

Creative music, independent film find mix 'Independent Film Society' expands scope to include music.

by
Adam Snyder, Features Editor

Creative Music & Film Society



SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

Jazz bassist William Parker performed as his wife Patricia Nicholson accompanied him in dance in a Creative Music and Film Society event last month. CM and FS has expanded from only presenting independent films to having music and dancing events periodically on campus.

It's had a name change and expanded its focus. And in the last six months, the Creative Music and Film Society has grown at a brisk rate.

Marc Minsker, co-founder and president, took his love of jazz and independent films to a new level in February when he began the Independent Film Society, which expanded to the CM and FS.

"We tried to get shows at the Nickelodeon, but it was a little too tedious," Minsker said. "In the end, we felt a student organization would be more beneficial to the university community."

"IFS will not take business away from the Nickelodeon, but rather pick up where they have left off," co-founder and advisor Frank Beylotte said. In fact, three of the Nickelodeon's board members are involved in IFS.

"We petitioned the university and got 15 signatures," Minsker said. He added that now that the university has a film minor through the College of Liberal Arts, he believed USC needed a film club.

What started out as a cultural and educational experience has become an interactive organization.

"The student who suggests the film has to get it and set it up," Minsker said. "It's very interactive."

There are a few guidelines members have to follow in order to present their movie. Those rules include a good quality film, no obscene films, it can't be a commercially distributed film, and the student must administer the films.

"This is important organization because of its very structure. It shows and discusses films suggested by its members," said Dr. Faust Pauluzzi, a professor of Italian at USC and also one of the organization's faculty advisors.

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Frank Beylotte
co-founder and advisor for the Creative Music and Film Society

At 8 p.m. each Wednesday in the Gambrell Auditorium, the CM and FS has its weekly meeting for about 15 to 20 minutes. Then the film is set up and begins about 8:30 p.m.

"The growth has been phenomenal," Minsker said. "It's more than I expected."

Minsker said that about 50 to 60 people have become contributing members of the organization. About 40 people are regulars, showing up every week. He added that there is a good mix between undergraduates, graduate students and faculty members.

"In the classroom, everything is driven, goal-oriented," Dr. Pauluzzi said. "At the IFS meetings, the discussions are clear, but open-ended. Real learning takes place here in an intelligent, relaxed environment."

The Wednesday meetings were the crux of the original IFS. But some faculty members became instrumental in the expansion of the organization to include more educational and open-ended discussions about music. As a result, a name change was in order as the scope of IFS's mission broadened.

With the change, the organization added more members and increased its public exposure.

In July, free jazz veterans Joe McPhee and Michael Bisio performed at the USC School of Music. This

month jazz bassist William Parker performed as his wife Patricia Nicholson accompanied him in dance. "Everyone involved is very enthused," Minsker said. "Columbia is lacking when it comes to jazz."

But, the creative music part of the expanded organization is not only about jazz.

Saturday night Fred Van Hove, the Cultural Ambassador of Flanders, played the pipe organ in what was billed as an "imaginative, experimental and completely exciting" performance.

Other performances include the Jazz Trash Trio on Sept. 19, Eugene Chadbourne, an international rock, country, and jazz guitarist on Sept. 20, jazz legend Sam Rivers' Trio on Oct. 8, and Joe McPhee Trio in November.

All money raised through these concerts goes back to the musicians. But, the CM and FS's board, made up of about a dozen faculty members, contributes the money to ensure the musicians' financial guarantee. Through the Parker performance, CM and FS has raised enough money to pay the musicians and not have to borrow from the board.

"We are trying to set up an account in the credit union for donations and endowments," Minsker said. He hopes this will keep the organization financially stable in the future.

"I hope the organization goes on after I leave," Minsker said, noting the end of his college career is quickly approaching. But after six months, he feels that a solid base has been set to help the organization last long after he departs from graduate school.

If you're interested in the Creative Music and Film Society, e-mail Minsker at minkerm@garnet.cla.sc.edu. Or, check out the web site at <http://www.geocities.com/SaHo/Lafts/2553/cmfs.html>.



CONCERT CALENDAR

- Albert Hill, TBA, Aug. 29, Magnolia St. Pub (Spartanburg, SC)
- Insane Clown Posse, TBA, Aug. 29, Masquerade (Atlanta, GA)
- Uncle Mingo, TBA, Aug. 30, Music Farm (Charleston, SC)
- 311 w/ De La Soul, TBA, Aug. 31, Blockbuster Pavilion (Charlotte, NC)
- Indigo Girls, 7:30pm, Sept. 21, Township Auditorium
- Jeff Foxworthy w/ Rich Snyder, TBA, Sept. 26, Memorial Coliseum (Spartanburg, SC)
- Sheryl Crow w/ Wilco and Michael Penn, TBA, Sept. 27, Blockbuster Pavilion

ETC...

WUSC to hold new DJ meeting

WUSC 90.5 FM will have a meeting for interested students, faculty and staff. The meeting will take place 7:30 pm, Sept. 4, RH 305.

Community can register for voice lessons at USC

Registration for private voice lessons at USC continue through Sept. 5. Classes, which begin Sept. 8 in the USC School of Music, are open to anyone 14 years and older. Tuition will be \$130 for 30-minute lessons and \$255 for hour-long sessions. Call 777-4280 for more information.

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