

TGIF

Keep warm: Don't let chill freeze plans

Blink. The weather's different. Welcome to late fall/early winter. The days of sand volleyball and sunbathing are out — sweaters and shivering are in. So, instead of getting icicles on your extremities, enjoy the following alternatives.

As for movies, Spike Lee's "Get On the Bus" opened Tuesday, which marked the first anniversary of the Million Man March. The film is the story of a bus ride to the march and the stories of the people on it.

The movie doesn't have any big-name actors, but it is, as Lee says, "A Spike Lee Joint," and people may very well go for his name. Good directors are bringing in audiences as much as actors these days.

Also opening this weekend is "Sleepers," the tale of four boys who grew up in Hell's Kitchen, a part of New York City, during the 1960s. Fifteen years later, the four reunite and discover they're plagued by the same shady mob figure who haunted them when they were children.

"Sleepers" stars Kevin Bacon, Robert De Niro, Dustin Hoffman, Bruno Kirby, Jason Patric and Brad Pitt. Talk about a star vehicle. The plot looks complex, though, so don't go expecting a fast-paced shoot-'em-up.

The Mary Riepma Ross Theatre will show "The Kingdom" this weekend. The film is nearly five hours long, so be sure to use the restroom BEFORE the film, not after (you won't make it). Shows will begin at 1 and 6:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$5.50, \$3.50 for students.

Musically, Lincoln's got as much to offer as it ever does, with stages packed full of sounds from blues to rock. You've got several choices as to the who and where, however.

The Zoo Bar features crazed act The Self-Righteous Brothers with their crazed glam-rock R&B tonight. The band, featuring Ben Kushner, formerly of the Millions, claim to be from Scotland. Cover is \$4.

Saturday, two acts from Chicago, John Primer and The Buzz, storm the stage with alternative-blues. Cover is \$5. Both shows start at 9.

Knickerbockers keeps the local scene alive with Des Moines band Smilin' Jack and Lincoln band Cadmium on Friday. On Saturday, Omaha band Turbulent and Lincoln band Ezra take the stage. Both shows start at 10 p.m., cover is \$3 and, like the Zoo Bar, you must be 21 or over to attend the show.

The Mueller Planetarium's Laser Light Show will feature the music of Nirvana, with shows tonight and Saturday at 8, 9:30 and 11 p.m. Be sure to wear the ear plugs they offer you.

On Sunday the 3:30 p.m. show music will be that of ex-10,000 Maniacs singer Natalie Merchant.

TGIF is compiled by Daily Nebraskan staff reporter Cliff Hicks.

ROYAL CROWN REVUE

Swing band to set stage for veteran legends Kiss

By ANN STACK
Senior Reporter

OK, cool cats, here's the low-down scoop drop on the flip side of the who's got the mean feat of opening for Kiss Wednesday night.

The band's called Royal Crown Revue, and they hail from the heart of Tinsel Town.

The septet is best known for appearing as themselves in the Jim Carrey flick "The Mask." (Remember the scene where Carrey danced with Cameron Diaz while defying gravity? That was Royal Crown Revue performing their original tune, "Hey Pachuco!")

Royal Crown Review is comprised of seven 20-somethings who, when taken individually, have been in nearly every type of musical outfit known to man — ska, punk, soul, rockabilly, big band and swing — and these influences show up in their 1996 debut album, "Mugzy's Move."

The band's sound is pure swing — complete with zip guns and zoot suits, bebop and blues. It's a slick and polished sound, but with a young and energetic vibe.

"The hardest thing is to describe what it's about," trumpeter Scott Steen said. "It's swing, jazz, rhythm and

blues jumpin' punk energy. We can't be pigeon-holed."

That's apparently been the case. "The Mask" didn't get them a record deal, but they later hooked up with a producer from Warner Bros. Records, who decided to take a chance with the band.

"We're a risk, but we found a guy who loves rhythm and blues and swing," Steen said. "He was smitten."

But getting the music to the people has proven to be more of a challenge. "Radio people say it's great, but

they don't know what to do with it," he said. "But little by little they're picking it up."

Among those who are noticing the Revue are the Kiss managers, who caught a Royal Crown show in Denver. They liked what they saw, and gave the band front row center tickets to see Kiss the next night.

"I was joking, saying we should just crash the stage and open for Kiss," Steen said. "Then we were in Atlanta, and she called us and said, 'You're penciled in for Omaha.'"

PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROTHERS



The all-female band Fluffy was scheduled to open both nights, but because of a conflict the band is only performing the second show on Thursday.

"The day we found out, we were like, 'YES!'" Steen said. "Here we are, a swing band, opening for Kiss. How does that fit in?"

All across the country, Kiss has tried to bring relatively unknown bands

Please see REVUE on 13

Legends to perform at Lied

By EMILY WRAY
Staff Reporter

Musical legends from two different eras will be on their best behavior at the Lied Center for Performing Arts tonight.

"Ain't Misbehavin'" opens its second year on tour with an 8 p.m. performance. Saturday's performances are at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The Broadway musical features Martha Reeves and the Vandellas, singing songs of the 1930s, said Lonnie Cooper, road manager for "Ain't Misbehavin'."

"It's the same producing company that did the Pointer Sisters last year," he said. "Since they had other commitments, we've been thinking all along they'd (Martha Reeves and the Vandellas) be great for us in the show, so we asked them to come on board."

The musical celebrates 30 of Fats Waller's songs that he either wrote, composed or performed.

Waller wrote and made famous all kinds of American standards that people recognize, Cooper said.

"He was a phenomenal piano player and composer," Cooper said. "He influenced anybody in popular music."

Waller's jazz show in Cincinnati drew audiences from the musical elite of the time, including composers George Gershwin and Irving Berlin.

"(Gershwin and Berlin) learned about black music through him," Cooper said.

"
" (Martha Reeves's) got a tremendous voice and incredible presence. She's fantastic for the role."

LONNIE COOPER
"Ain't Misbehavin'" road manager

Cooper thinks Reeves complements the performance, with both her star quality and style.

"Her star magnitude brings life to it," Cooper said. "Her style isn't much different than Fat's ideas."

"She's got a tremendous voice and incredible presence. She's fantastic for the role," he said.

Cooper said audience members will have fun and won't be able to sit still.

"Fun, aside from the celebration, is what Fats Waller was really about."

James McShane, associate professor of English and director of the University Foundations program, will speak 55 and 35 minutes before each performance. The talks will be in the Lied Center's Steinhart Room.

Tickets are \$36, \$32 and \$28. They are half price for UNL students with IDs and can be ordered by calling 472-4747.

Cabaret showcases talent

By LIZA HOLTMEIER
Staff Reporter

Students will have a chance to showcase their hidden talents tonight during an event called Cabaret sponsored by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln theater group, the Masquers.

Cabaret was started a couple of years ago by the Masquers to provide "a care-free environment where people can go to try new things," Masquers President Amy Rohr said.

"It's a safe environment that provides a release for everybody," Masquers officer Jude Hickey said. "There are no standards to live up to, and there is no fear of rejection."

Hickey will also be the master of ceremonies for the event. The performers for Cabaret are mostly made up of UNL theatre students who will be performing everything from singing to monologues to poetry readings. It is a chance for them to escape the routine stress of auditions and rehearsals to have fun performing.

In the past, the event has lasted anywhere from half an hour to 1 1/2 hours. There are 10 people scheduled to perform for this year's Cabaret, but Hickey and Rohr said that there is also an open microphone period after the scheduled performances in which anyone can perform.

When asked what he enjoyed most about Cabaret, Hickey said, "It's nice to watch people sing, be-

"
It's nice to watch people sing, because we don't get much of that in the theatre department."

JUDE HICKEY
Masquers officer

cause we don't get much of that in the theatre department."

Rohr said she enjoyed the variety of performances that she has witnessed in the past, including storytelling, movement pieces, comic skits and guitar playing.

Hickey will be reading poetry for the event. He said he was encouraged by an English professor to attend and participate in poetry readings, and he thought Cabaret would be a good place to try his poetry out.

Those who can't attend or who missed the sign up to perform should watch for announcements for the next Cabaret in November. The Masquers usually post signs near the Temple Building.

Cabaret starts at 10:30 tonight in Room 301 of the Temple Building. Admission is free.