, was never considered classic even before being ravaged by age. The remarkable thing is that he pulls it off, with crooning you’ve heard from Dylan before. Unlike his holiday album from a few years back, where his croak played like unintentional comedy at times, he works hard to do justice to the songs and setting. Don’t toss your Sinatra discs aside. By the time Dylan reaches for the last line in the album closer, “That Lucky Old Sun,” you’re rooting for him to nail it. He does.

The disc is consistent with Dylan’s later-period emphasis on classic American songcraft and material that evokes mortality. It is very specific in its appeal. Yet when it’s time to turn down the lights and pick up a tumbler, you could do far worse.

BRIEFLY
Katy Perry Super Bowl performance to feature animals

PHOENIX (AP) — Katy Perry says her Super Bowl halftime performance will make you “Roar” — with animals.

The singer told reporters at a press conference Thursday that her performance Sunday will include “a lion and sharks.”

Perry, 30, said she feels blessed to perform on the Super Bowl stage “at such a young age.” She said she enjoyed past Super Bowl performances from Beyoncé and Madonna, and what she adds “is some lightheartedness.”

Lenny Kravitz will join the pop star at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Arizona. Perry said her performance will also include an “old school” female singer.

When asked if Perry had been checking out football players this week, she imitated Seattle Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch, saying: “I’m just here so I don’t get fined.”

Lil Wayne sues mentor’s record label for \$51M

NEW YORK (AP) — Rapper Lil Wayne has had it with his record label. He’s suing Cash Money in New York for \$51 million after claiming that it stiffed him for \$8 million on a record he delivered last month.

In the federal lawsuit filed Wednesday, Lil Wayne is asking to nullify contracts with the company.

The New Orleans-born Lil Wayne says his relationship with the label has been deteriorating over the last four years.

A lawyer for Cash Money didn’t immediately return a message seeking comment. The label was co-founded by his mentor, Bryan “Birdman” Williams.

Retro Ed and his ‘River of Life’

At its lowest common denominator, all folk music has one thing in common: stories.

Folk music has survived hundreds of years of changing times and cultural pursuits by consistently providing stories set to music. Retro Ed’s new self-released “River of Life” CD is full of 14 individual stories that keep that tradition alive.

Retro Ed was born Ed Merriman and grew up in Pendleton in the 1950s and ’60s. As a teenager he sought to pursue his first passion, rock and roll. He was in several bands during his teen years, like Sonic Vibration and the Living Souls, culminating with his last band, Spring Rain, which released a single that went, well ... nowhere.

Deciding his professional music career needed to take a back seat to life, he went to work as a journalist after obtaining a degree from University of Oregon. Now that he has retired from the career in journalism, he is devoting much of his current quality time to



JOHNNY VINYL
Comment



Contributed photo

Ed Merriman, AKA Retro Ed, recently released “River of Life,” a CD that includes several songs written in the 1960s-’70s, while the rest were penned from 2010-2014.

songwriting and performance.

His style is pretty traditional folk — a man and his guitar. And, of course, there are the stories.

Retro Ed will be sharing his stories Friday, Feb. 6 at Hamley Steakhouse & Saloon. There’s no cover charge, but bring along some cash as Merriman will be selling copies of his CD. (They also are available at the Hamley’s gift shop and at the Pendleton Chamber of

Commerce, as well as online at CD Baby, iTunes and Amazon).

“River of Life” consists of 12 songs, or really, 12 stories that have been given a rhythm and melody. Topics include first love, machinations of god, nights in Pendleton, love at first sight, sexy women and the crazy men that love them. Facebook even makes an appearance. The musical accompaniment

WHAT TO DO

Festivals

Mom and Baby Expo
•Saturday, Feb. 7; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

•Three Rivers Convention Center, 7016 W. Grandridge Blvd., Kennewick
www.momandbabyexpo.com

\$5/adults, free/12 and under. Donate a package of diapers for free admission. Vendors, toddler nutrition, car seat safety, cloth diapers and more.

Super Bowl

Sunday, Feb. 1; kickoff 3:30 p.m. Mac’s Super Bowl

•Mac’s Bar & Grill, 1400 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton
No cover. Includes 32 TVs, beer specials, two fans in “hot seat” to win \$500, football squares to win Mac’s gift cards.

Super Bowl Party
•Midway Tavern, 1750 N. First St., Hermiston

No cover. Food and drink specials, win a \$150 gift card plus other prizes throughout the game. 22 TVs and 100” screen with surround sound.

Super Bowl Tailgate Party

•Nookies/Hermiston Brewing Co., 125 N. First St., Hermiston

No cover. Games, prizes, beer specials. Wear your team colors for a special raffle ticket.

Super Bowl Party
•Riverside Sports Bar, 1501 Sixth St., Umatilla

No cover. Raffle drawings, drink specials, free buffet, free to enter TV giveaway

Red Zone Party
•Wildhorse Sports Bar at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

No cover. Drink specials, raffle (benefiting Wounded Warrior Project), prizes.

Art

Kids + Art = Fun!

•Saturday, Jan 31; 1-4 p.m.
•Tamátslikt Cultural Institute, near Wildhorse Resort & Casino.

www.tamatslikt.org
Free. Pepsi Primetime@the Museum, held in conjunction with the ArtWORKz youth show and competition. Kids can drop in during the afternoon and participate in different craft stations for a hands-on art-making afternoon. Participants will leave with one or more of their very own creations.

Peterson’s New Year’s Show

•Saturday, Jan. 31; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Last day
•Peterson’s Gallery and Chocolatier, 1925 Main St., Baker City

www.petersonsgallery.net
Free. Features most requested artists in 2014, including Paul Hoelscher, a painter from Baker City; Pattie Young, a metal artist from Boise; and Terri Axness, a painter and ceramic artist from Haines. Runs through Jan. 31.

First Saturday Spin-In

•Saturday, Feb. 7, noon-4 p.m.

•Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St.
Fiber-obsessed folks can drop in and bring a project to work on. Coffee, tea and work space provided.

ArtWORKz

•Monday - Saturdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
•Tamátslikt Cultural Institute, near Wildhorse Resort & Casino.

www.tamatslikt.org
\$10/adults, \$9/senior citizens, \$6/youths, free/5 and under or \$25/family of four. In its fourth year, the youth art show highlights area youth artists. Awards reception is Saturday, Feb. 14 at 1 p.m. Runs through Feb. 28.

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”
•Monday-Thursdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

•Betty Feves Memorial Gallery, BMCC, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton.

Free. Gallery also open by appointment by calling 541-278-5952. Runs through Feb. 19.

Heritage Station Museum
•Tuesday-Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

•108 S.W. Frazer Ave., Pendleton
www.heritagestationmuseum.org
\$5/adults, \$2/student, \$4/seniors, \$10/family.

Music

Fusion

•Saturday, Jan. 31; 7:30 p.m.
•Vert Auditorium, 480 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton
www.oregoneastsymphony.org

\$20/adults, \$15/students and seniors, \$45/family. James Dean Kindle & the Eastern Oregon Playboys reunite with the Oregon East Symphony & Choral for an evening of lush, symphonic pop country. Dakota Brown opens the show.

4More

•Saturday, Jan. 31, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. No cover
•Wildhorse Sports Bar at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

Lively Music Company
•Saturday, Jan. 31; 9 p.m. to midnight. 21 and over. No cover

•Hamley Saloon, 8 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton

Joshua Best

•Friday, Feb. 6, 7-9 p.m. No cover

•Obie’s Express, 540 S. Highway 395, Hermiston

Expertease

•Friday, Feb. 6: Saturday, Feb. 7, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. No cover

•Wildhorse Sports Bar at

Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

Night life

Adam Kessler Comedy Show

•Saturday, Feb. 14, 7 p.m.
•Sub Zero Restaurant & Lounge, 100 W. Highway 730, Irrigon

\$10. Doors open at 5 p.m., comedy at 7 p.m., live DJ at 9 p.m. Raffle and prizes. Dinner specials (\$5 off/couple with comedy ticket). For reservations, call 541-922-4374.

Mix It Up

•Tuesday, Feb. 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

•Plateau, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

\$20/tastings and food pairings. Three cocktails made tableside, showing you how to create the perfect cocktail. Reservations recommended (541-966-1610).

Wednesday Night Wine Club

•Wednesday, Feb. 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

•Plateau, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

\$18/tastings and food pairings, \$40/four-course wine dinner. Features Naked Winery.

Wednesday Night Live! Comedy

•Wednesdays, 8 p.m.
•Feb. 4: Ron Osborne
•Feb. 11: Leif Skyving

•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

Digital Karaoke

•Thursdays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.

•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

Mac’s Trivia Night

•Thursdays, 8 p.m. No cover
•Mac’s Bar & Grill, 1400 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton

21 and older. Teams of 2-8 compete in trivia contest with other teams. Live host and prizes.

Wine tasting

•Fridays, 4-8 p.m.
•Sno Road Winery, 111 W. Main St., Echo.

Open Mic

•First/third Friday each month, 8 p.m. to midnight
•The Packard Tavern, 118 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton
www.facebook.com/groups/pendletonopenmic

Karaoke

•Fridays 8 p.m. (9 p.m. if game on)

•Riverside Sports Bar, 1501 Sixth St., Umatilla

DJ and dancing

•Fridays, 8 p.m.
•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

Theater, stage & film

Koontz Manor Murder Mystery

•Saturday, Jan. 31; 7 p.m.
•Sno Road Winery, 111 W. Main St., Echo

Single/\$25, couple/\$40. Wine, hors d’oeuvres, intrigue. Seating is limited, contact 541-376-0421, info@snoroadwinery.com

“Memphis The Musical”

•Tuesday, Feb. 3, 8p.m.
•Toyota Center, Kennewick
www.ticketmaster.com

\$47-\$67. From the underground dance clubs of 1950s Memphis comes a musical that bursts off the stage with explosive dancing, irresistible songs and a thrilling tale of fame and forbidden love.

“Beauty and the Beast”

•Register by Friday, Feb. 6
•Hermiston Parks & Recreation, 180 N.W. Second St.
www.hermistonrecreation.com

SAG win sends ‘Birdman’ Oscar hopes soaring

By JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

Oscar hopes for “Birdman” got an enormous updraft over the weekend with big wins from the acting and producing guilds, possibly sending the comedy soaring over the perceived Academy Awards front-runner “Boyhood.”

Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu’s elegantly crafted backstage romp won best ensemble Sunday night at the 21st annual Screen Actors Guild Awards, a day after it also won the top honor at the Producer Guild Awards. Both guilds are seen as highly predictive of which film will triumph at the Oscars, which will be held Feb. 22.

Richard Linklater’s “Boyhood,” the acclaimed indie made with the unprecedented real-life time-elapsed of 12 years, has long held as the awards seasons favorite. But “Birdman” fills the role of a classic Oscar winner, like “Shakespeare in Love,” as a celebration of showbiz. Its fortunes look especially bright considering the last seven Producers Guild Awards winners have also won best picture at the Academy Awards.

“Actors love this movie for showing the courage actors have to kind of go out there and lay it on the line,” “Birdman” star Michael Keaton said backstage at the SAG Awards. He accepted the best ensemble award with his co-stars including Emma Stone, Edward Norton and Zach Galifianakis.

Yet Keaton also lost at the SAGs, held Sunday at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. Instead, most outstanding actor went



Twentieth Century Fox

Michael Keaton, left, as Riggan in a scene from the film, “Birdman,” directed by Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu.

to “The Theory of Everything” star Eddie Redmayne, whose exceeding technical performance as Stephen Hawking has equally drawn raves. Looking down at his blue statuette — “this very wonderful skinny man,” he said — Redmayne dedicated the SAG Award to sufferers and victims of ALS.

The other Oscar favorites — Julianne Moore, Patricia Arquette and J.K. Simmons — all cemented their front-runner status in a glamorous, self-congratulatory ceremony that can serve as a test-run for acceptance speeches.

Moore, widely considered the best-actress favorite, won most outstanding actress for “Still Alice,” in which she plays an academic with early onset Alzheimer’s Disease. Accepting the award, she recalled an early lesson on the soap opera

“As the World Turns,” in which she played twin sisters, good and evil.

“Then I realized it was super boring to act by myself,” said Moore.

Accepting the award for most outstanding supporting actor for his performance as a domineering jazz teacher in “Whiplash,” Simmons thanked all 49 actors who appear in the drama.

“All of us actors are supporting actors,” said Simmons, a veteran character actor. “Each of us is essential, completely crucial to the story because if there’s one false moment, the train comes off the rails.”

“Boyhood” star Arquette added the latest in a nearly uninterrupted string of supporting actress awards. “This little movie is about human beings and it’s about bringing real life onto the screen,” she said backstage.

Go see it

DATE: Friday, Feb. 6
TIME: 9 p.m. to midnight
WHERE: Hamley Steakhouse & Saloon
COST: No cover charge

is only an acoustic guitar. Folk albums can get a bit on the tedious side to listen to since the songs commonly sound similar. Not the case with “River of Life.” The accompaniment is varied enough from song to song that each track has its own personality within the disc.

And the songs come from multiple spots along the last 48 years. The oldest dates back to 1967 and tells the story of first love titled “My First Girlfriend,” while one of the more recent, “Love Found Us on Facebook,” is about a current as one could get.

If folk music is your thing or if you are into hearing word-of-mouth stories, give Retro Ed’s “River of Life” CD a chance — some good old stories accompanied by the warm sound of an acoustic guitar and a reassuring voice. Put another log on the fire and have a grand ol’ time.

Johnny Vinyl is a music connoisseur. His column, Ride the vibe, focuses on entertainment. Contact him in c/o malgesini@eastoregonian.com