Features

Free South Africa focus of rally

Area bands crank up for cause of freedom

By CAREN CAMPBELL

Features editor

Classes are back in session and you don't know what to do with your weekend.

Well, how about an all day, all-star musical extravaganza at Rockafellas' for a mere five bucks?

It may sound too good to be true, but it's here - the biggest rock benefit concert Columbia has ever seen with

rock, punk, metal and funk to cater to all your tastes. After two months of blood, sweat and tears, Calvin Hunter, who is very active in the local music scene, has organized this unparalleled musical experience, The Free South Africa Rally, for Five Points frequenters to be held

on Saturday, July 15. Seventy-five percent of the proceeds will be given to the Africa Fund which provides economic and political aid to political prisoners and their families in South Afica, and the other 25 percent will go to the S.C. Coalition for the Liberation of South Africa located here in Columbia.

The rally will feature 10 local bands in addition to acoustic music all day on the deck

"He's got some hellacious talent lined up," said Art Boerke, Rockafellas' entertainment coordinator.

He's no liar. The day begins at high noon with speed metal punk from Sovereign followed by Bedlam Hour at 1:30 p.m. Hootie and the Blowfish take over at 3 p.m. followed by Danny Madison on the deck at 4 p.m.

Wa Da Da begins at 5 p.m. with reggae-funk band T.H.U.M.P. starting at 6:30 p.m. At 8 p.m., Augusta's Sense of Union goes on followed by the hosts Calvin and Friends with some funk and reggae at 9:30 p.m.

The evening ends with two of Columbia's most powerful bands - Lay Quiet Awhile at 11 and Bachelors of Art

The Rockafellas' parking lot will be closed off for everyone that just wants to hang outside and many outof-towners are expected, so it might be best to leave the car at home. A barbecue will also be outside for people who want to buy food.

fee S.C. Coalition, the Rainbow Coalition and Greenpeace will also be represented at the rally to

distribute information. Hunter said he wants to "play some percussion and raise a little hell" adding that he hopes to expose some eople to things they didn't know they liked and to raise

"He wanted to put on the benefit concert to end all benefit concerts, and I think he's pretty much succeed-

They've got "everything from funk to reggae to heavy metal to acoustic music to Gateful Dead kind of soun-

ding stuff," Boerke said, "It sa very varied thing." Between Lay Quiet Awhile and B.O.A. alone Boerke expects to see at least 350 people turn out.

Who's invited? "We've got it structured so the first two acts on the bill are going to appeal to the youngsters," Boerke said. So, anybody will be able to attend from noon until about 2:30 p.m. for Sovereign and Bedlam

"After that, unfortunately, we're going to have to clear everybody out who is not over 18 - and it'll be 18 and older for the rest of the day," he added.

Tickets will be sold at the door, and people will be free to come and go as they please after they have purchased

"I want people to have a good time, but I also want people to realize that there's a serious problem over in South Africa right now and that their money is going to go to somehow balance the scales of justice," Boerke

Several Five Points restaurants including Monterrey Jack's, Sharky's, the Five Points Cafe, Yesterdays, The Peddler and the Breakfast Club are helping to sponsor the

Rockafellas' isn't a stranger to benefit concerts having had benefits for the American Civil Liberties Union, Greenpeace and others. In fact, another benefit concert

for Greenpeace is scheduled for July 22. I figured I'd do something that is going to help on an international scale and something that's going to help on a local scale," Hunter said "so we'll give them (the S.C. Coalition) money from the show to increase awareness here and give money to the Africa Fund to actually help

The idea to include the Africa Fund came from the

book put out about the Sun City record, Hunter said. The S.C. Coalition for the Liberation of South Africa is part of the Carolina Peace Resource Center on Harden Street. This division is involved in local affairs, and they also collaborate with USC's Free South Africa Alliance.

Calvin said he did attempt to get the Free South Africa Alliance involved in his venture, but most of the people in that organization were away for the summer since classes aren't in session.

But WUSC-FM's technical services engineer, Harry Bous will be out there Saturday to help with the sound

Hunter denies that he is a political activist and said he "just figured it'd be good to keep awareness up about apartheid.'

However, in response to recent happenings in South Africa, Hunter said, "They're trying to work with the blacks in South Africa now because I think they're realiz-



Calvin Hunter

File photo

ing that it's going to end up in a big bloody war if they don't change things because you can only oppress people

Boerke added, "Right now there's a big problem and if somehow it could be averted without a revolution. . .the world will be better off."

Play reflects sorrows, joys of middle age

By PAMME EADES Staff writer

Trustus Theatre's production of Terrance McNally's ribald comedy "Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune" reflects on the harsh side of reaching middle age without being in a relationship.

Husband-wife team, Kay and Jim Thigpen, star as the nearneurotic Frankie and Johnny, two almost star-crossed lovers.

Taking place in Frankie's New 1 York City one-room apartment, she and Johnny are introduced to the audience in bed after making love. The rest of the play is a roller coaster ride of a relationship for Frankie and Johnny.

tionalizing it by saying that it will soon be too late to find a good relationship. Even when Frankie tells him she cannot have children, he suggests, quite enthusiastically, that they can adopt.

Thigpen's Johnny is sincere but hides his desperation for stability in his life behind humour. He delivers his one-liners with a punctuality that belies his character's situation.

Settling down with the evertalking, Skakespeare spouting Johnny, scares Frankie immensely. Although she is attracted to him, she doesn't really like Johnny very much. But Johnny thinks the 'lady

doth protest too much.'

Mrs. Thigpen's portrayal of Frankie combines all the fragility of a woman who has been hurt before with the wise cracking, strength of a New York bar and grill waitress. She creates a woman with desires and wants with frigid undertones.

Under Stan Brown's direction, "Frankie and Johnny" reveals the pain and triumph of survival. Brown's interpretation of the nude scenes, that caused an uproar at the Greenville production last year, were tasteful, integrating them into the overall context of the play.

"Frankie and Johnny" marks Stan Brown's directing debut and Johnny soon decides he loves he does quite well. Brown draws Frankie and wants to marry her, ra- out a romantic vulnerability from the Thigpens -the married couple that rounds out the humor of the play

> The rowdy banter (the castrating dog joke is the best) between Frankie and Johnny keep the play from being depressing, making the uncertainty of trusting someone bearable. In the intimate surroundings of the Trustus Theatre the play becomes personable and

> "Frankie and Johnny in the Clair De Lune" continues Wednesday through Sunday until July 22. For ticket information call Trustus at 254-9732.

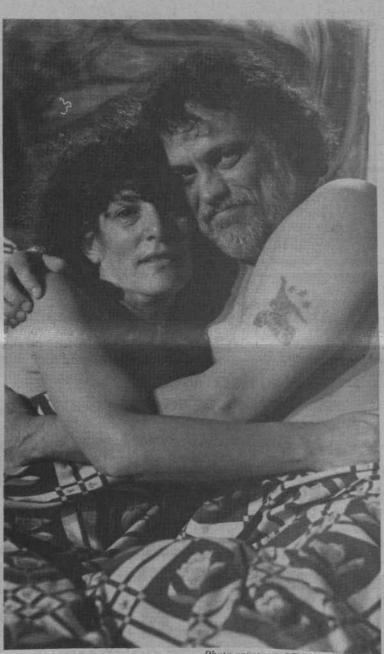


Photo courtesy of TRUSTUS Theatre Kay and Jim Thigpen star in Trustus Theatre's presentation of "Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune.'

Boston Pops to perform

From staff and wire reports

The Carolina Pops Orchestra kicked off this summer's pops festival under the baton of USC music professor and conductor of the new Carolina Pops Orchestra, Donald Portnoy, with a musical salute to America on July 8.

To continue this series of light classical and popular music, the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra will provide an evening of musical entertainment July 26 at the Carolina Coliseum.

The Boston Pops concert, which is the highlight of the new Carolina Pops Festival, is part of an 11-city national tour sponsored by Microwave Communications Inc.

The concert begins at 8 p.m. under the direction of the highly acclaimed composer and conductor, John Williams.

Williams has directed the Boston Pops since 1980 and composed the music for more than 65 films, including "The Accidental Tourist," "Empire of the Sun," "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "E.T."

The concert will feature a variety of Pops favorites, from patriotic medlies to Broadway tunes and music from major motion pictures.

Williams' compositions from "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "Indiana Jones and the Last, Crusade" will be on the program, which also includes a suite from "Porgy and Bess" by George Gershwin, the overture to "Candida" by Leonard Bernstein, a Jerome Robbins tribute, including selections from "West Side Story, "Gypsy," "Fiddler on the Roof" and other faves.

With the 1989 Pops season, Williams marks his 10th year as conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra. His highly acclaimed albums with the orchestra include "Pops in Space," 'Pops on the March" and "Aisle Seat." "Pops Brittania," featuring music of the British Isles, was released in March, with "Horray for Hollywood!" scheduled for release this summer.

The concerts are casual, and concert-goers are encouraged to purchase food and drinks to enjoy during the concert.

Concession stands will be open, and tables will be set up on the coliseum floor for those who have purchased a special season ticket.

"We want people to have a lively and fun evening while listening to some of their favorite music," Portnov said.

The series concludes August 26 with the Carolina Pops performing with Broadway star Karla DeVito.

Tickets for the Boston Pops are \$15 and \$20. Call 777-5111 for more information.

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