

## The Weekend in Preview

The following is a brief guide to weekend events. Please call venues for more information.

### CONCERTS:

**Duffy's Tavern, 1412 O St.**  
Sunday: Picknee

**Duggan's Pub, 440 S. 11th St.**  
Friday and Saturday: Rockin' Fossils

**Theatre at the "J," 333 S. 132nd St., Omaha**  
Sunday afternoon: Svetlana Portnyanskaya

**Kimball Recital Hall, 12th and R streets**  
Sunday: guest pianist Robert Palmer

**Knickerbocker's, 901 O St.**  
Friday: Number One Cup, Almost None  
Saturday: Manifest, Blacklight Sunshine, Lowercase i

**Mo Java Cafe, Suite D, 2649 N. 48th St.**  
Friday: Downtown Dave & Papa Bob

**Nebraska Union Crib**  
Friday afternoon: Pieces of 8

**7th Street Loft, 504 S. Seventh St.**  
Friday: Ken "Grubstake" Hoage, Guy Davis

**Westbrook Music Building**  
Sunday afternoon: Laura Simms

**Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.**  
Friday: Kelley Hunt Band  
Saturday: Sky Bop Fly

### THEATER:

**Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater, 12th and R streets**  
All weekend: "A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries"

**Mueller Planetarium**  
Saturday and Sunday: "Lifestyles of the Stars"

### GALLERIES:

**Nebraska State Historical Society, 1500 R St.**  
All weekend: "Drawing on the Beat: John Falter's Jazz Portraits"

**Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, 12th and R streets**  
All weekend: "Icons of Public Memory: Photographs from the Collection of the College of Journalism"  
"Selected Acquisitions in Photography and Prints"

# Free expression

## Monthly cabaret series will let artists shine on stage

By LIZA HOLTMEIER  
Senior staff writer

Get seen. It's the first law in show biz. Whether through an open-mic night or a local cabaret performance, an artist must get his name and work in front of an audience. And even humble beginnings can give rise to great fame. The Wagon Train Project wants to give local artists more exposure through a new monthly cabaret series, offering its facilities free of charge to qualified performers.

Beginning in February, The Wagon Train Project will present local artists two evenings a month. Each monthly event will feature six local artists, performing in a variety of mediums. A board, selected by The Wagon Train Project, will choose the artists from submitted audio and video tapes and applications.

Amy Lamphere, The Wagon Train Project's director, said anyone can submit anything. The only stipulation is that artists limit their material to 12 minutes.

"There could be a dancer, a singer, a storyteller and a who-knows-what," said Serena Gossard, The Wagon Train Project's publicity manager.

Lamphere said the series provides local artists a low-risk avenue in which to present their work. Those artists who participate receive a share of the box-office sales.

Nancy Marshall, a Lincoln jazz musician and actor who has performed at The Wagon Train Project, believes Lincoln lacks an adequate number of affordable places for artists to perform.

Even when artists find a place, they often lose money on the gig, she said.

"I had a lot of places where I didn't get paid much, but I had to pay something to perform there," Marshall said.

By emphasizing diversity in performances, the series is designed to help artists broaden their audience base. Lamphere believes six different artists equal six different audiences.

"Whatever audience someone else brings is your audience too," Marshall said.

The benefits of this are twofold, Lamphere said. Artists increase their exposure, and audiences experience a new kind of art.

"You're not stuck with one artistic vision for the whole night," Lamphere said. "If you like something, great, if you don't, well, maybe you'll like the next thing."

In order to insure audience turnout, Lamphere plans to ask the artists to participate in the event's marketing.

"If people want an audience, they have to go out and get an audience," Marshall added. "It's a major pain, but it's just the way it is in the arts world today. We might as well as figure that out and figure how to market ourselves."

To help, The Wagon Train Project plans to give each artist 100 postcards to distribute as he or she pleases.

Lamphere hopes the series fosters a sense of community among the artists, helping them to form new collaborations.

Other cities that have tried similar programs have witnessed a new form of arts activism, Lamphere said.

When artists develop working relationships with each other, they feel more responsible for the fate of the arts community, she said.

Lamphere heard about similar programs through the National Performance Network, an organization that supports the performing arts.

In cities such as Minneapolis, Seattle and Houston, she heard about cabaret performances featuring "a little bit of everything."

While performance art is usually the most popular medium, Lamphere said, many of the cabarets also provide a forum for ethnic musicians as well as gay and lesbian issues.

The Wagon Train Project series begins with performances on Feb. 5th and 6th and continues on March 12th and 13th. If the first two events are successful, The Wagon Train Project could continue the series in April and May.

"We're asking people to do something different and different is sometimes hard in this community," Lamphere said.

"Instead of going to a movie they've read the review for or a play they're familiar with, we're asking them to come see new and possibly unfamiliar work."



PERFORMED AT THE Nebraska Capitol Rotunda, the cabaret act "Wickedness" is typical of events that will be scheduled for the new series at The Wagon Train Project that begins next month.

## Blues concert raises money for women in need

By DANELL MCCOY  
Staff writer

Although it has been on hold for the past five years, the Winter Blues Bash is back and better than ever.

The fund-raiser, which was first held 15 years ago, is planned by the Friends of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission. Friends is a nonprofit organization that helps women pay for things that they can't afford by themselves, such as medical care.

"We cannot stress the importance of this event enough," Friends

President Nancy Bidrowski said. "Women face so many obstacles daily, and there can never be enough safeguards or safety nets to help them."

The event will be held at the Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14 St., courtesy of owner Larry Boehm. The event has been held there in past years and enjoyed considerable success, organizers said.

"The Zoo Bar is great," organizer Gail Linderholm said. "They are always willing to give to the community."

Music will be provided by Alias Jane and Pheromone Pholk. Both are

all-women bands from Lincoln.

The money for this fund-raiser will go toward the Women's Emergency Assistance fund. This fund helps provide financial assistance to women in emergency situations, such as leaving an abusive home.

"The amount of money we can give out is limited," Bidrowski said. "But it can help these women out."

To qualify for assistance, a direct referral is usually made by a social service agency. The women can use the money for food, bus fare, medical care or any other immediate need.

"This fund-raiser is really impor-

tant this year, because we are out of money in our assistance fund," Linderholm said.

The event will have hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

There will also be a silent auction that will include some "wild and crazy feminist items," Linderholm said.

Donations will also be accepted. "Every little bit can help," Bidrowski said. "There is no such thing as a small donation."

Although the event is directed toward women, both Linderholm and Bidrowski encourage everyone to attend.

### Concert Preview

#### The Facts

**What:** Winter Blues Bash

**Where:** Zoo Bar, 136 N 14th St.

**When:** Sunday, Jan. 17 at 6:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$5.00

**The Skinny:** Fundraiser for abused and battered women.

"It's really nice to participate in," Bidrowski said. "It can mean so much to someone."