

# Veruca Salt scheduled to rock Omaha show

■ Days of the New, an alternative band, and Fig Dish, a rock-centered group, will open for the 'Seether' band tonight.

BY PATRICK MINER  
Music Critic

Still don't know who or what this "Seether" is?

Find out when guitars run wild as Veruca Salt plays tonight with relatively new rockers Days of the New and Fig Dish. This Omaha show has been moved from Sokol Hall to the Ranch Bowl. Tickets are \$15, and the show starts at 7. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Veruca Salt is playing in support of its latest release, "Eight Arms To Hold You." The album is much more rock-centered than the band's slower debut release, "American Thighs." The band also acquired new drummer Stacy Jones for the latest release.

The first single from "Eight Arms," "Volcano Girls," features The Beatles' reference in the Seethered-up interlude. Lead singer Nina Gordon's driving vocals are sure to please, and will fill the Ranch Bowl with the help of back-up vocalist Louise Post.

Veruca Salt is known for hard-rocking shows, and the group shouldn't disappoint. Tracks from "Eight Arms," including "Volcano Girls," "Shutterbug," "Earthcrosser," and the latest single, "Straight," should be included on tonight's setlist. "Seether," "All Hail Me," "Number One Blind," as well as a couple of slower songs such as "Spiderman '79" and "Forsythia," are also proba-

## Lloyd applauds independent film

LLOYD from page 12

roles and the kind of material that a big studio would never let us."

Lloyd will be working on an independent film in December with three other principle actors. He said that although the salaries were nothing like the big studio prices, the opportunity to try new roles were worth a cut in pay.

Veneziano added that the role of the independent film in the movie

### Concert Preview

ble. Days of the New, riding high with the current success of the single "Touch, Peel and Stand," will play before Veruca Salt. The band, fronted by 17-year-old Travis Meeks, displays a sound that is best described as everything you'll hear on KDGE-FM (101.9), The Edge.

The band's debut self-titled disc is produced by Scott Litt, who is well-known for his work with Nirvana and R.E.M. However, with Meeks' tiresome vocals and the band's bland sound, the songs should convert poorly into the live setting.

The album contains the usual pessimistic ideals surrounding alternative music, such as the ideas of solitude in "Shelf in the Room," and life's endless struggles, as dictated in "Where I Stand." Having Silverchair's and fellow 17-year-old Daniel Johns' whining, "I'm a freak," is enough to get rid of the phrase altogether without Meeks' wailing to the same tune.

Fig Dish, on a monthlong tour with Veruca Salt, is a more-than-adequate opening band. The quartet's sound is comparable to Fountains of Wayne, and its latest release, "When Shove Goes Back To Push," has a good blend of hard and soft rock that will surprise several in attendance who will hear the group for the first time.

Fig Dish's first single, "Come On (Don't Come On)," will probably be a highlight of the show, as it features a solid guitar hook and sing-along chorus. Other songs, like "When Shirts Get Tight," "Bend" and "Pretty Never Hurts" should be played.

industry would continue to increase because of better profit margins.

"Take the 'Full Monty,'" Veneziano said. "It cost about four million (dollars) to make, and it's already made 60 million," she said. "It's not the 'Waterworlds' and the 'Titanics' that are making money."

Despite his list of credits, Lloyd said he still felt lucky each time he was approached on a project.

"I'm still astonished that anybody comes to me for anything."



### Music

**Paul Simon**  
"Songs From The Capeman"  
Warner Bros. Records  
Grade: A

It's easy to say that Paul Simon is a musical genius. And when someone with as much talent as Simon works on an album for seven years, the question that arises is: Are we worthy?

"Songs From The Capeman" is a collection of 13 of the best tracks from

Simon's musical "The Capeman," and it tells the sensational and true story of New York City's Salvador Agron.

On Aug. 30, 1959, an upper West Side gang called the Vampires were to fight another local gang, the Norsemen. The Vampires were pumped up for the fight, but when the Norsemen didn't show, the Vampires instead found some innocent kids in the park. Salvador Agron, then 16, stabbed to death two of these individuals and fled.

A manhunt ensued, with the murderer described as wearing a black cape with red lining — hence the name "Capeman." Agron was identified but showed little remorse. He was sentenced to die in the electric chair. Nelson Rockefeller, New York's governor, later reduced his sentence. Agron served 20 years for his crime. He died April 22, 1986, at the age of 43 of natural causes.

Simon had the idea of doing the musical in late 1988 while he was working on "Rhythm of the Saints."

The Broadway musical, "The Capeman," opens in New York Jan. 8, 1998, and contains some 40 songs Simon wrote for the project.

Simon wrote the musical from Agron's point of view at the end of

Agron's life. The songs were written with the combination of Latin rhythm and '50s style in mind. The music succeeds in both facets in a blend of doo-wop, salsa, Caribbean, rock and gospel.

Most of the lyrics, written with the help of Nobel Prize-winning poet Derek Walcott, are sung by Simon; although songs including "Sunday Afternoon" and "Time is An Ocean" have actors from the play singing their parts on the record. Both collaborating on the songs and writing for several different characters are firsts for Simon.

The album's first single, "Bernadette," is about Agron singing to his girlfriend before going to the park. The track features various tempo changes, and it is Simon's favorite song since "Graceland." "The Vampires" features some vivid, in-your-face lyrics, as it empathizes with Agron's state of mind that dreadful night.

A separate, original cast recording of "The Capeman" will be available next year, and should be as gripping as "Songs from the Capeman."

Simon has already won three Grammys for best album. Consider him in the running for No. 4.

—Patrick Miner

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