

WHAT'S UP Guide to Arts & Entertainment**AUDITIONS**

Chapin Community Theater will hold auditions for "Mama N'Em," at 7 p.m. Dec. 4 and 5, in the Chapin Community Theater 107 Columbia Ave., Chapin, SC. Available roles for five women and four men ages 35-80, must be able to do a convincing up-state South Carolina accent. For more information call 772-3720.

Town Theatre will hold auditions for "Prescription: Murder" at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5. Roles are available for four men and three women in range in age from early '20s to '50s. Perusal scripts are available. For more information call 799-2510.

BALLET

The Columbia City Ballet presents "The Nutcracker," directed by William Starett, and accompanied for the first time by the full 50-plus member South Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Nicholas Smith. The show runs at 8 p.m. from Dec. 2 to Dec. 11 and tickets are \$8 and \$10 for children and students, \$16.50 and \$18.50 for adults and \$5.00 for balcony, on sale now.

CONCERTS

USC presents its annual Christmas Music Festival at the Carolina Coliseum at 4 p.m. Dec. 4 featuring performances by the USC Band, Percussion Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra, Concert Choir, Left Bank Big Band, Carolina Alive, the University Chorus and the USC Dance Company. Admission and parking are free.

The S. C. Concert Choir presents their annual Christmas concert at the First Presbyterian Church at 6 p.m. Dec. 4. Vocal selections will range from sacred holiday carols and spirituals by Giovanni Palestrina and Johannes Brahms to "Rigeltanze," a collection of six Christmas carol dances by contemporary American composer Libby Larsen.

The Benedict College Concert Choir presents "A Special Kind of Christmas" featuring Yuletide Music by contemporary composers at 7 p.m. Dec. 11 in the Atisdel Chapel on Benedict's Campus. The performance is free.

CONTESTS

The Institution for World Capitalism is sponsoring an essay contest with the topic "Capitalism and the Failure of Socialism." First prize is \$2,000 and honorable mentions are \$250. For more information and an entry form, call (904) 744-9986. Deadline for entries is Jan. 31, 1995.

USA Today is beginning its annual search for the nation's best college students. Sixty will be named to the 1995 All-USA Academic Team. The key element will be a student's outstanding original academic or intellectual product. The judges will be influenced by the student's ability to describe that endeavor in their own words. For more information, call Carol Skalski at (703) 276-5890.

Blackboard Entertainment presents "The America's College Video Competition" sponsored by Levi's 501 jeans. Speak out on issues of your generation for \$10,000 in cash awards. Create an original short-length video that tells your story. Be funny, serious or stupid, but most of all be creative. Deadline is March 15, 1995. Call (415) 974-6844 for information.

Evian issues an open call to amateurs and professionals to submit a design or toast that conveys the theme, "Evian Toasts the Culinary Arts." The winning artwork and toast will appear on a limited edition glass bottle of Evian Natural Spring Water available to restaurants next spring. Entries must be submitted to Evian, c/o Ketchum, 220 East 42nd St., 12th floor, New York, NY 10017 by Nov. 30. All entries with proper address and information will be returned. For further information call 1-800-633-3363.

Mangajin Magazine presents the Fourth Annual BABEL International Japanese/English Translation contest open to any

resident of the United States or Japan whose name has never been credited as translator or co-translator in any publication. To participate, entrant must translate a one-page essay from Japanese to English. The essay to be translated can be found along with complete information in issue #39 of Mangajin magazine. Further questions on contest rules should be directed to the Kawamura Cultural Foundation at (212) 808-5335 or fax (212) 697-4738.

LECTURE

Nationally recognized pianist Dr. Maurice Hinson will present a lecture and master class, giving a critique of individual student performances at 1 p.m. in the small rehearsal room of USC's Koger Center, Nov. 30. For more information call 777-7374.

MOVIES

Nickelodeon Theater presents the continuation of the 1st annual South Carolina Film and Video Festival tonight with winning films and videos from across South Carolina "Pilot," "The Interlopers," and "Red to the Rind." The show starts at 8 p.m. and tickets are \$3.

Dec. 5 through Dec. 14, Nickelodeon Theatre will feature films by Ingmar Bergman including 1972's "Cries and Whispers," with showtimes at 7 and 9 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 for members of the Columbia Film Society, \$4.50 for students and senior citizens and \$5.50 for non-members.

MUSEUMS / GALLERIES

McKissick Museum
The work of USC graduate art students will be on display Nov. 20 through Dec. 18. "The Annual MFA Exhibit" will feature works by Vicky Heapee, Bingjian Zhang and Shini Zhou, who are all working towards a master of fine arts degree.

The USC art department faculty show features about 40 recent works in a variety of media, including paintings, drawings, mixed media, printmaking, photography, watercolors, jewelry and sculpture. The exhibit will run through Feb. 12, 1995.

Columbia Museum of Art
"Richard Estes: The Complete Prints" will run through Dec. 11. This is the first traveling exhibition surveying the print work of photo-realist Richard Estes. Admission is free.

South Carolina State Museum
The museum has introduced a new exhibit, "Brain Teaser," that includes a puzzle so difficult the curator is offering a free museum membership to the first visitor who can solve it.

PLANETARIUM

"Season of Light" at the Gibbs Planetarium is open. The show begins with the winter solstice and examines how ancient cultures celebrated this dark time with their warmest and brightest holidays of the year.

TELEVISION

"The Eagles on Spotlight" is a reunion concert showing 8:58 p.m. Dec. 9 on SCETV.

THEATER

Drayton Hall
Theatre USC will present "Eastern Standard" through Dec. 2.

USC Theatre presents "The Christmas Candle," an original music play based on an old German fairy tale, Dec. 7-11 at Drayton Hall. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Curtain time is 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Town Theatre
"Lend Me a Tenor" opens Dec. 2 and will run through Dec. 17. Tickets are \$8 for students.

WORKSHOPS

Dr. Ruthann Fox-Hines will lead a workshop "Healing the Wounds: Recovering from Loss" from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Nov. 30 at the Counseling and Human Development Center. For more information, call 7-5223.

Christmas cards take on new life in the hands of USC art professor Boyd Saunders

FESTIVE BY DESIGN



W isman and angels. Children and reindeer. These are symbols of Christmas. But so are roosters, flying geese and horses, at least to University of South Carolina art professor Boyd Saunders.

For 30 years, Saunders, a Chapin resident, has been creating the holiday cards he sends to friends and relatives.

"I try to come up with imagery that speaks of the Christmas season but that stays away from the usual cliché Christmas symbols," Saunders says. That is one of the challenges of the project.

When his daughters, Sylvia and Rachel, were younger, Saunders used them as models. "I had to sure they were evenly represented or they got their noses out of joint," he says.

Saunders began doing the cards about the time he came to Columbia to begin the printmaking program at USC in 1965. He always promises himself he

will get the card done early, but "I'm usually rushing around after Thanksgiving dinner to do it."

The cards are commercially reproduced pen-and-ink drawings done in an illustrative style "that I save just for Christmas," Saunders describes the images as "baroque," "decorative," and "shamelessly sentimental." Those are not terms most artists would use for their work. But it is, after all, Christmas, and he makes no apologies for enjoying the season.

Over the years, Saunders' bills for printing and postage have grown, but the project is close to his heart. It is "very touching" to go to a friend's home and see cards he has sent over the years displayed. He has been told that his first grade teacher, Freddie Mae Thomas of Rossville, Tenn., keeps every card he has ever sent her in an album in her living room.

"It's gotten to be the most wonderfully accepted thing I've ever done as an

artist," Saunders says. "It hasn't made me any money, but neither has anything else I've done as an artist."

"I love sending Christmas cards, and I love getting them, especially from people I haven't seen in 25 years," he says. He enjoys sitting down after the business of the season ends and reading all the cards he has received.

Saunders doesn't quite remember why he began making cards. "I have some silly notion that we don't tell people often enough that we love them," he says. "Christmas is a time when you can do that and get away with it."

The show will open at the museum's free Holiday Open House, which will be from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1. "Boyd Saunders: May the Magic of Christmas Remain with You" will be on the fourth floor at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia until Jan. 31, 1995.

—Staff Reports

Pearl Jam's new album shows growth, creativity of Vedder

SOUNDADVICE

BEN PILLOW Staff Writer

VITALITY Pearl Jam
★★★★ (out of four stars)

Pearl Jam follows its 1993 No. 1 Billboard chart album "Vs." with "Vitality," a 14-song record centered around the theme of human health and happiness and based on the 1927 book by the same name.

While vocalist Eddie Vedder does not completely abandon writing angst-ridden lyrics, "Vitality" overall is less brooding than the band's 1991 debut album, "Ten." Vedder showcases several new vocal ranges as well, and moves toward much more creative lyrics rather than write about his own personal past.

Musically, the band is as cohesive as ever, which makes me wonder exactly why drummer Dave Abbruzzese was "fired" by the rest of the band a few months ago. There is much more live sound to the music and not as much focus on a heavy edge.

Guitarists Stone Gossard and Mike McCready have substituted most solos with more concentration on repeated riffs and harmony, and the band has added to their musical repertoire, donning such instruments as the malletron and accordion.

Released on vinyl Nov. 22, "Vitality" will be out on CD Dec. 6. The album starts

with the catchy "Last Exit," a moderately fast-paced song in which Vedder's growth as a songwriter is evident ("Let the sun shine/Burn away my mask/Three days, maybe longer/Shed my skin at last").

"Spin the Black Circle" glorifies music on vinyl and moves to more of a punk sound, almost like "Blood" on "Vs." "Not For You," a song Pearl Jam played during its most recent appearance on "Saturday Night Live," follows as Vedder makes a brief return to personal writing. Set to very rhythmic guitars, Vedder seems to be sending a message to his fans on the status of being a rock star. With the words "All that's sacred comes from youth/Dedications, native and true/With no power, nothing to do," Vedder strives to regain the no-strings-attached feeling he knew before fame.

"Tremor Christ" starts a pattern of songs that tells a story and perhaps is the best example of Vedder's growing creativity ("Ransom paid the devil/He whispers pleasing words/Triumphphant are the angels/If they can get there first"). Musically, it is unlike any other Pearl Jam song, enhanced by the incorporation of an organ.

One of the best songs on the album, "Nothingman," is next. Vedder's voice is the main focus as the instruments fade behind in a slow, relaxed mood. It too tells a

story, this time of a doomed relationship. It is followed by "Whipping," the studio recording of a stage favorite from the band's early days and one of the harder songs on the record.

"Pry, To" is nothing other than 20 seconds of Vedder spelling the word "privacy" nearly unintelligibly and serving as an intro to the promising "Corduroy." With a raw, live sound, the song's guitars sound a lot like R.E.M.'s "What's the Frequency, Kenneth?"

"Bugs" features Vedder on the accordion and offers a rare effort at comedy. It could again be interpreted to talk about all the outside ties to Vedder ("See them deciding my fate/That which was once up to me/Now it's too late"). "Satan's Bed" follows, starting up with the help of a kettle drum.

"Better Man" begins as a slow, harmony-based song that moves to a very upbeat speed while telling another story ("She lies and says she's in love with him/Can't find a better man"). The interesting "Aye Davanita" follows, appropriately subtitled "The Song Without Words," as very Spanish-sounding chords give the song an almost festival feel.

The last real song on the album is "Immortality." It could be interpreted as be-

ing written about Kurt Cobain, as it is filled with a very somber atmosphere and sound. "A truant finds home/A wish to hold on/But there's a trapdoor in the sun" could be about Cobain's music, and anyone who knows the environment in which Cobain died can see the relation in the words "Scrawl dissolved/Cigar box on the floor." Furthermore, "Stripped and sold, mom," could describe how Cobain's music was made mainstream, while the closing line "Some die just to live" describes how Cobain will always be remembered in the eyes of some.

"Hey Foxyomphandlemama, That's Me" closes the record in a very artistic way. It exemplifies a common distinction in Pearl Jam's music—dealing with serious issues—as it talks about child neglect. Amid an array of feedback and time-keeping sounds, you hear different voices speaking at various times. "A spanking...that's the only thing I want so much," a child's voice says. "Why is that better than being hugged?" a woman asks. "Because you get closer to the person," the child answers. The album ends with a teen asking, "Did you ever think you would kill yourself?" and the child answering, "I have thought about it... we all do."

90.5

WUSC

TOP 10

10. Fastbacks
9. Golden Palominos
8. Juned
7. Makeem
Mahmoud Ghania
6. The Skatalites
5. Dog Faced
Hermans
4. O'Rourke/Prevost
3. Pizzicato Five
2. Sea and Cake
1. Grenadine

ETHAN MYERSON Gamecock Graphics

Sleep out for the homeless

Staff Reports

Some people will do anything for a good cause. Tonight, members of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity will sleep out on the Russell House Patio for their annual project to aid Columbia's homeless.

"Sleep Out For the Homeless" will start at 10 p.m. and lasts until 6 a.m. The fraternity will collect money donations, canned goods and clothing throughout the night. Donations will go to area shelters.

"We do it annually. The sleep out recognizes the plight of the homeless during the holiday seasons,"

said fraternity member Nathaniel Cropp.

Cropp urges students to support the project and to give whatever donations they have.

The sleep out has become the fraternity's biggest project and has been going on for about three years. Cropp said he hopes the sleep out will grow to include more community involvement.

Cropp said he hopes the weather is clear before the fraternity "roughs it." Last year, members only had newspapers for protection against the weather. "Hopefully, it won't be raining. I know I don't own a sleeping bag."

Carolina!

Nothing could be finer.