

## STREET SCENE

# Band continues to rage against political injustices



CHRISTINA FUOCO

Rage Against the Machine's show Thursday, Sept. 19, at the 12,191-seat Cobo Arena is one for the Rage record book.

"Detroit will be the largest show that we have ever headlined. This is leaving aside festivals. The previous one was in Warsaw, guitarist Tom Morello said.

Rage Against the Machine is winding up its tour in support of its sophomore distributive "Evil Empire," produced by Brendan O'Brien. Like its self-titled debut, Rage Against the Machine mixes hard rock and hip-hop — and doesn't make any bones about its political beliefs.

"We are completely unapologetic about our politics and that while it is the thing that we are most criticized for, it is the thing we are most sure of. Some people say that our politics are extreme and we agree. You don't cure an extreme illness with a moderate medicine. On this record and through the causes we've embraced, we keep pushing the envelope of what it is the rock band can accomplish," Morello explained.

"The band continues to support Leonard Peltier, Mumia Abu-Jamal, the Zapatistas fighting for true democracy in Mexico. The video for the single 'People of the Sun' addresses that issue. The overall message is that people should rebel and not passively accept oppression. ... Sitting back passively in front of a television set is just not good enough and we hope that through music we can use it as a tool to organize as well as to rock you."

Peltier, a Native American, was convicted on two counts of first-degree murder and sentenced to two consecutive life

sentences in a June 26, 1976, shoot-out with FBI agents at Jumping Bull Ranch on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. On its debut album, Rage Against the Machine made Peltier the subject of the video for its song "Freedom." Abu-Jamal, a journalist, sits on death row for shooting a police officer in Philadelphia. Rage Against the Machine and a host of others, believe that both men were wrongly convicted.

Rage Against the Machine has made its intentions clear since its first show in 1991 in an Orange County, California, living room. Besides regularly headlining Rock For Choice benefits, the group created a silent protest against censorship at the Lollapalooza on July 18, 1993, in Philadelphia by standing naked on stage for 25 minutes without singing or playing a note. Each band member had duct tape across his mouth and a letter scrawled on his chest, spelling out "P-M-R-C," which stands for the Parents' Music Resource Coalition, Tipper Gore's organization that helps parents monitor the music their children listen to.

Rage Against the Machine has also played benefits for the Anti-Nazi League, Peltier and Abu-Jamal. During an appearance on "Saturday Night Live" on April 13, 1996, the band's showtime was cut to one song after the band attempted to hang inverted American flags from their amplifiers.

Morello explained that the band doesn't plan on hiding its beliefs any time soon. "I think that it's a message that we don't hide very well. On every song and in every T-shirt, we make our intentions extremely clear. I don't see how you can be a fan and ignore it. Partially, the idea is not just to bring in hard-core activists, but to help people who feel (this way) and



**Biggest show:** Rage Against the Machine — from left, guitarist Tom Morello, bassist Tim Bob, drummer Brad Wilk, and vocalist Zack De La Rocha — play the biggest headlining show of its career Thursday, Sept. 19, at Cobo Arena in Detroit.

let them know that other people feel the same way."

Rage Against the Machine, Girls Against Boys and Stanford Prison Experiment perform Thursday, Sept. 19, Cobo Hall, 1 Washington Boulevard, Detroit. Showtime is 8 p.m. for the all ages show. For more information, call (313) 983-6611.

Misc: The Butthole Surfers have launched a site on the Internet, <http://www.butt-holesurfers.com>. The site contains touring information, a biography and discography on the

band, rare photographs, a tour diary and an interactive voodoo doll. ...

Toad the Wet Sprocket are in the studio working on a new album with producer Gavin MacKillop, who also did "Fear," "Dulcinea," and most of "In Light Syrup." Some of the working song titles are "Whatever I Fear," "Dam Would Break," "Don't Fade," "Desire," and "Little Man, Big Man." The album will hit the stores early next year. Meanwhile Toad has contributed the song "Crazy Life" (previously available only on the "Empire

Records" soundtrack album) to "Honor The Earth," a two-CD benefit album featuring tracks by Matthew Sweet, Soul Asylum, Luka Bloom, Exene Cervenka, Bonnie Raitt, Rusted Root, Jane Siberry, Victoria Williams and Indigo Girls. Seven Native American musical artists will also contribute to the project which is intended to benefit the Honor The Earth fund, an organization that assists Native Americans in protection of sacred sites and ecosystems, as well as the building of sustainable communities. For more

information about Toad the Wet Sprocket, see their on-line site: <http://www.sony.com/Music/Artists/Info/Toad>, or via their mailing list P.O. Box 1761, Santa Monica, Calif. 90406-1761.

If you have a question or comment for Christina Fuoco, you can write to her c/o The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, or via e-mail at [cfuoco@aol.com](mailto:cfuoco@aol.com). You can also leave a message for her by calling (313) 953-2047, mailbox 2130 on a Touch-Tone phone.

## SCREEN SCENE

A sampling of what's playing at alternative movie theaters across metro Detroit as received by John Monaghan.

**Birmingham Theatre** 211 S. Woodward, Birmingham. Call (810) 644-FILM for information. (\$6.50)

• "Straight to the Heart" (USA-1996). A low-budget romance, filmed in Patokey and Bay View, Michigan, about a professional gambler who returns to his hometown.

**Detroit Film Theatre** 5200 Woodward, Detroit. Call (313) 832-2730 for information. (\$5.50;

\$4.50 students/seniors)  
• "Basquiat" (USA - 1996). Sept. 20-22 (the call is shown) directs this account of graffiti artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, who turned the art world on its ear in the 1980s before dying at the age of 27.

• "From the Journals of

Jean Seberg" (USA - 1985). 7 p.m. Sept. 23. She made her biggest splash in Godard's "Breathless" as a New York Times-selling American in Paris. Now director Mark Rappaport blends fact and fiction in a very personalized look at the enigmatic actress.

Main Art Theatre 118 N.

Main Street at 11 Mile, Royal Oak. Films play through at least Thursday, unless noted otherwise. Call (810) 542-0180 for information and showtimes.

(\$6.50; \$4 students, seniors and matinee; \$3 twilight)  
• "Trainspotting" (Britain - 1995). A runaway hit in Britain: the story of five liars, losers,

junkies, and thieves on the road to self-destruction in modern-day Edinburgh. This one's directed by Danny Boyle, who made the clever "Shallow Grave."

### Mr. Z's STEAK HOUSE 537-5600

27331 Five Mile Rd. (Corner of Inland)

#### ENTERTAINMENT NIGHTLY

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

PSYCHICS

"Have Your Cards Read"

BILL KAHLER

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

KARAOKE

Wednesday



Open 11 A.M.

Businessmen's Lunches

MITCH HOUSE'S

DINNERS from \$6.95

FASHION SHOW

Thursday

Starting at Noon

1 LOBSTER TAIL DINNER

\$16.95

Includes: Salad, Potato, Vegetable and Hot Bread

NOW APPEARING...LIVE

THE SHOWCASEMEN

WEDNESDAY thru SATURDAY

COCKTAIL HOUR

MON. THUR. FRI. 4-7 P.M. DAILY

NOW BOOKING BANQUETS (call us for large)

28500 Schoolcraft

125-5520

## GUN AND KNIFE SHOW

SEPT. 20-21-22

FRI 10-9 • SAT 9-9 • SUN 9-6

GREAT SELECTION OF

Handguns • Rifles • Ammo • Sales • Shotguns • Knives

• Military Surplus • Hunting Supplies • Plus Much More!

Friday is Set-Up Day. Come Early For Your Best Deal!

Not All Dealers Participate On Fridays.

UPCOMING EVENT: MICHIGAN NATIONAL OUTDOOR CAR SHOW (SEPT. 28-29)

Gibraltar

TRADE CENTER, INC.

1-75 & EUREKA RD. (EXIT 30) TAYLOR • 313-787-2000

FREE

FRIDAY ADMISSION

TO THE TRADE CENTER

FRIDAY SEPT. 20TH ONLY



Have your first cup of coffee this Saturday morning with "Our House," Detroit Edison's Home Energy Conservation Show. Let Tom Tynan and Paula Engel get your mind percolating this Saturday at 6:30 a.m. Find out ways to make your home more energy efficient, saving you money and helping to preserve the environment at the same time.

Sit down with "Our House"

this Saturday at 6:30 a.m. on WDIV-TV, Channel 4.

Carrier

Turning energy into solutions.

Detroit Edison



THE Observer & Eccentric

NEWSPAPERS

WNIC 100.3

Detroit's Nicest Rock

**Seafood Buffet**  
THE FOLLOWING PRICES ARE FOR DINNER ONLY  
Buy One Seafood Buffet Dinner at... \$12.95  
Get the Real Seafood Buffet Dinner at... 1/2 Off  
ALL YOU CAN EAT

**The Botsford Inn**  
Farmington Hills  
(810) 474-4800

**DON PEDRO'S**  
24366 Grand River  
(313) 544-1450  
OPEN 7 DAYS

**HAPPY HOUR**  
12-2 PM  
\$2.99  
\$3.99

**FREE BANQUET ROOM**  
AVAILABLE FOR PARTIES,  
SHOWERS, WEDDINGS, ETC.

**MEXICAN SAMPLER**  
FOR TWO  
Includes: Steak Fajita, 1 Taco, Chicken, Guacamole, El Pasa, Beans, Tortilla, Salsa, Rice  
Save \$4  
Dinner with any other order.  
Prepaid with any other order.

**1/2 OFF DINNER**  
Buy 1 dinner, 2nd meal of equal or lesser value 1/2 price.  
New includes: Appetizer, Beverage, Dessert, and Tip.  
Not valid for take-out, delivery, or other special events.