

Street

Press-ing out wrinkles in music



The Wolfgang Press has been known for its willingness to delve into uncharted territory with its music. The threesome admits they have always been enamored with the manipulation of sound. Maybe that's why critics are calling their current release their most focused effort to date.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The Wolfgang Press is a visceral musical experiment nearly 10 years in the making which is only beginning to draw some clear results.

Critics are calling the band's latest LP "Queer" its most focused to date. While many groups may consider that a ship in the face, the Wolfgang Press actively pursued clarity on the 4AD/Warner release.

"We had a different intention with this album," said vocalist Mick Allen in a telephone interview from London. "The other albums we

have done we had more of a tendency to be internal. Instead of being insular with this one we wanted to open everything up and allow everyone in and not be so precious."

Sounding soul rifts combined with ethereal elements of keyboard and judiciously augmented with spritely bits of sampling are turned up in The Wolfgang Press musical excavation.

The group's willingness to delve into uncharted territory is well-documented. The attempt to connect these forays with a semblance of history, brought through sampling or by fiendishly covering Randy Newman's "Mama Told Me Not

to Come," creates a precarious balance in the aural assault.

Allen said he and his bandmates, keyboardist Mark Cox and guitarist Andrew Gray, have always been enamored with the manipulation of sound rather than three chords and the truth. Sampling is one area the band excels, using the technique sparingly.

"It's a very new phenomenon, really," Allen said. "When something is new, it gets overused and used badly. What we've tried to do is make it work with the song rather than the sample being the song."

Such a musical aesthetic has allowed The Wolfgang Press to persevere amidst several falls in the post-punk age and kept its identity. No easy task, especially since the group is on 4AD, whose bands (Cutey Twins and His Name Is Alive in name a few) have an undesired reputation for a producing similar ethereal sound.

The band's 1983 LP's, "The Burden of Mules," started it all and has included a steady stream of releases since in the UK. "Queer" is only The Wolfgang Press' second release stateside. Their penchant for musical revision was denoted early on the band's second LP "The Legend of the Wolfgang Press and Other Tall Stories," putting an alternative spin on Aretha Franklin's "Respect." The band's rendition of "Mama Told Me Not to Come" is performed in the same spirit.

"I remember it from 20 years ago," Allen said. "For this album, it was our intention to do a cover version. We played around with various songs. None of them were working. Maybe they were too precious."

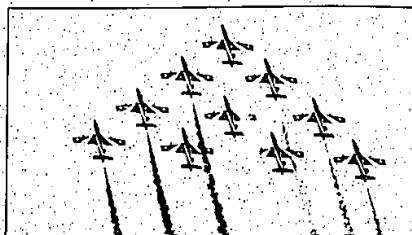
"The producer was messing around with the keyboards in the studio and started playing the opening from 'Mama Told Me Not to Come.' We started working on it. I remember the Three Dog Night version of it, actually."

Along with reinventing other's hits, The Wolfgang Press has earned a reputation for rousing live shows. For this tour, opening for the Charlatans UK, the group has enlisted former Jesus and Mary Chain drummer Richard Thomas along with former members of the Ruts, rhythm guitarist Ret and bassist Segs.

"It was a strange thing (performing live at first)," Allen said. "It was hard to rehearse and keep the emphasis of the songs. Some are so delicate."

"We've done well to achieve that."

The Wolfgang Press will open for Charlatans UK on Thursday, July 2, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. For information, call 961-MELT.



Sky high: The Italian Air Force's national aerobatic jet team, Frecce Tricolori, is unmistakable with its red, white and green national colored smoke trails.

AirMichigan goes for tricolored fun, aerial excitement

BY PATRICK SCUTTIE
SPECIAL WRITER

Do you want to see something really cool? We mean real, real cool.

Check out July 4-5 at Willow Run Airport, where Wings Over Wayne Inc. is putting together another air show. They call it AirMichigan '92.

If you've never been, going to an air show is like watching "Wings" on The Discovery Channel with your head inside the picture tube. Jets that look like dots on the horizon, wall over the crowd and make people tip over in their lawn chairs as they strain to follow them.

Then pilots, who you'd swear were high-on jet fuel and low on brains, do things with a plane that birds can't do. And they do these spinning things at very un-bird-like speeds approaching 300 miles per hour.

The piece de resistance (read that with a French accent, please) this year will be the Italian national aerobatic team known as the Frecce Tricolori (Tricolored Arrows to those who don't speak Italian). The team showcases a formation of 10 MB-339 trainer/jet fighter aircraft. This is the Italian's second North American Tour and the first stop is Willow Run.

The tour is part of the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of the New World. You know, "In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue."

Leading the Americans in the show will be Team America, an award-winning three-plane formation team from California. And coincidentally, they'll be flying Italian-built Marchetti F-260 trainer/light attack planes.

"I think they (the Frecce Tricolori) learn to fly in our plane," said Team America leaders Chuck Lischer. "We've never seen them, but that connection will be interesting."

Before the jets blow people away, AirMichigan will roll back the aviation clock and feature some old fashioned barnstorming routines. U.S. and world aerobatic champion Gene Soucy of Houston, Texas, will perform some solo aerobatics in his Grumman biplane known as

"Shoewat." Soucy's plane displays one of the air show industry's biggest smoke producing systems.

From there, wingwalker Teresa Stokes, also of Houston, will buy in the top wing of Soucy's plane and, well, walk around a bit.

And to top off the barnstorming display, Chelsea's Jim Myning will land a Piper Super Cub airplane on the back of a speeding pickup truck, driven by Ann Arbor's Eddie Green.

Myning is a veteran of more than 30 years of air shows and Green is an experienced wingwalker and Hollywood stuntman.

With a whole mess of other things to do — and eat — The Wayne County air show is something that if you see it once, you'll make a point to come back year after year.

And the world from Wayne County's "Top Gun," as to speak, Executive Edward MacNorton, "our air show is one of the best family entertainment values in southeast Michigan."

So if you're planning to go, plan to make a day of it. The Stealth fighter and Warthog jets, aerobatics, wingwalkers, sky diving, hang gliding — you name it — will be in the air and on the ground.

The main act, the Frecce Tricolori, will hit the sky around 3:30 p.m. each day, so you'll still have time to catch a decent seat for Independence weekend fireworks.

Dates: July 4-5.

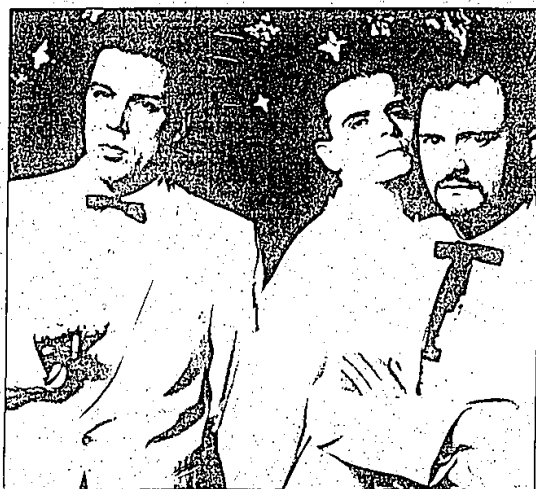
Place: Willow Run Airport, 1944 Belleville Road (Exit 190).

What to bring: Coolers are allowed although some are preferred over bottles. Complete concession facilities are available. Also included sunglasses, hats, lawn chairs (for general admission) and sunscreen lotion.

Tickets: Reserved box seats are \$15. General admission for adults is \$12 at the gate (\$9 in advance) and \$9 (\$6 in advance) for children. Children under three admitted free. Parking is \$3.

Ticket locations: AirMichigan tickets are available at all Ticket master outlets in the area and at Willow Run Airport.

For more information, call 482-8888.



Musical press: Wolfgang Press members Mick Allen (left), Mark Cox and Andrew Gray readily admit they like experimenting with sound rather than playing three chords.

Chris Staels takes dream to the U.P.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Chris Staels doesn't subscribe to the cause of the month club.

When Staels, who works at Paradise Post studios in Farmington Hills, released "Dream Catchers, Vol. 1" to benefit the Native Americans of the state last year, he said it was going to be an ongoing project. He wasn't kidding.

The next installment takes place Saturday, July 4, in the form of a day-long musical extravaganza at the Bay Mills Reservation in the Upper Peninsula. The event will feature 15 acts and include a fireworks display.

Proceeds from the \$10 admission will not only benefit the Bay Mills Chippewas Community but also the Lansing Indian Center and the

American Indian College Fund. More so, Staels hopes the event brings awareness to the plight of Native Americans.

"I think in one respect, to get people in that environment is going to be a pretty eye-opening experience," said Staels, who is of Native American descent and who became involved after visiting the reservation. "People have a perception of a reservation from what they see on TV. This is the real thing."

Well known Native American performer Bill Miller will headline the event, which starts at noon and runs to 1:55 a.m.

Included in the schedule of acts are several of which are from this area — the Love Kings, Spiral Dream, Red C, The Predators, Waukeg Bay Drum, Short

Notice, Richard Cyr, Barb Barton, Drapping Names, The Hope Orchestra, John Lamb and Will Blue, The Wackdolls, Billy Brandy and Cale Zeta.

Many of the same artists are also featured on "Dream Catchers, Vol. 1," which initiated Staels' campaign to help Native Americans. The CD has raised \$12,000, according to Staels, most of which has been donated to Bay Mills Community College.

Money raised in the project is matched \$2 by the U.S. government for every \$1 contributed. The CD is available at area record outlets and retails for \$10.

Already, Staels has the second volume in motion to be released in November. The audio engineer says 30 bands have expressed an interest to be on the next release.

"We're just going to keep doing it until we make a half-million bucks," Staels said.

Saturday's event will help contribute a chunk toward such a goal. Anywhere from 4,000 to 5,000 people are expected to attend the event at the reservations, which is 25 miles west of Sault Ste. Marie.

"There's a lot of people traveling (from this area) for this," said Asta Jungst of Farmington Hills, an organizer for the event and member of The Hope Orchestra. "Some people are traveling because they want to see the bands they like. . . . Some people are traveling because of the cause only."

For information on the benefit on Saturday, July 4, or "Dream Catchers, Vol. 1," call 543-8433.

IN CONCERT

Monday, June 29

PARADISE VALLEY JAZZ JAM
8:32-11:55
832-2155

Tuesday, June 30

DAD BLASTED
8:32-11:55
406-8955

CHISEL BROS. & THORNETTA DAVIS
8:32-11:55
832-2155

THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH
St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets are \$6.50 in advance. 961-MELT

Wednesday, July 1

ASSEMBLY REQUIRED
8:32-11:55
406-8955

SOUPDRAGONS
St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets are \$10.50 in advance. 961-MELT

FIVE BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA
With Soul Sisters at River Center, 121 Fletcher, Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$10, \$15 and \$20. 482-8888

NIGHT FLIGHT
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti. 482-8888

CHARLATANS UK
St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets are \$14.50 in advance. 961-MELT

PAUL KELLER
St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets are \$14.50 in advance. 961-MELT

JOHN PRINE
The As. 632-2222. Music Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$17.50. 761-1451

LEGACY
8:32-11:55
406-8955

MAITRES
8:32-11:55
406-8955

LEAGUE OF NATIONS
With Vette-John and Bert (up at Gull's Gull, 49 E. Superior, Pontiac. 344-1154)

PAUL KELLER
St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets are \$14.50 in advance. 961-MELT

AND CARY KOCHER QUARTET
8:32-11:55
406-8955

LOVE KINGS
With Vette-John and Bert (up at Gull's Gull, 49 E. Superior, Pontiac. 344-1154)

JOHN PRINE
The As. 632-2222. Music Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$17.50. 761-1451

JOHN PRINE
The As. 632-2222. Music Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$17.50. 761-1451

JAX MYR
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti. 482-8888

EXCURSION
With Blister Fish at Hamtramck Pub, 2048 Canfield, off I-75. 365-3829

BIGGER THAN MASS
5756 Cass, Detroit. 832-2355

KISS ME SKEAMING
With Calhoun at Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. 996-8555

LOVE KINGS
With Vette-John and Bert (up at Gull's Gull, 49 E. Superior, Pontiac. 344-1154)

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FRANK ALLISON AND THE ODD SOX
With Confuse a Cat at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Superior, Pontiac. 334-5150

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TRINIDAD TRIPOLI STEEL BAND
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. 996-8555

BLACK PLANET
With Earth Circus at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit. 831-8070

FRANK ALLISON AND THE ODD SOX
With Confuse a Cat at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Superior, Pontiac. 334-5150

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Saturday, July 4

POP STAR RIDDLE
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti. 482-8888

PAUL KELLER/CARY KOCHER QUARTET
8:32-11:55
406-8955

THE POPE
With Vette-John and Bert (up at Gull's Gull, 49 E. Superior, Pontiac. 344-1154)

THE POPE
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THE POPE
With Vette-John and Bert (up at Gull's Gull, 49 E. Superior, Pontiac. 344-1154)

Sunday, July 5

LEON REDBONE
Power Center, 121 Fletcher, Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$17.50. 761-1451

TRIBUTE TO JOHN LEE HOOKER
John Lee Hooker and the Robert Cray Band with The Memphis Horns at Meadow Brook Music Festival, Oakland University, Rochester. Tickets are \$27.50 per person and \$15 for lawn. 99-MUSIC