

Live from page E1

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19. Few tickets remain.

Most important in the growing process, Kowalczyk said, is the music. Decadent and hedonistic, Live's latest album "Secret Samadhi," released Feb. 18 on Radioactive, traces the urges and temptations of stardom. Kowalczyk's whispery vocals lead into muscular choruses spinning mysterious and sometimes haunting tales. Themes of drinking, sex, and partying run rampant throughout the album.

"We deal with that on the record in our own way, especially in 'Grace' and 'Turn My Head.' I have a deep desire to communicate with lots of people and have it remain a universal expression. That's what has inspired us and that's what we want to keep doing."

"This is our best record and the best music we've ever written. To me, it's exactly what we needed to do. I'm really happy because at the end of '96, we went running back to that place where we write music, to the intimate place. We came up with some really heartfelt songs."

Spiritual sense

Spirituality keeps Kowalczyk grounded. When he was 19, he began his studies of Eastern philosophy but abandoned it while writing "Throwing Copper."

About a year ago, he picked it up again and found his guru. Kowalczyk meditates twice daily and studies and contemplates his guru's teachings.

"It helps in a lot of ways. It gives me a tremendous amount of energy. It just improves my life all together."

As a way of improving the lives of others, Live is devoting a few of its shows, including the Pine Knob stop, to raising money for local AIDS charities. Twenty-five cents from each ticket will go to local charities via the LifeBeat organization. Posters, commemorating the tour, will be sold for \$5.

"We never associated the band with any kind of cause. We were turned off by environmental causes, Greenpeace in particular. It's not that I don't support them at some basic level. We've never

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been associated with Amnesty International, not that we don't sympathize with the cause."

The band - which also includes guitarist Chad Taylor, bassist Patrick Dahlheimer, and drummer Chad Gracyo - was moved by the need for money for AIDS research.

"That's something money is directly needed for. These people are suffering currently and there's a very direct need for funding to help them, and in finding a cure. As a band we could not unanimously on which we decided to make that the first move to associate Live with a cause."

A week after the release of "Secret Samadhi," Live returned to the State Theatre on Thursday, Feb. 27. Rocking back and forth while aggressively grasping the mic, the bald Kowalczyk was clad in ruby tunic. The performance included songs culled from all three albums. The Pine Knob show, Kowalczyk said, will take it a step further.

"It's a really great set that does a really cool thing with regard to all the records. We've put a lot of time and effort into the set design for this tour, which is unique to 'Secret Samadhi.' I would expect an event in that every night we go for the performance of a lifetime for that moment."

Filmmakers from page E1

and told them I was interested in doing behind the scenes work as well," Gibbons said.

The Stevenson High School and Michigan State graduate had already made a movie called "Tromee and Juliet" that would get international distribution. On the set of "The Incorporated," Gibbons played the part of Sean Fox and also worked as an associate producer, assigned to procure food for the cast and crew.

"Sean Fox kind of grew as we were filming," Gibbons said. "The script underwent changes. I enjoyed the role. I liked the dark side of it. I didn't have a chance to play a role like that before or since."

Gibbons is now living in New York City, attending classes at the Actors Studio and acting off-Broadway. He also completed work on a film shot in the Catskills, "Fine Young Gentlemen."

For the lead role of embattled scientist Alan Freeling, Guertin chose John Rencaud of Troy.

"A friend knew Ken and told me about the auditions. They decided to audition me for the lead when it was one of the bad guys I had come to audition for," Rencaud said.

Rencaud has usually played

See review page E6

heavies in both film and theater.

"It was real good challenge to play a softer character," said Rencaud, a 1978 graduate of Troy High School.

Rencaud has been working as an actor in Detroit since the late '80s, supplementing his income with construction work. He said being an actor in Detroit isn't easy.

"A lot of theater work doesn't pay that great, it's not a huge market. They do a lot of industrial films and I've done those," he said.

Rencaud has appeared in several movies, including "Mosquito," which he said gets lots of play on the USA Network. Two films he recently completed are now in post production, "Happy Hour" and "Hatred of a Minute." He also appeared with Mackenzie Phillips in "Mama Why."

This fall, Rencaud said, he and his wife are leaving for Los Angeles where he will try acting full time.

For the Hollywood hopeful one of the highlights of this film was working with veteran cinematographer Robin Brown.

"We shot for 92 days and that

gave me a lot of time in front of Robin's camera. There was never a boring moment," he said.

Baker and Guertin balanced their local talent with Brown as director of photography and composer Marco Beltrami, who did the score for Wes Craven's "Scream." The score also features local talent. The band C.M.F. featuring guitarist Rick Gau "The Jaff" of Westland and Derek Dutton "D2" of Farmington Hills contribute to the song "Down for the Count" and the Fastly Cadavers contributed to the song "Shark."

Brown is a distinguished British cinematographer who now lives in Bloomfield Hills. He has worked on more than 70 feature films, including such beautifully photographed works as "Gorillas in the Mist," "Gandhi," "The Secret Garden" and "A Passage to India."

"It's hard to find a DP in Detroit. I basically called him up and asked if he ever did small projects. He is listed in the Detroit production guide," Baker said. "He said bring the script over. ... We went from not having anyone to having one of the best in the business."

First-time director Guertin had no difficulty working with

the veteran.

"It was strange at first. I wondered if he would mind if I looked in the camera while he was setting up shots," Guertin said. "But working with him was great. He brought all those years of experience. He was a super guy."

Baker said he'd like to use Brown on a bigger budget project as he and Guertin are already setting sights on their next film. Nothing is in production yet as the filmmakers concentrate on promoting and selling "The Incorporated." Baker said HBO has expressed some interest.

While Baker and Guertin would like to continue shooting films in Michigan, they realize that they will eventually have to move their business operation to Los Angeles. Guertin said Michigan doesn't have the post-production facilities or the distribution company offices that Los Angeles does.

"Distributors don't take you seriously if you're a Michigan company," Guertin said.

Baker and Guertin hope "The Incorporated" helps to get Michigan some serious recognition.

Teens from page E1

sets up group numbers.

A member of the tribe (ensemble) in one of the original touring companies of "Hair," Jurkiewicz may be involved in a 30th anniversary production in New York. "It's enjoyable," he said. "They're a very good group. They picked up very quickly, took good directions, and retained it."

Once-upon-a-time, Jurkiewicz, was Cooney's teacher. He cast him in "Jesus Christ Superstar," which he directed for the Player's Guild of Dearborn, and later invited him to Florida to perform in dinner theater productions.

"He was the one who could dance," said Jurkiewicz when asked how he was able to spot Cooney's talent. "I could see he had raw talent."

After that summer in Florida, Cooney moved to New York. His stage credits include the Broadway Company of "Les Miserables," Che in the National Touring Company of "Evita," and Perchik in the 30th Anniversary Tour of "Fiddler on the Roof," which stopped at the Fisher Theatre in 1996. Last fall, Cooney was accepted into Yale University's Drama School.

Sawaya produces the show, and takes care of business while Cooney's away. "We want to do this professionally," said Jamie Earls, a North Farmington High School graduate who stars as Carrie Pippert. "It's really cool to get to work with professionals. It's almost a foot in the door. We do workshops throughout the year, and learn about auditions. You make good contacts."

Ross, a senior at Churchill High School in Livonia, attended Interlochen this summer, and auditioned for the University of Michigan's theater program. "I love to sing, dance," said Jamie Earls, a North Farmington High School graduate who stars as Carrie Pippert. "It's really cool to get to work with professionals. It's almost a foot in the door. We do workshops throughout the year, and learn about auditions. You make good contacts."

Besides the experience of working with Cooney, and other professionals, there's the friendship part, which makes this pro-

gram work for teens.

"It's interesting how many great relationships come out of it," said Ross. "Jamie and I met two years ago in the program, and are best friends."

"In the show we're best friends too," said Earls, who like Ross is appearing in her first leading role with Music Theatre of Michigan. She and Natalie were in the ensemble of previous productions, "Jesus Christ Superstar," and "Evita."

"There are people in the cast who are younger than us trying to decide if this is something they want to do," said Earls. "Everyone learns from everyone else, the students and adults."

Bob Adamczyk of Livonia acted in all the shows at Franklin High School, and participated in the program in 1995. He graduated, and did the practical thing, enrolled in a medical-assistant program, and then premed. But his heart just wasn't in it, and he's back to star as Jamie's husband, Mr. Snow, in the show.

"My passion is singing, but I love acting too," he said. "From Aug. 28-31 I've been at the International Country Music Expo in Nashville. I was one of 250 people chosen from across

the country to perform at Opryland. We'll have 15 minutes, all the major record labels, producers and managers will be there. I would love to perform country music. Musical theater is my second choice. My heart tells me to do what my passion is. I'm thinking about moving to New York."

For now, Adamczyk is enjoying working with Cooney and the cast. "It's a very diverse group of people," he said. "Going to workshops is one thing, but actually being on stage with Dan, and others who get totally into character, that's where the real learning starts. If you can't sell yourself that you can do the part how can you sell the audience?"

For Adamczyk, Ross, Earls, and others who may be hearing about soon, Music Theatre of Michigan is the in between high school - and professional. "Everyone's here, because they want to be," said Adamczyk.

"When people think of community theater they think coming to a show to see their friends, neighbors, and relatives," said Ross. "But this isn't like that. It's interesting to see people who have made a career out of it. Even people who don't know anyone in the show will enjoy it."

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