

What's Happenin': October 15 - 28, 2009

Written by Mike Schulz

Tuesday, 13 October 2009 06:00

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Music

The Klezmatics

Galvin Fine Arts Center

Friday, October 23, 7:30 p.m.

Described by *Time Out New York* as "the fearless standard-bearers in their field," the Klezmatics will perform at St. Ambrose University's Galvin Fine Arts Center on October 23. Mixing traditional folk stylings with everything from jazz to Latin rhythms to punk, the group will no doubt deliver an exceptional evening of live entertainment, but I'm thinking that the

Klezomatics' career arc would also make for a pretty kick-ass movie.

Here's how it would go. It's 1986, and a Manhattan musician posts an ad in the *Village Voice*, seeking anyone interested in forming a klezmer group. Five musicians - gifted on such instruments as the accordion, violin, clarinet, and trumpet - answer the ad, and the newly formed group begins to play small clubs and parties. Then, in 1988, famed producer Ben Mandelson hears the Klezomatics in concert, and invites them to perform at the inaugural Heimatklänge World Music Festival in Berlin. They do, and at the end of the weeklong event, they're offered a record deal.

Playing an evocative blend of older Yiddish tunes and contemporary folk, the group releases 1989's *Shvaygn = toyt* and 1990's *Rhythm & Jews*, and begins to capture the attention of world-music fans worldwide. They tour nationally and internationally. They collaborate with Itzhak Perlman and Allen Ginsberg. They make numerous appearances on PBS' *Great Performances*

And then, in 2006, the Klezomatics become the first - and thus far only - klezmer band to win a Grammy Award.

And *then*, in 2009, they get a write-up in the *River Cities' Reader*! End of movie!

Or, you know, it could end with the Grammys. Whichever is the bigger honor.

More on the Klezomatics can be found at Klezomatics.com , and tickets to the group's St. Ambrose concert are available by calling (563)333-6251 or visiting <http://Web.SAU.edu/galvin>



Music

The Avett Brothers

Englert Theatre

Tuesday, October 20, 8 p.m.

The Avett Brothers, who will play Iowa City's Englert Theatre on October 20, made their national television debut on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* in 2007, performing their hit song "Paranoia in B-Flat Major." It's a great number (as you can hear for yourselves at

Daytrotter.com

), but considering the raves and awards that the musicians have amassed in recent years, it's hard to find much justification for major paranoia, as least as far as the group's exploding popularity is concerned.

Formed in 2001, when banjoist Scott Avett and his guitarist brother Seth first teamed with upright-bass player Bob Crawford, the North Carolina-based ensemble is frequently labeled an "indie roots" band. It's an accurate description if, by "indie roots," people mean "bluegrass, country, punk, pop, folk, rock 'n' roll, honkytonk, and ragtime." Incorporating this incredibly diverse mixture of genres, the musicians' unique, high-energy sound has led to the Avett Brothers touring with the Dave Matthews Band and Widespread Panic, Americana Music Association awards for Best Duo/Group of the Year and New/Emerging Artists of the Year, and a citation by *Rolling Stone* as "the artists to watch in 2009."

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Music critics, too, have been lavish in their praise, with the *Los Angeles Times* raving about the band's "sprightly playing and ravishing sense of melody," and the *San Francisco Chronicle* lauding the Avett Brothers for delivering "the heavy sadness of Townes Van Zandt, the light pop concision of Buddy Holly, the tuneful jangle of the Beatles, and the raw energy of the Ramones." Forget sibling rivalry - this is honest-to-goodness sibling *revelry*.

Tickets to the Avett Brothers' Iowa City performance are \$22 in advance and \$26 on the day of the show, and reservations can be made at (319)688-2653 or Englert.org.



Comedy

A Vacation to Die for

The Lodge Hotel & Conference Center

Friday, October 23, 6:30 p.m.

In past years, the comic performers of the It's a Mystery troupe have set their interactive whodunits at such theoretically harmless events as a wedding reception, a golf outing, and a high-school reunion. And now, the group's *A Vacation to Die for* has all manner of murderous mayhem taking place on our very own Mississippi River. I ask you: Is *nothing* sacred for these people?!

Answer: Nope. Playing at Bettendorf's The Lodge Hotel & Conference Center on October 23 (and again on November 13 and December 11), this madcap comedy by Kim Eastland finds matriarch Zelda Eckstazee coming up with a sure-fire fix for the family's financial woes: the transformation of their dumpy summer home into the Eckstazee Lo-Cost Resort, located on an island in the middle of the Mississippi. She enlists preparatory aid from her peculiar nephews and nieces, but on the night of the grand opening, poor Zelda is found dead, the victim of a lethal bubble bath. Yet which of the resort's eccentric staffers did her in? And why? And what are they serving for dessert?

With its cast composed of such frequent - and hilarious - area performers as Scott Naumann, Barb Engstrom, Jamie Em Johnson, Michael Callahan, and Eastland himself, *A Vacation to Die for* will allow you and fellow patrons to suss out the suspects, among them off-Broadway star Trixie, "mystic reader" Zorastro, and family legal counselor Rychard. Untrustworthy actors and fortune tellers and lawyers? What kind of mixed-up world *is* this?

Tickets for *A Vacation to Die for's* dinner and show are \$35 and can be reserved by calling (563)359-1607; for more information on the evening, visit ItsAMysteryQC.com



Music

Imagination Movers

Adler Theatre

Wednesday, October 21, 7 p.m.

Parents, please hand the paper over to your grade-school-aged children for a moment. I promise they'll give it right back. Thank you.

Hey, kids!

You see those guys in the picture? You know who they are? That's right! The Imagination Movers! You know the Imagination Movers - they're those funny guys who sing and dance and have their own show on the Disney Channel, and who released those CDs *Stir It Up* and *Juice Box Heroes* and *For Those About to Hop* . They're awesome!

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Well, you'll never guess what the Imagination Movers are up to now. They're traveling the country on their very first national tour, and they're coming to Davenport! I know - I can't believe it, either! They're going to be playing at the Adler Theatre on October 21, which means that you get to see Rich, Dave, and the two Scotts live and in person! They're sure to sing a bunch of your favorite songs - maybe even "Toothache" and "Boing Cluck Cluck" and "Achoo!" - and rock the house with energetic dances and audience-participation games and their one-of-a-kind trashcan drum set I'm excited just *thinking* about it!

And best of all, since they've won an Emmy Award, and since the *New York Times* said their songs are "prized by many parents for non-condescending music and lyrics that evoke the Beastie Boys or Red Hot Chili Peppers," your folks are excited, too! They're

so excited, in fact, that they told me they'd buy you tickets if you did the dishes and set the table tonight! So remember this phone number - (800)745-3000 - and this Web address -

AdlerTheatre.com

. That's how they can get tickets. So have fun at the Imagination Movers show! You can hand the paper back to Mom or Dad now!

So yeah, there's this concert coming to downtown Davenport, and

What's that?

No, I have no *idea* why your kids just ran to the kitchen

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What's Happenin' on the 8th Floor on Sunday, October 25, 2009. With a cast of talented actors, the production will feature a variety of musical numbers and a story that is both heartwarming and thought-provoking. The production is being presented by Adler Theatre, a leading arts organization in the community. For more information, please visit www.adlertheatre.com or call 773-344-7300. Tickets are available for purchase at www.adlertheatre.com or at the box office. The production is a must-see for anyone who loves live theater.
