

# Strand Theatre Shelbyville, Inc.

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## Rockphoria ? Preview

Written by David on December, 17 2009

Rock all-stars to jam out The Strand

Four-score and few years ago the age of rock dawned as bands, singers and wanna-be's from all-over and everywhere dreamed big and little dreams of fame and stardom, yet dreams and stars crash. The passions that fuel each usually burn hot, bright, quick and briefly before they implode, supernovae-like, in a singular flash.

Rock dreams, are indeed, littered with the smoking, stony shells of just such one-hit wonders who came crashing back down to earth after flashing in a distant sky.

On twin nights this weekend, a tribe of local musical all-stars will escort patrons of The Strand Theatre on a four-decade long tour of such one-hit wonders. It may be magical? But it won't be a mystery! These are songs your ear will know, even if you don't think your mind does. So pack your musical bags and spend a few raucous hours reveling in the melodious, but often, surreal side-roads of rock 'n' roll nostalgia.

After weeks of intense, often late -night learning curves thrashed out in a garage (naturally), the 15 members of Rockphoria are more than ready to guide crowds on a long strange, twisting trip into collective musical history. This pop-laced foray was organized by Smashed Productions and each evening's journey begins at 8 and it will cost \$10 to venture/adventure into a rather harmonious Twilight Zone-like extravaganza of songs of imaginative souls. Shirt and shoes required and fashionistas should arrive with passion.

If the hard day's work involved in a month's worth of nights spent in practice is any indication this should be one helluva musical jamboree, a heavy, but fluid concert, seasoned with diverse talents playing with and within the catchy riffs, rhymes and rhythms of tunes not soon to be forgotten. Memories promise to swirl like the sounds of this 15 member eclectic ensemble of driven, multi-talented musicians and singers.

In this the third incarnation of Rockphoria, a selective, sonorous song selection seamlessly meshes into a groove in the capable hands, throats and creative visions of each professional performer involved, be they singer or instrumental virtuoso. Significantly, each star who flashes onto Rockphoria's stage at the Strand this weekend is a local phenom with multiple musical skills, talents and styles.

"They are going to turn one-hit wonders into today's top-ten hits," said Dean McNamara, a local rock icon, sound aficionado, music mogul-cum fanatic concert attendee.

In this all-star set the band members are also singers and the singers often usually strum, play, pound and sooth savage instrumental beasts. On this weekend, however, these local aficionados of sultry sounds will straight-jacket themselves within the sheer joy of music and their muses will be the flash-in-the-pan top of pop songs.

Instrumentally, the glittering, all-too-catchy sounds will be divided in sixths between lead guitarist Gary Shrader, rhythm guitarist Laura Harmon, keyboardist Dave Rasche, drummer Jim Whitacre, bassist Jim Wisker and percussionist Don Williams. Raucous leads, extended solos, rapacious rhythms and driving beats are to be expected; dancing and mayhem may ensue. A chance of instrumental improvisation is also possible.

Vocally, nine singers can, should and will weave onto and into harmonies, syncopations and serenades on the Strand's grand stage. The fluid, rotating, ever flowing waves of crooning troubadours weaving into the musical mélange includes Amanda O'Connor, Aimee Yarwood, Bobby Toon , Bryanna Justice ,Glen Yarwood , Larry Brandt, Scott Shrader, Tre Dillman and Willandra Macklin. Passion, purity, pristine pipes and perfect pitch are possible and likely; screams and shrill to throaty cries and wails may be expected.

Surely, this will be a four-square multi-course meal filled with pop, rocks and rolls and to journey,, however briefly, with 15 musical mavens for ten bucks is a worthy adventure especially to see local rising stars playing the songs of once, bright, but now fallen, stars of yore. History, legends and the stuff of dreams are made of just such stardust.

Submitted by: Terrance Aldridge

This independent preview does not express the opinion of the Strand Theatre.

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