

Concert Review: STOMP

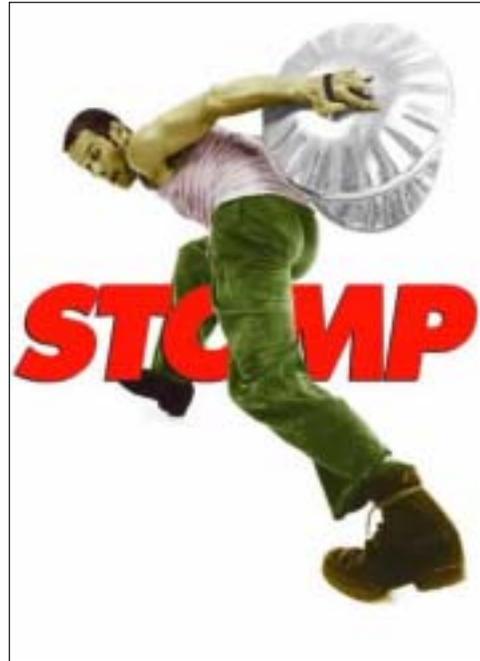
by Zack Harding
Arts & Life Editor

Everyone from bonnets to blue-hairs came out this past Tuesday the 29th to see the dance/performance production STOMP which came to the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium in Asheville, N.C.

The world-renowned act is known for its great theatrics including intense percussion, visual entertainment, and strong comedy influences. The first thing that can be said about STOMP is that their stage set is fantastic, looking like some kind of inner-city junkyard/garage.

The act starts slowly with a sole performer coming out onto the stage with a single broom, slowly sweeping the stage as other performers join in resulting in a cadence of swishes, taps, and slams of

various brooms. Early on each performer establishes an



unspoken character, we have the cool-guy front man, the

comic-relief lovable loser, the goof off, and others.

The whole show revolves around the theme of taking everyday items and using them to creating very-complicating rhythmic and visual performances. Highlights include the aforementioned broom routine, the garbage-can finally, and the portion of the show where performers swing from the top of the stage set in perfect syncopation

while simultaneously beating rhythms on various pieces of

junk.

Parts of the show are almost frightening in their intensity, such as the pole-battling skit toward the middle of the show. Also, there seems to be a little bit of social commentary in one part where the lights go out and there are only a few small flames moving in the darkness as the percussion imitate a battlefield-like condition.

At times the performance is just hilarious, such as the newspaper skit where the comic-relief character is continuously irritated by his fellow performers. An old lady who had to be in her 80's or better sat in front of me, and she laughed and enjoyed herself as much as anyone else in the crowd.

STOMP is a great experience for those of you that enjoy entertainment beyond television and your iPod every now and then.

DVD Review: Join the Toon Squad!

by BJ Wanlund
Staff Writer

The Warner Brothers vaults have been raided for the fifth time, and they came out with more than a few gems!

The first disc has one of my all time favorite cartoons, "Ali Baba Bunny" (which is a "gem" in every sense of the term), as well as a lot of cartoons featuring Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck, either solo or together.

The second disc has a ton of fairy tale parody cartoons, including "Tweety and the Beanstalk", "Red Riding



Hoodwinked", and "Little Red Walking Hood", a precursor to one of Tex Avery's finest cartoons, "Red Hot Riding Hood".

Speaking of Tweety, the

third disc is dedicated to Tweety's creator, Bob Clampett! Even better, they put "A Tale of Two Kitties" on it, which is Tweety's first cartoon! But, the restoration that they did on "A Tale of Two

Kitties" is SO AMAZING, you'll swear it was a brand-new cartoon, and FAR better than on any public domain cartoon tape or even when this was shown on TV.

The fourth disc is from the early days of the Looney Tunes, with a lot of weird cartoons and three Looney Tunes specials, including "Bugs Bunny's Looney Christmas Tales", which includes a version of A Christmas Carol featuring Yosemite Sam as Ebenezer Scrooge.

This set receives a 5-star rating strictly because of the FANTASTIC restoration that Jerry Beck and company did on "A Tale of Two Kitties". I may be a bit biased, but that's long been one of my favorites!