

Serendipity features a change in set up, and controversy

By Jack Sinclair
STAFF WRITER

There has been a lot of comparison of this year's Serendipity to the ones of the past. There has been a change in the concert venue from the lake to the Armfield Athletic Center, weather permitting. If there is rain, the concerts will be moved to Ragan-Brown Field House. There has also been worry over the increased security. There will be more RAs and Public Safety officers on duty. No bags, purses or containers, including Nalgene, will be permitted at the performances.

Despite these changes and recent criticism, the Campus Activity Board (CAB) is still hopeful for a successful Serendipity.

"It's ten times better than last year," said sophomore Tim Lindberg, who has been working with CAB, especially on the Battle of the Bands event. "This is because

there were only three bands and Common last year. This year there are 16 bands over two nights."

This year's Serendipity's acts were decided by the genres that they fit under.

"There is a change in focus," said Andrew Herz, a member of CAB. "There will be a larger variety of performers and themed nights."

Friday night performances are rock-themed with performers such as former Guilford student Bria Kam's band, Sky Filled Balloons, Fractured, The Holy Liars, New Familiars, and The Clay Pigeons. The last two performers of the night will be the winner of Battle of the Bands, with headliner Recycled Percussion ending the night.

The Battle of the Bands was scheduled for March 29, but due to weather was postponed to a date to be announced.

Saturday's performances are hip hop themed with performances by a techno DJ, Jadon Success.

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Tim Lindberg, member of CAB

Endless Mic, who performed at Guilford in October, is also returning for Serendipity.

"We had a great time playing with RJD2 a few months ago, so when we were asked to come back and play at Serendipity we were pretty stoked," said Ryan Maiani, known as Zano of Endless Mic. "We didn't know much about serendipity before being asked, but everyone says it's a pretty rowdy event."

On Saturday there is a Battle of the Sexes Game Show early in the afternoon. Other performers for Saturday include Rise, Guilford College Beat Boxers, H/N/X, Flaming Faeries, and Mickey Avalon, who has been at the cen-

ter of debate about Serendipity because of some of his controversial lyrics.

"I hear that Mickey Avalon puts on good live shows," Lindberg said. "There is no need to protest. People are making a huge deal out of nothing; he is performing last for only one hour."

"It's that there are serious concerns about the context and material of this performer," said senior Katie Yow, who helped organize a discussion on March 30 about Avalon's performance. "We need to talk about how we are bringing someone to campus who raises all of these concerns."

Other concerns about Serendipity include a rule forbidding open con-

tainers of any kind from any of the performances and increased Public Safety and RA presence.

"Last year, there were cans thrown at the equipment," Herz said. "Campus Life is trying to make a balance between fun and preventing harm."

Despite the issues over some of the performances and an increase in security, most people are looking forward to Serendipity.

"Personally, I am looking forward to Recycled Percussion," Herz said.

"I think Recycled Percussion seems pretty cool, and I know the Clay Pigeons are good," said Sam Howard, a first-year ready for his first Serendipity experience.

Tranny Roadshow: laughs and learning about defying gender norms

By Megan Feil
STAFF WRITER

With many unique performances including an anecdote about a child's surprise encounter with rabbit guts, a reflective piece on incorporating and rejecting different versions of masculinity, a penis monologue, a story about lion costumes and marriage, an acoustic guitar performance, and an underground garage rock music act, the Tranny Roadshow celebrated gender variance on March 29 in Dana Auditorium.

The show reunited during their year-long break from touring specifically to present their "multimedia performance art extravaganza." Artists who self-identify as transgender combined their interpersonal knowledge and talent for humor to stir distinctly pronounced laughs, pockets of chuckles, and several bouts of clapping from the audience.

Guilford welcomed them to a stage where expressing individuality – something that can either transcend and/or mingle with gender – is not shunned.

Performing her spoken word piece, one performer, Ryka Aoki, admits to ultimately loving her penis as a part of herself. However, sometimes she wishes it were easier to wear that "cute Hello Kitty bikini from Hot Topic."

"Don't think of it as cutting off, think of it as rearranging or turning around," she said, explaining the idea of a sex change to her penis. "It's something we're going to go through together. Whatever we decide to do will be for us."

Another act exemplified a universal idea: people can decide which aspects of any gender to attribute to

their identity.

Playing a recording that tracked the tone drop in his voice over two and a half years at various intervals of male hormone injections, Kelly Shortandqueer, co-organizer of the Tranny Roadshow, shared part of his transformation with the audience.

He struggles with seeing "most versions of masculinity as slightly ridiculous" and concurrently feels that "female socialization has a monopoly on (his) insides."

"I have to decide what I want to incorporate and what I want to let go of," he said.

Sara Eisenberg and Joe Pelcher, who organized the show at Guilford with the help of PRIDE, Senate, and Gender Equality Now, support this sentiment.

"Something that draws me into the (GLBTQA) community is the emphasis on individuality," Eisenberg said. "You have to come to find your own identity – that's the deal."

Though it's a collaborative show, the artists in the Tranny Roadshow concentrate on showcasing who they are as individuals.

"Being transgender is the linking factor between the performers, but it's more about who you are," Pelcher said. "It's about how that coincides and is affected by being transgendered."

Jamez Terry, co-organizer of the Tranny Roadshow, compared his outlook on life to a flower boy at a wedding who confidently strutted down the aisle, not bothering to look back, and tossed petals into the air.

"Being married is like wearing a costume all the time, a costume of being straight," Terry said while dressed in his lion outfit from his own costume-themed wedding last



CLOUD GAMBLE/GUILFORDIAN

Red Durkin (ABOVE), a storyteller and author, and **Ryka Aoki de la Cruz** (RIGHT), a musician, perform during the Tranny Roadshow March 29 in Dana Auditorium.



summer. "Being straight is not as much fun as being a lion."

At the end of his act, he unzipped his costume to reveal a shirt that said 'felon' and jumped off stage, grinning and powerfully flinging flower petals from a basket as he walked up the aisle.

Not all performances pointed to transgender issues; some simply illustrated hilarious situations.

Red Durkin described a scene from her childhood as a backup vignette because of sound problems.

One day, she began to chase a

rabbit, yearning to make a pet out of this creature in her backyard. "I realized why kids normally can't catch rabbits," she said. Approaching and picking up this rabbit only yielded bunny guts and blood on her hands.

"The Tranny Roadshow is about presenting transgender people as multi-faceted and multi-talented," Kelly Shortandqueer said after the show. "Being transgender is a part of who we are, but it's not everything. We want this show to be about any and all of the pieces of who we are."

Many people recognize the impor-

tance of this avant-garde show's place in the Guilford community as well as in the larger context of the world.

"It was an amazing show," said senior Sam Sklover. "That's what Guilford stands for: expanding on what gender and sexuality means."

"It's unfortunate that artists who make good art aren't allowed on stage because they are discriminated against," Pelcher said. "It's not an easy life and bringing them to a college campus is a wonderful thing."