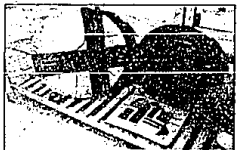


FRIDAY



Stagecrafters presents "Crazy for You" featuring Tracy Murray and Jeff Drewno, 8 p.m. at the Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. Tickets \$12-\$14, call (248) 541-6430.

SATURDAY



Plymouth is Artrageous 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in downtown Plymouth features artistic demonstrations, live music and poetry readings. Admission is free. For more information, call (734) 455-8838 or (734) 455-5531. The event continues to Sunday.

SUNDAY



R. Kelly performs with Busta Rhymes, NAS, Foxy Brown, Deborah Cox and Kelly Price, 7 p.m. at Joe Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Dr., Detroit. Tickets \$45, \$55 and \$75 call (248) 645-6666.

HOT



Author Elmore Leonard reads from his new novel, "Be Cool," with musical accompaniment by the Stone Coyotes as part of the "Be Cool" club tour, 8 p.m. Saturday, May 15, at the Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Multi-Detroit Music Award winner Jill Jack also performs. Tickets are \$10 for the 18 and older show. For more information, call (248) 644-3030 or visit <http://www.themagicicbag.com>.

A passion for music



Hoodown veterans: The Forbes Brothers, pictured here with background singer Jill Jack, are playing the Budweiser Downtown Hoodown for the sixth time on Saturday.

The Forbes Brothers play for the love of it

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER
cfuoco@home.com.net

Spearheading the Detroit country music scene, The Forbes Brothers aren't in it for notoriety, money or accolades. It comes down to one thing.

"We play because we like to play," said Scott Forbes, who along with his brother Dennis, is the core of The Forbes Brothers. "It's not a business for us. We do it for heart and soul. We don't play a lot for the same reasons other bands do. I think that people have to remember that music starts as an art, a gift."

The Forbes Brothers' art earned the band all five country music awards at the Detroit Music Awards on April 23. Country music fans can judge the band "The Night" at 2 p.m. Saturday when the group plays the 1999 W4 Country-Budweiser Downtown Hoodown in Hart Plaza. The free event runs Friday-Sunday, May 14-16.

The band includes the Forbes brothers, guitarist J.C. Whitelaw, bassist Jon Ross, keyboardist George Canterbury, drummer Dave Jack, and background vocalist Jill Jack. At the Hoodown, however, they will have a special guest.

"We're playing this year with our band and we're looking Devin Scillian," he said of WDIV-TV's NewsBent anchorman. "He's a very good songwriter and just a nice guy. At the end of our set, we'll bring him out. He's a really good lyricist, a good melodic songwriter."

Clark natives, Scott and Dennis Forbes have been playing together since they were in grade school. In early 1990, the two decided to take it a step further.

"We've been songwriters for a long time and just decided to put a band together," said Scott Forbes, who lives in Farmington Hills. Dennis Forbes resides in Keego Harbor.

In 1995, Scott and Dennis Forbes, co-owners of the Mr. B's restaurant chain, released their self-titled debut album, "The Forbes Brothers" has reached sales of 4,000.

The Forbes Brothers maintain a high profile by steering away from bars and toward gigs opening for

country music stars like Diamond Rio, The Tractors and Ricochet. This year marks the sixth time that The Forbes Brothers have played the Hoodown.

The group is planning on releasing its second CD before Christmas. Late last year the brothers teamed up with guitarist Earl Klugh to record the song "Learning to Live" for the CD

What: The 1999 W4 Country-Budweiser Downtown Hoodown
When: Friday-Sunday, May 14-16, at Hart Plaza in Detroit. The performances are free and open to those of all ages. Call (313) 259-W4W4 for more information. The Hoodown will also be featured as a two-hour local special from 9-11 p.m. Sunday, June 6, on WDIV-TV (NBC).

Schedule
Friday, May 14
3:10 p.m. TBA
4:15 p.m. Sassy
5:30 p.m. Sara Evans
6:45 p.m. Matt King
8:15 p.m. Lee Roy Parnell
9:45 p.m. Terri Clark

Saturday, May 15
noon Starlight Drivers
1 p.m. Forbes Brothers with Devin Scillian
2:30 p.m. Trini Triggs (lower stage)
3:45 p.m. Shane MacAnally (lower stage)
4:45 p.m. Chad Brock
6:20 p.m. Mark Chesnut
8:15 p.m. Lonestar
10 p.m. Tracy Lawrence

Sunday, May 16
1 p.m. Steele Canyon
1:45 p.m. Diamondback
3:15 p.m. Sheddley (lower stage)
4:15 p.m. Susan Ashton
5:45 p.m. Montgomery Gentry
7:15 p.m. The Kinleys
8:45 p.m. The Bellamy Brothers

"Two Guitars, Bass and Drums ... Songs for Survival," a benefit for the Stewart Francke Leukemia Foundation. The Forbes Brothers met Klugh when he sat in with the band at Mr. B's restaurant in Troy.

"Earl Klugh, it was a thrill working with him. I was speechless the way he plays guitar. There's nobody in the world like this guy. He's just an incredibly nice person. Earl, more than any of the other Detroit stars,

still goes out to bars and listens to musicians play. He's still a Detroit musician through and through even though he's an international star."

The Detroit country music scene is an intimate and cozy one, Scott Forbes explained. Warner Bros. recording artist Anita Cochran, who scored a No. 1 record with Steve Warner with "What If I Said," along with the Clinton River Band and Shotgun Willy are among the top of the small group of country artists in the area.

"There's not a huge country market here. Country is in kind of a depression nationally. It always comes back, but I think part of the reason country is weak right now is because of the people producing the records. They're not willing to stretch it out and experiment with rock 'n' roll. If you listen to country, it sounds like the same five musicians have played on every record," he said.

The Forbes Brothers, on the other hand, delve into several genres. "Our band has a Detroit attitude. Even though the songs are country, they're played with a hard-driving edge. We definitely are influenced by Bob Seger and Detroit Wheels, growing up here and the whole Detroit rock scene that happened over the years," he said.

"I've always loved Hank Williams Sr., but I also loved the MC5 and I really am a big fan of the alternative rock scene in Detroit like Robert Bradley's Blackwater Surprise and The Verve Pipe. People always ask me what I like and I say, anything that's done well," he said.

The Forbes Brothers have done well for themselves. Scott Forbes chalks up the band's success to the fact that it does all original material, and to Mike Watts, owner of the Plymouth production company Watts Up! and the Hoodown's producer.

"He has really helped our band out a lot. He's always liked us and he's always got us on really good shows. He's always been able to recognize original talent in Detroit. We would not have had the recognition that we've had had it not been for Mike," he said.



Onstage: Bob Thiel as "Iceman" and Patrick Moug (kneeling) as "Bones" in a scene from "Captain Beefalo." Moug's play premieres at Genitti's Hole-In-The-Wall in Northville on Friday.

Cop takes a shot at writing and acting in plays

Show times for "Captain Beefalo," at Genitti's Hole-In-The-Wall in Northville, are 7 p.m. Friday, May 14, and Saturday, May 15, and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 16. Tickets are \$10 and include hot and cold hors d'oeuvres before the show. The doors open one hour before the show. Cash bar. Reservations are required, and can be made by calling Genitti's at (248) 349-0522. The theater is at 108 East Main St.

BY MATT JACHMAN
STAFF WRITER
mjachman@home.com.net

Patrick Moug, a sergeant with the Livonia Police Department, has drawn his new play, "Captain Beefalo," from his own life.

Don't expect a gritty crime drama. The play, which premieres Friday at Genitti's Hole-In-The-Wall in Northville, is about a suburban police officer from a family with a law-enforcement tradition. Nicknamed Hoss, the cop wants to become an actor.

"He's midway through a career and he doesn't know if he wants to give it up to take this risk in life," Moug said. Adding to that pressure is an older brother, an officer nicknamed Bones, who wants Hoss to stay in police work.

The play's title is the nickname of a third brother, who has just died in the line of duty as the play opens and whose life is invoked both as a reason for Hoss to stay a cop and a reason for him to follow his dream.

"The two brothers take from Beefalo what they think he was all about," said Phil Powers, who is directing the show at Genitti's.

Hoss' conflict, Moug said, is an expression of what he feared would happen to him as he pursued his real-life goals of writing and acting.

Instead, he said, his family has been supportive — even though Moug studied acting in his spare time for a year before he told anyone but his wife.

Moug, who plays Bones to Aaron Toronto's Hoss, said he has long loved writing, acting and going to shows. But

Please see COP, E2

MUSIC

Fireballs all set to torch the charts

Who: The Atomic Fireballs
When: Doors open at 8 p.m. Sunday, May 23
Where: The Magic Stick in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit.
How: Tickets are \$10 in advance for the 18 and older show. Call (313) 833-9700 or (248) 645-6666 for more information.

Other performances by The Atomic Fireballs include:
■ "Late Night With Conan O'Brien," 12:35 a.m. Tuesday, May 18, on NBC-TV.
■ As part of the "Vans Warped Tour" with Pennywise, Blink 182, Sevendust, Cypress Hill, Black Eyed Peas, Less Than Jake, Grinspoon, The Vandals, The Living End, Suicide Tendencies, Ice T, Mötley Crüe, Dropkick Murphys, Bouncing Souls, Royal Crown Revue, Frenzal Rhomb, River Fortis, Lunachicks, Spring Heeled Jack, 7 Seconds, H2O, Bumpin' Uglies, Gramercy Riffs, Thoughts of Inosense and Slo-Poke, 1 p.m. Sunday, July 25, at the Phoenix Plaza Amphitheatre, 10 Water St., Pontiac. Tickets are \$24 in advance for the all-ages show. Call (313) 961-MELT or visit <http://www.961melt.com> for more information.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER
cfuoco@home.com.net

To say that The Atomic Fireballs are a priority of Lava/Atlantic Records would be an understatement. Atlantic Records' CEO Ahmet Ertegun has been calling lead singer John Bunkley regularly since the two met. Lava Records president Jason Flom calls Bunkley a "superstar in the making."

The band will make its big-screen debut this fall in an as-of-yet-untitled film starring Neve Campbell and Matthew Perry. In September, the octet jumps on a Playboy-sponsored tour.

But it's just all in a day's work for the always-smiling Bunkley and the rest of the Detroit-based swing/jump blues band.

"I would see him all the time even before we signed," Bunkley said of Ertegun. "He would be calling me up from the World Cup in Turkey. I was on the Warped Tour so I'd get back to the hotel and I'd have a message that Ahmet called from Turkey. It was kind of weird."

Ahmet, he's a good guy. He did some songs with Ray

Firing it up: The Detroit-based swing/jump blues band The Atomic Fireballs, featuring singer John Bunkley, will release their major-label debut "Torch This Place" on Tuesday, May 18 — the same day they appear on "Late Night With Conan O'Brien."



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARNELLE