

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 full-length CD, "New South Soul."

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

"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."

What they now eschew is what Mills calls a melting pot of sounds

and influences.

"We call it American rhythm music," he said. "That's the generalized 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 has a \$4 cover charge. The music starts at 9.

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."

Kodo drummers unbeatable crowd pleasers at Lied

By LANE HICKENBOTTOM
Music Critic

Three standing ovations leading 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 office.

Lied-goers went into their first cheering frenzy right after the first song, "Nanufushi." "Nanufushi," like other Kodo works, is played with sev-

Academy Awards Nominations

Best Picture

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

Best Supporting Actor

- Cuba Gooding Jr., "Jerry Maguire"
- William H. Macy, "Fargo"
- Amin Mueller-Stahl, "Shine"
- Edward Norton, "Primal Fear"
- James Woods, "Ghosts of Mississippi"

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 Supporting Actress

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

Best Actor

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

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

eral drums beat by between two and 15 drummers.

Toward the end of the evening, when the audience members thought 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 — one on one side keeping a steady rhythm while the other freely improvises. Wearing only a breechcloth, the improvising drummer showed an immaculate display of strength and

stamina, playing the drum for several minutes. All the while his hands, grasping mallets, never spent any time below his head.

When the song was over, he immediately leapt to another drum where he continued to play in a fast and hard-hitting pace to keep in unison with the other drummers. Every ripple in his body was displayed in places where ripples don't belong, and his face showed his pain and agony, but he continued to beat into the hearts of Lied-goers until the end of the evening.

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Models wanted
Females 5'9 to 6ft in height. Must not exceed 120lbs. Males 5'11 to 6'3 in height. Must not exceed 180lbs. Call during business hours 477-3020

Annual Student Organization Awards
President, treasurer, advisor, and rookie advisor of the year, outstanding member and officers. Pick up nomination forms from student involvement or resident hall desks. Due back Feb. 21.

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Chris: Our third Valentine's Day together... There's no one I'd rather share it with and I'm glad we're together this year. Fred

Jane R.: You know the deal, it must be this way, so I guess there's nothing else that I can say, except, Happy Valentine's Day! George

For \$4, your 15-word Valentine will appear with small hearts or cupids in the Daily Nebraskan. Extra words are 15¢, larger art is \$3 or \$11. Add 75¢ for billing. Drop off, call, FAX, mail, e-mail or send via the web. Deadline: 2 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 13. Print Valentine Message:

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