# Punkinhead evolves from undiluted funk

BY ANN STACK Senior Reporter

For those expecting Parliament-style funk, Punkinhead's got a brand new bag.

The quartet is bringing its schtick to the Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St., tonight.

The band from Fayetteville, Ark., hasn't released an album since 1994's "America Dreaming," which followed the band's first fulllength CD, "New South Soul."

At its inception, Punkinhead infused elements of jazz, soul, funk and punk to create a get-funky-anddance vibe.

"We started out as a funkadelic band," singer and keyboardist Eric Mills said. "But we've gone through lots of different incarnations. We're not a funk band anymore."

They're now a straight-rock four-piece, he said. The band is rounded out by the other original member, drummer Charles Platt, guitarist Mark O'Bana and bassist Jason Cerchie.

Platt and Mills met while in college at the University of Arkansas. The two literally started from

"When we started, we were a feel-good band. We all come from '80s punk bands, so that's in there," he said. "There were a lot of white funk bands around at the time. We were self-taught; it was all very basic and simple. We've progressed a lot since then.'

Mills calls a melting pot of sounds starts at 9.

"We call it American rhythm music," he said. "That's the gen-eralized phrase we've come up with to describe the latest incarnation."

The band has several influences besides early punk, though, including Sublime and 311, as well as classic rock groups like Steely Dan and the Beatles. Mills has his own influences separate from Punkinhead's, including Stevie Wonder, Sammy Davis Jr. and David Bowie. He also studies classical music.

"Classical piano has influenced me in song writing," he said. "I've learned a lot from picking out progressions and chord changes.

Punkinhead has played with the likes of the Reverend Horton Heat, 311, Social Distortion, Stick and Marilyn Manson. They've also had the distinctive pleasure of opening for the Hardest Working Man in Show Business and Godfather of Soul, James Brown.

Punkinhead plans on releasing a new album by early summer. In the meantime, some new material will be featured on a national compilation disc, called "Deep South Compilation." That disc will be released mid-March. Although the new material is more rock-oriented than previous Punkinhead, Mills said the band hasn't lost its heart.

We've got a lot of soul in us, a lot of feeling," he said. "We love what we do and we're always trying to achieve more."

Tonight's 21-and-over concert What they now eschew is what has a \$4 cover charge. The music

# Indie films snag several Oscar spots

NOMINEES from page 12

Competing for supporting actress are Lauren Bacall for "The Mirror Has Two Faces," Joan Allen for "The Crucible," Juliette Binoche for "The English Patient," Barbara Hershey for "The Portrait of a Lady" and Marianne Jean-Baptiste for "Secrets & Lies,"

Original screenplay nominations went to Ethan and Joel Coen for "Fargo," Cameron Crowe for "Jerry Maguire," John Sayles for "Lone Star," Mike Leigh for "Secrets & Lies" and Jan Sardi and Hicks for "Shine."

Adapted screenplay nominations for scripts based on other material went to Thornton for "Sling Blade," Arthur Miller for "The Crucible," Anthony Minghella for "The English Patient," Kenneth Branagh for "Hamlet" and John Hodge for "Trainspotting."

# **Academy Awards**

#### **Best Picture**

"The English Patient" "Fargo" "Jerry Maguire" "Secrets & Lies"

#### **Best Actress**

Brenda Blethyn, "Secrets and Lies" Diane Keaton, "Marvin's Room" Frances McDormand, "Fargo" Kristin Scott Thomas, "The English Patient" Emily Watson, "Breaking the Waves"

### **Best Actor**

Tom Cruise, "Jerry Maguire" Ralph Fiennes, "The English Patient" Woody Harrelson, "The People vs. Larry Flynt" Geoffrey Rush, "Shine" Billy Bob Thomton, "Sling Blade"

#### **Best Supporting Actor**

Cuba Gooding Jr., "Jerry Maguire" am H. Macy, "Fargo" in Mueller-Stahl, "Shine" vard Norton, "Primal Fear" mes Woods, "Ghosts of Mississippi"

#### Best Supporting Actress

Joan Allen, "The Crucible" Lauren Bacall, "The Mirror Has Two Faces" Juliette Binoche, "The English Patient" Barbara Hershey, "The Portrait of a Lady" Marianne Jean-Baptiste, "Secrets & Lies"

### **Best Director**

Anthony Minghella, "The English Patient" Joel Coen, "Fargo" Milos Forman, The People vs. Larry Flynt\* Mike Leigh, "Secrets & Lies" Scott Hicks, "Shine"

AARON STECKELBERG/DN

## Kodo drummers unbeatable crowd pleasers at Lied

By Lane Hickenbottom Music Critic

to two encores is a dream come true for most musical groups.

But for Kodo, the Japanese percussion company, the audience's response to Tuesday night's Lied Center performance is just another day at the

eral drums beat by between two and stamina, playing the drum for several 15 drummers.

when the audience members thought below his head. Three standing ovations leading they had seen the best of Kodo, they were proven wrong when the company brought out a huge float, highlighted by an 800-pound drum called an "odaiko."

Two drummers play the odaiko -Lied-goers went into their first rhythm while the other freely improother Kodo works, is played with sev- maculate display of strength and evening.

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minutes. All the while his hands, Toward the end of the evening, grasping mallets, never spent any time

When the song was over, he immediately leapt to another drum where he continued to play in a fast and hardhitting pace to keep in unison with the other drummers. Every ripple in his body was displayed in places where one on one side keeping a steady ripples don't belong, and his face showed his pain and agony, but he cheering frenzy right after the first vises. Wearing only a breechcloth, the continued to beat into the hearts of song, "Nanufushi," "Nanufushi," like improvising drummer showed an im- Lied-goers until the end of the

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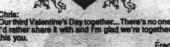


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