

Arts & Features

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{THE BLUE BANNER}

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photo courtesy of Now You See Them

Now You See Them plays with Holy Ghost Tent Revival at Music on the Mountaintop in Boone during the summer.

Asheville band returns to Grey Eagle with Holy Ghost Tent Revival

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Now You See Them, self-proclaimed as Asheville's hardest working band, will play a show with Holy Ghost Tent Revival of Greensboro at the Grey Eagle.

"There aren't a lot of bands that we are that close with, and I think it makes the show a lot more appealing because we are always playing together during the show," said **Shane Conerty** of **Now You See Them**.

According to Conerty, the Grey Eagle is one of the band's favorite venues to play.

"The hope for this show is that it's our last local show of the year, it's at the best venue in town to play a show, in our opinion, and it's with our favorite band to play with. So, it will be fun for us, regardless. We're just hoping people come out and join us for a special night," he said.

Guitars in the corner, their promotional poster on the wall and an amp that doubles as a chair all adorn the

house of **band members Dulci Ellenberger, Jason Mencer** and Conerty.

When the band moved to Asheville two years ago, they collectively decided to give up their jobs and focus solely on their music.

"There was doubt and it's a risk, but it feels so much better than risking anything else," said Ellenberger, who plays the acoustic guitar, melodica and sings vocals.

Ellenberger described her time in New York City, where she worked as a bartender, as unfulfilling.

"I got really good at bartending for six years in New York. That does not inspire me. That does not make me feel good," she said.

While in New York City, Mencer also said he grew tired of his job at a restaurant.

"I was miserable, just working trying to support my dreams. I figured it'd be better to live my dreams to support life," said the djembe drum and tambourine player.

Conerty said when he lived in Vancouver and Australia, he could make a living simply on busking, or street per-

forming, like many people in downtown Asheville.

"It was possible for me to just busk and roll up a bunch of change and get by at the end of the month," he said.

According to Conerty, this period of his life taught him that he could do without working a real job.

"We can do what we love to do and make a living from it," Conerty said.

Ellenberger said although it's not a traditional job and not what most people do for a living, they work at least 40 hours a week.

"We've only been in town for 2 years, almost 2 and a half years, but we've done a lot of stuff that a lot of bands that have lived here for a long time haven't done, because they're working these jobs," Conerty said.

The band members said their dedication and lack of outside jobs helps their music careers in Asheville.

Not only does Now You See Them work hard and have positive attitudes, they also have honest ones.

"We've got this set up that, not forces you, but it makes you more inclined to listen to the words and meanings of

the songs, which is a huge part of our band," Conerty said.

Conerty plays the acoustic guitar and ukulele, and the band said they prefer a stripped-down sound.

"We walk in with our instruments on our backs and that's all we have," Mencer said.

A bass or huge drum kit never drowns out the matter-of-fact lyrics.

"We don't ever want to be showy. I think if any of us were faking it up on stage, we would hate that. So that's important, so long as the music is staying true," Mercer said.

The members of Now You See Them said they all want to stay true to their art and that the lyrics are very important to them.

"There are bands that we love that are in a great position that haven't compromised, and they're popular because their music is good. I think that should be how a band judges their success. Not by how big you get or how many gold records you have, but by staying true," Conerty said.

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