

Talent alone can't win fans

Devon Ucek
FOR THE GAMECOCK

Opening for a band such as The Bravery to a large crowd should be the break that many bands spend years working toward. Unfortunately, for People in Planes, it will have to come later. People in Planes' superb progressive rock was too good for the close-minded crowd of Tuesday night's show at New Brookland Tavern.

Formed in 2004, People in Planes' talent has not gone unnoticed. The band played at the Austin, Texas, music festival South by Southwest and signed to one of America's biggest independent labels, Wind-up Records.

People in Planes played a tight set with wonderfully refreshing songs, but it was not enough to sway the younger audience that came to see The Bravery. Crowd unresponsiveness was a problem for both opening bands, and one even commented on the stoic attitude of the audience during

its set.

In spite of the glazed stares from the crowd, People in Planes rocked. Every song had a unique identity that captivated the few listeners who came willing to discover new music. The band's style of alternative rock surpasses mainstream genres and would be better suited as an opener for Muse or even for a Smashing Pumpkins reunion tour.

Gaz, singer for People in Planes, introduced the band with a raspy voice, obvious that his vocal chords had taken a thrashing from the previous tour dates. But he was still able show off his range and vocal clarity throughout the show, capturing the emotion of the melodic lyrics.

Lead guitarist Peter added beautiful falsetto harmonies behind Gaz's soaring voice.

Along with Ian on keyboards, Kris on bass and drummer John, the band continued its set with heartfelt, hard-rocking songs that made loving the band easy. Still, the crowd stared back at the band, too cool to show



Claire Hughes / THE GAMECOCK

People in Planes performed at New Brookland Tavern Tuesday.

that the opening band might actually be good.

Standout songs included "For Miles Around," with a driving chorus that featured uplifting piano and guitar, and "Moth," a killer fusion of synthesizers, hard rock and a funky bass line.

Even their instruments gave the songs a vintage vibe which further set the band apart from more modern music.

The closing song began with a groovy guitar riff, building energy and crowd approval. The audience finally started to move during the closer, which left the crowd with a pleasant taste.

The band is set to return to the UK after the tour to do some dates with the Crimea. Hopefully when People in Planes returns to the U.S., the band finds a responsive crowd that will appreciate their amazing music. For tour information, downloads and pictures, visit peopleinplanes.com.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu

For some, dress-up never ends

Certain professionals sport outlandish costumes every day at work

Sarah Sabalos
KRT CAMPUS

Unless you're dressed up as That Guy Across the Street Who Goes Out to Get the Paper in His Underwear, Halloween costumes tend toward the hot, itchy, and uncomfortable. Imagine wearing one every day.

That's just what the following folks do. Their everyday jobs require pancake makeup, heavy capes, doublets and fake beards, so who better to ask for costume-comfort tips this Halloween?

CLOWN

Steve Lough has been a clown for about 20 years (many of them with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus). He and his wife, Elizabeth, own Carolina Circus Clowns in Camden, N.J.

Lough's usual outfit: Long socks, clown shoes, clown shirt, baggy wool pants, a big red nose, a bow tie and a taped-on toupee and sometimes a hat and a tuxedo coat.

"The first time you put the costume on, you're very hot, but after a while it's just like any other kind of physical stamina," he said. "You get used to it and you can go longer and longer without sweating so much."

His No. 1 costume tip: Change your underclothes and socks all the time.

"I used to go through five or six undershirts in one evening at the circus," he said. "If you change those, everything else stays relatively clean."

Lough said that the heavy pancake makeup holds moisture in and keeps skin young. (We — thought it made you break out. Who knew?)

"Rich clowns take off their makeup with olive oil, while budget-conscious clowns — the vast majority — use baby shampoo, which dries out the skin but is cheaper," he said.

DANCERS

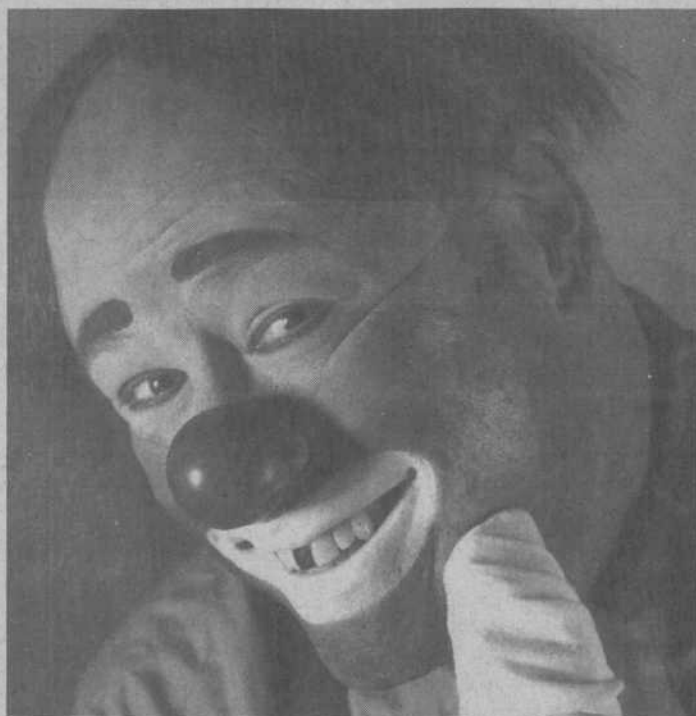
Robert Michalski, who plays the title character in

Columbia City Ballet's "Dracula: Ballet With a Bite," dances in a 20-foot red velvet cape.

"There's an art to working a cape," he said. "It's all in getting air caught up into it and being kinetic with your motion — always paying attention to where the cape is and how it's moving ... It's an extension of your body, basically."

Betsey C. Ruff, who plays one of Dracula's maidens, wears a costume with long chiffon sleeves easy to step on or tangle around other dancers. Moving them

COSTUMES • 9



KRT CAMPUS

Steve Lough works as a professional clown from Camden.

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