

SLAMM! rocks and rolls in McCrary

Lauren Ramsdell
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Carmine Appice's SLAMM! did not, in fact, begin with a slam.

Rather, a haunting reverberation filled McCrary Theatre the night of Sept. 16 and rattled the audience in their seats. Blue light sliced through hazy air. One at a time, Appice and his cohorts strode on stage and began a slow rhythm on what appeared to be rain barrels covered with fluorescent tape. BOOM. BOOM. BOOM.

And then the sold-out show began in earnest. Four drummers beat on the rain barrels while a shrieking guitar kept up the tune. In the background, the fifth drummer pounded on drums suspended from a stepladder.

The introduction kept up for several minutes, including times where Appice and Adriane Palikat, one of his four fellow drummers, played dueling and then complementary rhythms on full drum kits.

From the beginning the energy never let up. Elements of coordinated dance struck a visual tone to match the harsh beats, as well as jumping, leaping and a little silent acting—mock arguments, and exaggerated showmanship kept the vibe on stage upbeat.

The audience was, for the most part, responsive, clapping along during the many segments where Appice encouraged involvement, and even singing along while on stage the drums were relentlessly beaten. True to their claims, SLAMM! did use



Carmine Appice, left, and two other members of the group SLAMM! play on rain barrels during their performance at Elon on Sept. 16.

everything from plastic cups to ironing boards, from rain barrels to buckets and even a few traditional drums.

Each nontraditional item either brought a completely new sound to the stage, unreplicable on a drum set, or a sound that blended well with other drums. Nothing seemed out of place, even though one is unlikely to do the laundry at a rock concert.

And a rock concert atmosphere was definitely in the air. Rather than last year's visiting drum group Nagata Sacho, SLAMM! was neither a celebration of culture nor just the drum itself. Guitarist Artie Dillon never let the audience forget that while they were there to see the impressive drumming, they were getting a talented shredding guitarist in the deal as well.

The concert felt mainly like a rock band that made use of more rhythm than tune, and did so to great effect, and like a love letter to all the different forms of rhythm.

Junior Jesse Palmer agreed. "It was intense," he said. "They really know how to put on a show."

Fellow junior Christian

Palmer also said he enjoyed the program. "They really engaged the audience," he said. "There were great lights and great costumes."

Unique for both Elon University and SLAMM! was the inclusion of the marching band's drumline. For the second-to-last set, the entire Fire of the Carolinas drumline joined Appice and his group on stage, doing a call-and-response to Appice's vocal scat and joining in on rain barrel songs.

It was also a unique night for drummer Curt Patrick. Patrick stood in for his friend and SLAMM! regular Felipe Torres, who was away with another band.

"We're playing with a living legend," said Patrick in reference to Appice, "It makes you realize how lucky you are. To be on stage with him is a trip."

Zoilo Ruiz, a co-creator of SLAMM! is the only original cast member from when SLAMM! began. Before SLAMM! he toured with Stomp!, a similar, yet different drumming group. He expressed his appreciation for the Elon community.

"We had an awesome time. We had a great campus, great stage, great stagehands and great lighting," he said. "Everything was awesome."



PHOTO BY COREY GROOM

Greene Street Club a student- and wallet-friendly party place

Edith Veremu
Reporter

Located in downtown Greensboro, the Greene Street Club is a lively place where college students and Greensboro residents frequent on the weekends. The club's rooftop bar, which was added two and a half years ago, is the largest open bar in Greensboro.

"We're different from other clubs, because not all clubs have rooftop bars," Rajes Bangidiwa, production manager of Greene Street, said. "The rooftop bar at Heaven (another night club in Greensboro) isn't as big as ours."

Greene Street Club has been open since October 2001, and the club has become a popular venue where live local and regional bands of varying music genres perform. Bands from around the country such as House of Fools, Codeseven and Drop Dead, Gorgeous have performed at the club. Tribute bands that performed at Greene Street include Appetite for Destruction, a Guns N' Roses tribute band, and The Breakfast Club, an '80s tribute band.

"Our main focus is on bands and live shows," Bangidiwa said. "Other than the (Greensboro) Coliseum, we're the best place for live shows."

Thursday night at Greene Street is "College Night" and four levels of entertainment are featured, according to the website and commercials on the radio. "College Night" is the only event specifically targeted at students, Bangidiwa said. He estimated more than one thousand people show up every Thursday night, mainly from UNC Greensboro.

Social media plays an important role in marketing for the club.



DJ Blackout works the first floor at Greene Street on its Thursday College Night.

"Facebook is great for anybody getting the word out about anything," Bangidiwa said.

About a year and a half ago, the club created its Facebook and now has more than 4,000 fans. On its Facebook page, the club posts pictures of past events and shows, asks fans what bands they would like to have perform and notifies fans of upcoming events and shows. The club created an account on Twitter around the same time as its Facebook page. Given Twitter's 140-character limit, the club only posts brief updates to followers.

Upcoming events at Greene Street include live performances by The Urban Sophisticates, a hip-hop and rock group from Greensboro, DJ Icey, an electronic music producer, and Guerrilla Radio, the official Rage

Against the Machine cover band with a performance by This is a Call, a Foo Fighters tribute band. Admission for shows at the club ranges from \$6 to \$20.

The club has a strict dress code, found on its website, which it expects its goers to adhere to. Bandanas and do-rags are prohibited headwear. Baggy pants, long shorts or jean shorts are also against the code. Plain white T-shirts and boots are among the banned items as well.

Bangidiwa said the club's strategic location in downtown Greensboro has helped its growth.

"We're downtown, but not too downtown so it's convenient for people who don't want to deal with the craziness of Greensboro and Elm Street."

The weekly Web roundup: Videos and links going viral



Alexa Johnson
Columnist

Hipster
superheroes

Who knew that spandex and outrageous costumes would lend so well to flannel and indie sensibility? In other news, the Hulk is all about American Apparel, which

makes a lot of sense — spandex would be kind of necessary if you were a mass of muscle and rage and that's pretty much the only thing that AA sells.

Source: www.Google.com Search: *hipster superheroes*

Craigslist permanently shuts down adult services section

Many hours could be passed in a bygone era: looking at the creepy adult services tab on Craigslist. The great American procrastination pastime has now drawn to a close. While some are overjoyed that the online giant will no longer be promoting Internet sex traffic, others are worried that the move might hurt efforts to control the illegal activity.

Source: www.Switched.com Search: *Craigslist*

The most ridiculous additions to the Oxford American Dictionary

This year the OAD welcomed words such as bromance, chillax and phrases such as "my bad." Why are these additions so lame? Because they are so obvious — the only people who might not know them are grandparents and they probably won't be using them in conversation anyway.

Source: www.Buzzfeed.com Search: *dictionary*

Oscar Wilde love letters discovered

Like many great literary figures, Oscar Wilde played for his own team. Now the dead guy's love letters to a magazine editor have surfaced. In an unsurprising turn of events, the letters are supposed to be auctioned off by the Fine Art Auctioneers Bamfords of Derby, with the winning bid projected to be around £10,000. In a word: classy.

Source: www.Telegraph.co.uk Search: *Oscar Wilde*

The 45 dumbest signs at the 9/12 Tea Party Rally

This isn't about political affiliation. Ridiculous is ridiculous, whether you identify as a Democrat or Republican. And these signs are just hilariously awful. Some of the keepers include: "Obama, the terrorist from within," "Stop pandering to Islam," and "This is your brain (Reagan picture), this is your brain on drugs (Obama picture)."

Source: www.Buzzfeed.com Search: *45 dumb signs*

Jon Stewart announces D.C. 'Rally to Restore Sanity'

Where will all the cool kids be on Oct. 30? The D.C. Mall for a truly epic gathering of comedy and politics. Jon Stewart (*The Daily Show*) is advocating that middle of the road Americans show their grasp of reality and reasonability showing up for a few hours to gather in D.C., while Stephen Colbert (*The Colbert Report*) is encouraging people to join his opposing "Keep Fear Alive March."

Source: www.PopEater.com Search: *John Stewart rally*