

Music historian to offer a retrospective of 1960s rock

BY KRISTIN CHANDLER
THE GAMECOCK

The 1960s were a decade of life-changing rebellion and tumultuous conflict set against an explosive soundtrack of innovative new music. Tomorrow at 8 p.m. in the Russell House Ballroom, performer and music historian Barry Drake will explore the unforgettable music of the '60s in a multimedia presentation, "60s Rock: When the Music Mattered."

Drake, touted on his Web site as a "walking encyclopedia of music" because of his extensive involvement in the music world since the early 1950s, will celebrate and analyze '60s rock through slide shows, video clips, lecture and performance.

Based on Drake's past performances at USC and his solid reputation, Carolina Productions Ideas and Issues Commissioner George Raad is looking forward to a fun and successful show.

"Three years ago, Barry Drake did '80s rock, and it was a wonderful presentation. It's a lecture tied in with entertainment, fun to watch but also informative," Raad said.

Drake, a popular lecturer on the college circuit, is presenting 16 shows each October and November at colleges from Vermont to Florida. According to his Web site, www.barry-drake.com, Drake was named the National Association for Campus Activities Lecturer of the Year in 1995-96, and 1998-2000.

Additionally, Campus Activities Magazine presented him with its Lecturer of the Year Award in 1994, 1995 and 1998. Drake has also received numerous other awards dating back to 1984.

Drake's Web site details his other lectures on '50s, '70s and '80s rock, as well as the one he will be performing at USC on '60s



PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

Barry Drake, music historian, brings his '60s rock lecture series to the Russell House Ballroom on Thursday at 8 p.m.

rock. Thursday night's attendees can expect Drake to "celebrate, examine, clarify and put into perspective one of the most exciting decades in our music history."

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GEORGE RAAD
IDEAS AND ISSUES COMMISSIONER
CAROLINA PRODUCTIONS

"The last lecture Drake did for us had a great turnout. There's always a different audience depending what decade he's talking about, so this should be interesting."

"Interesting" is one adjective

that Raad can almost guarantee will describe the presentation.

"Last time, students really responded well to Barry Drake," he said. "This presentation definitely fits our theme of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll here at Carolina Productions. I'll leave it up to the students to decide which category this fits into, but we will definitely be rocking and rolling on Thursday night."

Drake's presentation will give a look into one of the most musically ground-breaking decades, which included stars such as The Beatles, Diana Ross and The Supremes, Janis Joplin, and Buddy Holly.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockmixeditor@hotmail.com

You can't never mind Grohl



CHARLES TOMLINSON
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Former Nirvana member does it all in the music world, and keeps going.

Dave Grohl is all over the place nowadays. While Kurt Cobain made an indelible mark during his short career in the early '90s, Grohl is still making his presence known in the new millennium. I'm happy for him, too.

Once the booming, crashing beat behind rock's most unlikely superstar, Grohl emerged from Nirvana to prove he can write songs, play guitar and sing, too. And he's gotten his hands into almost everything since then.

After Nirvana's demise, he was highly recruited by other bands, even Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers. Grohl decided to be brave, however, and become the front man for his very own band, Foo Fighters.

Now he's become the spokesman for rock bands in a post-grunge era. He's publicly displayed his affinity for other contemporary rock acts, and his actions have served him well. He talked about how much he liked Queens of the Stone Age, and he

got a gig touring with the band; he even played drums on its latest album, "Songs for the Deaf." Grohl also praised new band Cave In and clamored to produce its debut album, but his plate was already too full, loaded with Foo Fighters recording sessions and Queens of the Stone Age tour dates.

But he's a nice guy; to make up for it, he's offered Cave In the supporting slot on the Foo Fighters' upcoming United Kingdom tour.

And Grohl was also featured in a small article in Time magazine, where he said he thought the best band in the world was the Hives.

But he's also been busy with sordid Nirvana legal battles, of which I'm sure everyone is aware. Finally, though, the warring sides have settled, and a new Nirvana best-of album will come out this fall featuring the last song the band recorded, "You Know You're Right."

The other day, a local radio station aired "You Know You're Right." So let's see: On the radio, we have the "new" Nirvana song; the new Foo Fighters single, "All My Life;" Queens of the Stone Age's "No One Knows;" and Tenacious D's "Wonderboy" and "Tribute." Yep, Grohl played on the Tenacious D album, too. He's a busy guy.

Also, he was ranked No. 78 on VH-1's "Top 100 Sexiest Artists" countdown. Not too shabby, Dave! The goatee and shorter hair are working for you.

All this Grohl hoopla, howev-

er, evokes some sympathy for former Nirvana bassist Krist Novoselic. After the end of Nirvana, Novoselic started a band called Sweet 75, which essentially flew under the radar while Foo Fighters soared.

He made contributions to music, however, in ways other than performing. In 1995, he founded and became president of the Joint Artists and Music Promotions Political Action Committee, which fought censorship and championed the First Amendment. And now he's in a band called Eyes Adrift, with guitarist Curt Kirkwood of the Meat Puppets and former Sublime drummer Bud Gaugh.

Novoselic has been successful, but it's a shame that his accomplishments haven't received as much attention as Grohl's. I wonder whether Novoselic ever gets jealous. Sometimes, I can't decide who I envy more: Grohl, for his sheer popularity, or Novoselic, for his more quiet fame and political contributions.

But Grohl has been a major helping hand in keeping rock music from slipping out of the mainstream. From 1995 to the present, he has released a string of Foo Fighters hits that permeated an era of bling-bling and boy bands. And he's helped other rock bands make names for themselves, too. He's been quite the hero of rock music. Dave Grohl, I salute you.

Tomlinson is a third-year print journalism student.

Play explores parenthood woes

BY KAMILLE BOSTICK
THE GAMECOCK

Playgoers will get an extra dose of theater this week as USC's Theatre South Carolina presents "The Baby Dance," which begins tomorrow night.

Set in rural Louisiana, "The Baby Dance" tells a story of the desperation that often comes with parenthood and with the inability to become parents. It is a story of a poor couple, pregnant with their

fifth child, who enter into a business arrangement with a wealthy Los Angeles couple who have placed an advertisement announcing their desire for a baby. In exchange for medical and other baby-related expenses, the couple can adopt the child.


Finances and family collide as the four clash over money and prenatal care, and their fighting, in the end, endangers the baby.

The plot is now being brought to the stage by visiting USC acting

and voice professor Margo Regan, who directed other productions for Theatre South Carolina, such as "Look Homeward, Angel" in 2000. In 1998, "The Baby Dance" was made into a Showtime movie starring Stockard Channing and Laura Dern.

Theatre South Carolina's performance of "The Baby Dance" overlaps with the theater's production of "King Lear," which

♦ 'BABY DANCE,' SEE PAGE 10


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