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SCREAM MACHINES: THE SCIENCE OF ROLLER COASTERS

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Exhibit continues through September 6.
The Institute is closed to the public September 7 - October 14, 1999
for the final phase of building renovations and new exhibit installation.
Scream Machines, an exhibit produced by the Ontario Science Centre.

TasteFest from page E1

known Cuban composer who hasn't gotten out of Cuba because of what's gone on over the last 20-some years in Cuba. This is his first time out of the country," Henson explained.

"It's a great vehicle to showcase this kind of music. Everybody, I think, will enjoy it. We have the groups like Fastball, which will be a lot of fun. They're contemporary," she said.

"Reel Big Fish has been big with the college scene. I think that is perfect for TasteFest because that's the kind of roots music everybody feels like they relate to. You don't have to know any of the songs. You're going to enjoy the music."

Reel Big Fish's drummer, Carlos de la Garza, said that's the philosophy of the band.

"We're here to entertain. That's what their duty is. We try to be funny and entertaining," said de la Garza, whose video for "Sell Out" was among the best of 1998.

Bands looking to play TasteFest should be entertaining and possess integrity, Henson explained.

"When we're buying for the TasteFest, we try to buy groups with a great deal of integrity. In a nostalgic sense, we want to bring in groups that are kind of icons in their format," she said mentioning the Dramatics.

Locally, besides the Dramatics, that means The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers' 1998 Band of the Year Mudpuppy, former Band of the Year the Twisted Tamarind, who is celebrating the release of a new CD,

Mudpuppy singer Paul Randolph, a Southfield High School graduate, said he 'always has fun' at TasteFest

and award-winning blues/soul singer Thornetta Davis.

Mudpuppy singer Paul Randolph, a Southfield High School graduate, said he "always has fun" at TasteFest.

"We were knocked out by the audience response. A lot of those people show up to the gigs and have bought product. That's what it's all about. Just when you think the audiences aren't the way they used to be, they surprise you," he said.

The jazz stage will house "perennial favorites" Gwen and Charles Scales, Tim Bowman, Kimmie Horne and David Myles.

"We have our perennial favorites and it's because they work. They just work and you can't overthink it," Henson said.

Sometimes, Henson admitted, she has the urge to mix it up a bit.

"I just feel like I need to redecorate sometimes and I want to move the couch. (Then) I realize that it works and the people love it. These performers have done a great job at really maintaining a strong part of the marketplace in Detroit."

"But there's so much outstanding talent in Detroit that it's never hard to program the stages. The sad thing is, I don't have enough stage space."

There's so much talent that deserves to play that kind of event."

A local newcomer this year is Brilliant, a Ferndale-based pop band that recently released the single "Tell Me"/"The Weight of Your Words," both of which mix elements of alternative rock, Brit pop and techno.

The band includes keyboardist Dan Denton, a systems administrator in the South Redford School District, along with fretless bassist Steve Vilnius, the nephew of Latin pop star Jose Feliciano, and singer Steve Cooley.

"I really enjoyed them. They have that techno pop thing going. This is the demo I was talking about that would come down - those who are living and working in this market. They definitely have that sound going on," she said.

Music aside, Henson's main goal for TasteFest is to pull people back into the city of Detroit "to see what's going on" and to "keep it light."

"We are an entertainment venue so we try to keep it light. The bands should be suited for a performing arts environment. It's an outdoor street festival. It should be big and have a lot of energy but shouldn't be too serious."

Tour from page E1

there, Detroit has been so receptive to us since the early days - Cinderella Ballroom."

"We played everywhere there and it's always been such a great experience for us. We're anxious to come back and really lay out a great show."

Justman and Salwitz have found that reuniting with former band members Peter Wolf, J. Geils and Danny Klein has given them a newfound appreciation for the band's music. Drummer Stephen Jo Bladd is sitting out the tour and is replaced by The Rollins Band's drummer Sim Cain.

"The most part I think has been, for me, rediscovering our music. Having been away from it for so long, there's kind of a renewal and a growth that I think has happened for each of us musically," Salwitz explained.

"To go back and refresh ourselves with classic rock music, for me, has been a really inter-

'This is a J. Geils Band show, and it's really about that. It's about the body of work we created through the years, and that's what we're gonna focus on'

Seth Justman
Keyboardist

esting thing. I'm finding that I'm actually liking it now more than I ever have before."

Justman called it "a really exciting moment in our careers."

On tour, the set will be exclusively J. Geils Band material.

"That was part of our agreement to do this thing to begin with. We wanted to keep our arrangement as simple as possible. The time factor is one element of it, material is another," Salwitz explained.

"Also, this is a J. Geils Band

show and it's really about that," Justman added. "It's about the body of work we created through the years and that's what we're gonna focus on."

So far there are no plans to record new material.

"We're just taking it one day at a time. The place is pretty full right now with rehearsals and getting the show together. We'll see what the future may bring. We're not closing any doors. We're not looking forward and we're not looking back," Justman explained.

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