

Dawg-gone good music

Thursday Thursday



Some call it bluegrass. Some call it jazz or classical. But for David Grisman, the mania for labelling his music is slightly ridiculous. The world's foremost mandolinist, appearing in SUB next Thursday, simply refers to it as "Dawg music. It's just a name for something you can't really define."

But, defining Grisman is what critics have been trying to do ever since the 34 year old musician's name became a synonym for musical excellence and integrity. It's a difficult, if not impossible, task. What do you call someone who has composed four film scores, one of which was *King of the Gypsies*? What do you call someone who is equally adept at performing Chick Corea's "Spain," Django Reinhardt and Stephan Grapelli's "Minor Swing," Bill Monroe's "The Lonesome Moonlight Waltz" as well as his own compositions?

Perhaps it's wisest just to listen.

Grisman has been fretting strings for a long time. He was 16 when he first took up the mandolin. At that time he was listening to Frankie Lyman and the Teenagers and Elvis Presley. But later, while attending New York University and hanging out in Greenwich Village, his musical curiosity was piqued by folk and bluegrass. He began to acquire the reputation as "successor to the throne" of Bill Monroe, the great mandolin player and long acknowledged father of bluegrass.

However, Grisman has never been happy to explore only one musical form so in the mid-sixties he left the bluegrass scene and formed an experimental rock band known as Earth Opera. Other groups

followed, one of which was Old and In the Way, a band that featured Vassar Clements and Jerry Garcia. It was in this band that Grisman earned his nickname of Dawg. Grisman also played with the great flatpick guitarist, Clarence White, in a band called Muleskin.

After moving to California in 1967, Grisman began doing studio work for artists like Linda Ronstadt, Bonnie Raitt, James Taylor, Judy Collins, Maria Muldaur, Martin Mull and the Grateful Dead. In 1976 he formed his own band, the David Grisman Quintet. Since then the group has recorded three albums (one with Stephan Grapelli), performed in "little holes and churches" as well as prestigious places like the Great American Music Hall and the Bottom Line, and toured Japan, Switzerland, France and England.

The members of the Grisman Quintet are Mark O'Connor (flatpick guitar and fiddle), Darol Anger (fiddle), Mike Marshall (second mandolin and fiddle) and Rob Wasserman (acoustic bass). Grisman prefers that their music remain non-commercial and acoustic. They use no amplification in concert other than microphones; perhaps a mark of respect for their instruments, all of which were built between 1856 and 1934.

Grisman sums up his musical philosophy: "To be at the charts is not my goal. I'm content to let the music stand on its own and speak for itself." Jazz, bluegrass, rock, folk, classical...it's all Dawg music. Tickets for the Jan. 31 David Grisman show are available at Mike's, SU Box Office and at the door. David Grisman is being presented by the Edmonton Jazz Society.

Tremblay fails to fulfill

Theatre review by Lasha Seniuk

If you aren't a religious nun or a religious transvestite don't see *Damnee Manon, Sacree Sandra* at Theatre 3. Michel Tremblay has come up with the ultimate idea this time. His play is about a schizophrenic transvestite, Sandra, who is obsessed with green makeup, and his counterpart, Manon, a deeply religious woman.

Michel Tremblay has said that the play deals with the two great needs of humanity; faith and sex. The director, Raymond Clarke (*Otherwise Engaged*) insists that the play is about life and death. But in fact, it's difficult to determine what exactly Tremblay is exploring in this play. One possible explanation is that the play is a re-enactment of Tremblay's past.

Damnee Manon, Sacree Sandra is biographical and Sandra is Michel Tremblay, but . . . who really

cares? A play about a crazy person who affects the lives of other people is fine because there's room for plot development and character conflict. But a play in which a crazy person sits in a chair for an hour and a half and spews out obscene, mindless drivel is an embarrassment.

The entire play is performed in a technique invented by Eugene O'Neill in which one character sits frozen while the other acts his monologue. O'Neill used this technique to show the audience the thoughts of one character while the others remain ignorant, thus allowing both plot and character development.

However, in *Damnee Manon, Sacree Sandra*, Tremblay totally misuses O'Neill's technique. There is no real connection made between the characters until half way through the play. The two sexually crazed

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CINEMA

Edmonton Public Library, 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square, 423-2331

Jan. 26-27, 2 pm. The Edmonton Public Library presents *Yellow Submarine*, the fourth in an eight part series of "Beatle Features and Rock Musicals of the '70s." Most of the songs from the *Yellow Submarine* are from the *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* album. The movie shows in the Centennial Public Theatre and admission is free.

Edmonton Film Society, SUB Theatre

Jan. 28, 8 pm, *Celine and Julie Go Boating* (French, 1974, Eng. subtitles). A zany film about happenings in a haunted house. Admission by series ticket to the International Series is \$11.

Edmonton Film Society, Tory Lecture Theatre

Jan. 30, 8 pm. A series of films from the year 1950 opens with *All About Eve*, a cynical look at theater life. This Academy Award winner stars Marilyn Monroe and Bette Davis. Series tickets to this series are \$12 for 7 films.

MUSIC

Dinwoodie Lounge

Jan. 26, 8:30 pm. Wizard Lake, tickets \$3 at SUB Office or at the door.

Convocation Hall

Jan. 25, 8 pm. Junior student recital with pianist Heather Klassen.

Edmonton Public Library

Jan. 25-26, 8:30 pm. Wilfren N and The Grown Men, a five piece Edmonton rock band will play original material as well as songs by Elvis Costello, David Bowie, the Kinks and the Talking Heads. Tickets, \$5 for adults and \$4 for students, can be purchased at Woodward's Ticket Office or at the door. For further information call 426-0990.

Jubilee Auditorium

Jan. 25-26, 8:30 pm. Andre Laplante, pianist, and Peter Eros, guest conductor, will headline the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra's Master Series concert. Laplante was winner of the prestigious Sixth International Tchaikowsky Competition in 1978. Mr. Eros has conducted most of the major orchestras in North America. Laplante will perform Liszt's "Piano Concerto #2." The balance of the program will include Klein's "Passacaglia of the Zodiac" and Beethoven's "Symphony #7 in A major."

SUB Theatre

Jan. 31, 8 pm. The Edmonton Jazz Society presents the David Grisman Quintet. Tickets are \$8 at Mike's, SU Box Office and at the door.

READINGS

Humanities Centre AV L-3

Jan. 28, 12 noon, Eldon Grier, painter and poet, will read from his work.

Jan. 31, 12:30 pm, Glen Sorestad, poet and publisher, will give a reading. Admission to both of these readings is free.

THEATER

The Citadel Theatre, 9828-101 A Ave., 425-1820

Jan. 16 - Feb. 10, *Hey Marilyn*, a musical biography by Cliff Jones - Shocter Theatre.

Jan. 17 - Feb. 8, *Pinocchio* by Carlo Collodi, adapted by Brian Way. Performances are daily at 12:30 and 2 p.m. in Zeidler Hall.

Jan. 23 - Feb. 10, *Billy Bishop Goes to War* by John Gray. This musical about the WW I flying ace will take place in the Rice Theatre.

GALLERIES

SU Art Gallery

Jan. 25 - Feb. 10, *Photographs by Brian Wood and Mattie Gunterman*. Brian Wood is a young photographer currently living in New York. Mattie Gunterman is a turn-of-the-century photographer whose photographs are a visual record of pioneer life in the British Columbia interior. The exhibit opens Jan. 24, 8 pm.

DANCE

Grant MacEwan Community College, Jasper Place Campus, 10045 - 156 St., 484-7791

Jan. 25-26, 8 pm. Sonia Taverner, renowned Canadian ballerina and former dancer for Les Grands Ballets Canadiens and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, will present eight students in a program of classical and modern dance. Admission is by donation to the scholarship fund for dance students.

RADIO

CJSR

Jan. 24, 9:10, *Rendezvous*. Ray Davies talks about the Kinks' latest album *Low Budget*. Also featured is Tom Verlaine, formerly of the ill-fated but highly acclaimed band, Television.

Jan. 26-27, 2 pm. *Golden Bear Hockey* live from Varsity Arena, the Bears vs. the UBC Thunderbirds.