

What's Happenin': Tuesday, March 15, through Wednesday, March 30

Written by Mike Schulz

Tuesday, 15 March 2011 06:00

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EXHIBIT

Celebrating Ideas: Bridging Communities with Augustana's Liberal Arts through the AGES

Figge Art Museum

Saturday, March 19, through Sunday, May 29

The Figge Art Museum's latest exhibition is *Celebrating Ideas: Bridging Communities with Augustana's Liberal Arts Through the AGES*, and

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the accompanying image is of one of the displayed ceramic pieces, created circa 340-330 B.C.E. Its ascribed title?

Red-Figure Dish with Running Female Figure with Wreath & Ivy-Garnished Phiale.

Man, these highfalutin B.C.E. artists with their cryptic titles

Presented in celebration of Augustana College's 150th anniversary, *Celebrating Ideas* offers museum visitors a rich and diverse overview of pieces found in my alma mater's art collection, with a focus on works pertinent to the Augustana General Education Studies (AGES) program. Showcasing artworks representing multiple cultures spanning from ancient through contemporary periods, the exhibit will – in addition to ceramics and sculptures – include paintings by such masters as Picasso, Rembrandt, Matisse, Lautrec, Degas, Goya, Cassatt, Boudin, and Andy Warhol. And with Augustana art-history majors serving as docents for the exhibition,

Celebrating Ideas

is sure to be an educational and visually arresting experience for both longtime and budding art lovers.

Plus, for those wishing to learn even more about the works and artists featured in the exhibit, the Figge is presenting a quartet of Thursday-night lectures in conjunction with *Celebrating Ideas* : “Framing Art in the Liberal Arts” on April 7, “What Are the Ideas & What Are the Bridges?” on April 14, “Egypt, Athens, Rome – & Us” on April 21, and “Linking the Verbal & the Visual Text” on April 28.

So be sure to check out the *Celebrating Ideas* exhibition sometime between March 19 and May 29, and when you do, tell the folks at the Figge that you were sent by Mike. Or, if you'd prefer, by *Middle-Aged Gentleman with Glasses with an Augustana English Major & a Byline.* I can be cryptic, too, ya know.

For more information on *Celebrating Ideas: Bridging Communities with Augustana's Liberal Arts Through the AGES* and other current Figge exhibits, call (563)328-7804 or visit FiggeArt.org .

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MUSIC

Toubab Krewe

Rock Island Brewing Company

Saturday, March 26, 9 p.m.

On March 26, the Rock Island Brewing Company presents a concert with Toubab Krewe, and the group has been the beneficiary of so many glowing reviews since its 2005 formation that using my own words to describe the band seems pointless.

So, without further ado:

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Toubab Krewe's sound combines traditional West African rhythms and instruments with classic Southern rock, hip-hop, reggae, country, and Latin sounds for a unique listening experience [1]. Remember the first time you heard Paul Simon's take on African beats and rhythms? You're going to feel the same way about Toubab Krewe's infectious, Mali-inspired grooves [2].

Accessible without being commonplace, incredibly well-versed in their various instruments and the styles that interest them [3], Toubab Krewe has essentially created the intersection of West African traditional music and American rock [4], quickly establishing themselves as one of the most innovative voices in music today [5].

Their music avoids cliché with authentic extrapolations of traditional Manding beats, percussion, and a jam-band flair [6] that fuses Afro-pop and rock 'n' roll with fun and panache [7]; the Krewe plunks, plucks, and pounds its way through trance-inducing surf music that would please Deadheads and Tortoise fans in equal measure [8].

A futuristic, psychedelic, neo-griot frenzy [9], Toubab Krewe has such a visceral, ear-yanking quality that in the band's capable hands you just might find your definitions of what is/is not rock 'n' roll and world-beat being completely re-written [10]. We dare you not to groove [11]!

Finally. A What's Happenin' piece that actually *did* write itself.

Toubab Krewe performs with openers Rubblebucket, and more information on the night is available by calling (309)793-4060 or visiting RIBCO.com.

[1] National Public Radio. [2] AOL Spinner. [3] *Entertaining U* magazine. [4] *Billboard* magazine.
[5] *Honest*

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Tune
magazine. [6]
The New Yorker
magazine. [7] *The*
New York Daily News
. [8]
Folio Weekly
magazine. [9] *The*
Village Voice
. [10]
Blurt
magazine. [11]
Paste
magazine.



MUSIC

An Evening with John McCutcheon

The Redstone Room

Saturday, March 26, 8 p.m.

Davenport's Redstone Room will, on March 26, present "An Evening with John McCutcheon," and for those unfamiliar with the musician, I was going to begin by describing him as a folk singer. But I thought better of it when I read the *Dallas Morning News* quote that said, "Calling John McCutcheon a 'folk singer' is like saying Deion Sanders is just a football player."

Um ... that is a compliment, right?

Just kidding – even the sports-reference-challenged among us realize that with 34 albums and seven Grammy nominations under his belt, McCutcheon deserves recognition greater than "folk singer." A master of the hammered dulcimer whose other instruments of choice include the guitar, banjo, fiddle, autoharp, and Jew's harp, the Wisconsin native has, since his 1975 debut *How Can I Keep from Singing?*

, stood as one of the country's most respected singer/songwriters and multi-instrumentalists. Over the past few years alone, McCutcheon has boasted a dizzying number of professional accomplishments, including headlining more than a dozen North American music festivals, tours in Chile and Australia, appearing in a Woody Guthrie tribute event in New York City, and even performing a special concert at the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

And if you're a fan of the artist, chances are good that you have a favorite McCutcheon song, be it his popular wartime-truce number "Christmas in the Trenches," or his rousing take on Pete Seeger's "May the World Go," or one of the tunes from his Grammy-nominated children's CD *Autumn Songs*

. Personally, I'm partial to "Hail to the Chief," the lyrics for which were crafted almost entirely from presidential malapropisms, and which begins thusly: "I was born in West Texas, pretty near California / Far away from Dad's home in D.C. / When I'm talkin' 'bout myself and / They're talkin' 'bout myself / All of us are talkin' about me." I just wish I knew who on earth the song is *about*

... .

For tickets to John McCutcheon's area concert, call (563)326-1333 or visit RedstoneRoom.com



Theatre

Avenue Q

Adler Theatre

Friday, March 18

Avenue Q.

Broadway's smash hit, running 2,534 performances.

A musical comedy about modern life and love in a run-down New York City barrio.

Winner of the 2004 Tony Award for Best Musical.

Winner of the 2004 Tony Award for Best Score.

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Winner of the 2004 Tony Award for Best Book.

Featuring such memorable songs as “It Sucks to Be Me,” “What Do You Do with a B.A. in English?,” “I’m Not Wearing Underwear Today,” “Schadenfreude,” “The Internet Is for Porn,” “If You Were Gay,” and “Everyone’s a Little Bit Racist.”

Described by *Newsday* as a “rude yet benign, wicked yet sweet musical.”

Described by the *New York Times* as “savvy, sassy, and eminently likable.”

And described by the U.K.’s *The Times* as “how *Friends* might be if it had Fozzie Bear and Miss Piggy arguing about their one-night stand, but with more angst, expletives, and full-on puppet sex.”

Yeah. *Thought* that last one would do it for you.

The National Tour of *Avenue Q* lands at Davenport’s Adler Theatre on March 18, and tickets are available by calling (800)745-3000 or visiting [AdlerTheatre.com](#)

