

Candye Kane gives Zoo Bar audience songs to remember

By Patrick Hambrecht
Music Critic

A mighty fine time was had by all at the Zoo Bar on Wednesday night, thanks to the bawdy antics of Candye Kane and the Swinging Armadillos. It was a real ruckus, with much whooping and hollering, dancing and shaking, singing and drinking enjoyed until 1 a.m.



Kane, an avowed feminist, stripper, porn star and burlesque dancer, sang a wide variety of boogie-woogie, country and blues. Her songs ranged from the political to the risqué, featuring such collar-looseness as "Put It All In There," "The Meat Song," and "Press My Buttons."

After the last song of her first set, "All You Can Eat," Kane finished the song by unbuttoning her tiger-print blouse and playing an impressive blues solo on the keyboards with her breasts.

Despite an obvious penchant for smutty silliness, Kane is a seriously engaging performer with a great voice and mature interpretation of the blues. Hugely charming and photogenic, it is easy to see how she was a shoo-in for the Gong Show, and later, Jugs magazine.

With the easy spiritual duality of southern music, Kane showed no strain in switching from steamy sexy tunes to cheerful testimony about religion, feminism or self-esteem. Her songs "The Lord Was a Woman — Who Dressed Up Like a Man" and "She Wore A Red Carnation," advo-

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cating abortion rights, were performed easily, without the tense delivery sometimes given to songs with controversial messages.

The Swinging Armadillos were thrilling, visually and musically. The California band featured a beehived keyboardist wearing a tiger-print dress, disco-ball earrings and starlet glasses; an enormous muscle-bound guitarist with a 6-string the size of Texas; a stoic black-garbed bassist hidden under a large-brimmed puritan hat; and a lamb-chopped drummer — all living testimony to the Hollywood excitement of American fashion.

They sounded super. Kane is well-informed of burlesque history and its ties to feminism. She named Victoria Woodhull as a personal hero, saying, "She was very revolutionary, into the free-love movement. She ran for president before women could vote. Susan B. Anthony and her group hated her."

"Stripping is such a hate relationship, these days. The strippers hate the men for showing up; the men hate the strippers for doing it. Stripping ought to be more about love."

Candye Kane and the Swinging Armadillos will be performing Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m., at the Zoo Bar. Admission is \$5.

Demolition derby, bees featured

By Gerry Beltz
Senior Reporter

There's going to be a lot of crashing and burning going on at the 1995 Nebraska State Fair.

At least that's the buzz. Added to concerts, the arts and crafts and the hustle and bustle of a crowded midway, this year's fair will feature a demolition derby and a live bee exhibit.

The demolition derby is scheduled for Saturday at 7 p.m., with fast cars and faster drivers. Expect high-speed entertainment from the fair's fourth demolition derby in as many years.

Leon Meyer, superintendent of this year's demolition derby, said the drivers for this derby were found at competitions at county fairs.

"We bring them in here and have a derby of the top drivers in the state," Meyer said.

This year's demolition derby will last about four hours and take about 12 hours to clean up afterward. It will feature at least 35 cars, Meyer said.

"Everybody brings their own cars," Meyer said. "Some bring new ones, and others bring cars used at other fairs."

Injuries have been almost non-existent for the past three Nebraska State Fair demolition derbies, and Meyer said he expects this year to be no different.

"These guys are experts," Meyer said. "They've been driving for a long time and know how to hit a car

"These guys are experts. They've been driving for a long time and know how to hit a car without damaging the guy inside."

LEON MEYER

Derby superintendent

without damaging the guy inside. "We stress safety real hard around here."

This year's fair will also feature a live bees exhibit. The demonstration will include bee-keepers, as well as several thousand bees, demonstrating how bee beards are made, and how new hives are begun. Honey ice cream cones will also be on sale for 25 cents at the Heritage Square booth.

Marion Ellis, an apiculturist (beekeeper) who teaches an introduction to beekeeping class at UNL, is an extension beekeeper at this year's bee exhibit. Ellis said the variety of demonstrations would range from watching a hive grow to a football made out of beewax.

"We're trying to make this an educational sort of thing," Ellis said. "We want to show them how we work with bees, and show things about their behavior."

"Basically, we place a small colony into a plexiglass booth," Ellis said, "and one of our people goes in using a microphone, and shows how we work with the bees."

Other activities at the bee exhibit will include observation hives (glass-sided hives for observations to watch the interior of a forming hive), a demonstration on what happens when honeybees swarm, and open classes with different kinds of honeys, Ellis said. Ellis was quick to note that the building of the bee beards is for education as well as entertainment.

"We don't do it to be part of side show," Ellis said, "but to show their value as pollinators and teach about them."

A few precautions have been taken to help avoid injuries while managing the bees, Ellis said.

"You might say we stack the deck. We move the colony in the middle of the day to get rid of the older bees so the only ones remaining are the younger bees, which take care of the nest."

Staff Reporter Cliff Hicks contributed to this article.

Revamped Cinderella a hit with cozy crowd

By John Fulwider
Theater Critic

Roseanne is just too wicked to cast as the wicked stepmother in "Cinderella." Isn't she?

The Futz Inc. doesn't think so. When Roseanne didn't show up for auditions, Futz found someone just as wicked for "Cinderella Waltz," its delightfully irreverent interpretation of the classic fairy tale.

Vicki Clark, as the wicked stepmother (also known as Mrs. Snow), is positively evil. While she dotes over her daughters, Goneril and Regan, she tells her stepdaughter, Rosie (Jillian M. Jakub) to wash the goat, her father and the cat — twice.

"You can only wash a cat so many times," Rosie groans. "The fur's starting to rub off."

Lines like that kept the audience of about 20 rolling in the aisles for the

two-hour performance. And that seems a large audience for a Futz production — the theater is roughly 12 by 20 feet. It was cozy.

Outstanding performances by some of the players deserve special recognition. Machele Miller plays Rosie's stepsister, Regan. With her deadpan expressions, Regan is one of the play's most likeable characters.

Lauri Buchanan as Mother Magee (read: the fairy godmother) gives the play's best performance. Besides her flawless acting, she displays some impressive physical ability when she convincingly disappears several times into a stage-prop well that was not even four feet deep.

One serious flaw mars the otherwise triumphant performance: It is far too loud for the small theater. Yelling and screaming and gunfire

The Facts

Play: "Cinderella Waltz"

Company: The Futz Inc.

Director: Les Edwards

Grade: B+

Five words: Fun new twist on "Cinderella"

abound. Perhaps the Futz players should project a bit less.

The final two performances of "Cinderella Waltz" are tonight and Saturday night at 8 at the Mission Arts Building, 124 S. Ninth St. Tickets are \$10, and can be reserved by calling 435-6307.

New videos: Blood, bees and honeys

By Gerry Beltz
Film Critic

A very easy week this week for new video releases — just two of note, but they are at both ends of the spectrum: awful and awesome.

"Candyman II: Farewell To The Flesh" (R) — The original "Candyman" sucked rocks, and they made a sequel to it?!? Yet another point that shows that Hollywood cares about money, not quality.

In this inept sequel, our hook-handed friend Candyman is discovered to have a connection to a schoolteacher's family tree. The violence and bees follow from there.

Blech. Next!

"Tom and Viv" (R) — Based on a play by Michael Hastings, "Tom and Viv" looks at the stormy relationship between classic poet T.S. Eliot (Willem Dafoe) and his first wife Vivien Haighwood (Miranda Richardson).

Performances from both Dafoe and Richardson are top-notch, and the film itself is a treat as well. "Tom and Viv" will be playing at the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater in mid-September.

PICK-OF-THE-WEEK — One

of two movies that started the ball rolling toward the introduction of the "PG-13" rating, "Gremlins" is a blast for everyone.

As a gift, Billy (Zach Galligan) receives a pet "Mogwai" named Gizmo that looks like a crossbreed between an Ewok and a Vulcan.

One of the rules for keeping a Mogwai is accidentally broken, and eventually the entire town is taken over by evil, psychotic Vulcan Ewoks.

The violence toward the end of the film is a bit intense for the wee children, but the film is a load of fun. Check it out.

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