

STREET SCENE

Wally Pleasant takes on stalkers, Ted Nugent



CHRISTINA FUOCO

Sounding like a topic for one of his songs, singer/comedian Wally Pleasant has moved into a new Lansing home — an old Hare Krishna worship center. "It's pretty cool. They left all these pamphlets and papers laying around. We even found some court documents about suing Alice Cooper," he said.

It may end up on his next album, but currently Pleasant is celebrating the release of his latest record, "Wally World." The album is darker than his previous releases taking on subjects such as stalkers in "I Want to Have a Stalker" (Like Joey Buttafuoco had Amy Fisher and Yoda had Luke Skywalker, I want to have a stalker), murder in "Amusement Park Death Song," and fights in "Rumble at the Karaoke Bar."

"Wally World" kicks off with "The Day Ted Nugent Killed All the Animals," a timely subject considering that Nugent now has his own morning radio show. Pleasant got his inspiration from a television show featuring Nugent. "I was watching this PBS show and he was out hunting with his buddies. You know Ted Nugent, he talks like Bill Murray's 'Caddyshack' character. He was sneaking up behind this elk and he's like three feet away. I thought he's shot the elk in the head and put it out of its misery or something. But he shoots it in the butt. Then he says, 'Three hours later, we successfully tracked down the Midwestern Elk and finished the kill.'"

Pleasant said he hasn't heard any word from the "Nugent." "Knowing Ted Nugent, I'll probably get an arrow through me."

Pleasant, a 1985 Birmingham Groves High School graduate, also takes on an unnamed rocker

in "Hardcore Man" in which he sings "He lifts a lot of weights and cours around with his band, that's hardcore man... His life moves real fast he could kick Danzig's butt because he's a real butt-kickin' singer... He says I have a low self opinion but I know he's a liar." (Think it's Henry Rollins?) Pleasant pays homage to the board game Life ("Let's Play Life") and his favorite television show in the spoken-word track "Quincy."

For the song "The Ballad of Ty Cobb," Pleasant did something he rarely does. "I wanted to talk about him when he was younger and more in his time so I went to a library and did all kinds of research. It was kind of fun. I don't usually do that when I write songs." Although he usually plays college campuses and small bars, Pleasant said he would consider bringing his act into a comedy club, as suggested by WRIF's morning team "Drew and Mike."

"It would be cool to play in a comedy club. Most of my shows are at bars where, basically, if I play something loud or a cover song I'll get their attention. At a comedy club, they'd be hanging on my every word. I'd have to practice for that." Wally Pleasant's album can be ordered through Miranda Records, P.O. Box 1024, East Lansing, MI 48826.

Formerly known as The Jayhawks — lead vocalist/guitarist Gary Louris, bassist Marc Perlman, drummer Tim O'Reagan, and keyboardist Karen Groberg — are mastering a new album with co-producer Brian Paulson (Beck, Son Volt, Wilco, Supercunk) in Minneapolis.

The popular roots and country-oriented Jayhawks disbanded one year ago after the departure of singer/guitarist Mark Olsen. The band's remaining members regrouped in March, according to Louris, who says the reformed

band may soon be sporting a new name.

"I loved The Jayhawks and the things we accomplished, but since the rest of us got back together again, our sound has evolved (away from its classic country origins). We're real excited now and think of this as a new beginning." The debut album will be released this year.

Comedian Chris Rock will release his second CD Tuesday, Feb. 25, on DreamWorks, the super label founded in 1994 by Steven Spielberg, Jeffrey Katzenberg and David Geffen. The album, produced by De La Soul's Paul "Prince Paul" Houston, will feature material from Rock's HBO special "Bring the Pain," including portions that were not broadcast due to time limitations, as well as sketch comedy and rap and R&B parodies. It is the follow-up to his 1991

Atlantic Records debut "Born Suspect."

Following the release of his new album, Rock will go out on tour. Other plans include four half-hour specials for HBO scheduled to air in February. He will also put out a book based on his stand-up routines. Known for his television commercials for AT&T's 1-800-COLLECT, Rock has appeared in "Beverly Hills Cop II," "I'm Gonna Get You Sucka," "Now Jack City," "Boomerang," "CB4," and "Panther." He will next be seen in the upcoming Chris Farley movie "Beverly Hills Ninja."

If you have a question or comment for Christina Fuoco, you can write to her in care of The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, or you can leave her a message at (313) 955-2047, mailbox No. 2130, or via e-mail at CFuoco@aol.com

5 WINNER GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS BEST PICTURE

BEST DIRECTOR: MALCOLM MCDORMAN
BEST ACTOR: WOODY HARRELSON
BEST ACTRESS: COURTNEY LOVE
BEST SCREENPLAY: SCOTT ALKOVICH/ALAN BALL/DAVID LEVIEN

"The Best Movie Of The Year!"

"A STUNNING ACHIEVEMENT!"

"A BLAZING TRIUMPH!"

"A GREAT, LIBERATING MOVIE!"

"TWO THUMBS UP!"

"PROVOCATIVE & ENGROSSING!"

"***"**

"THE BEST FILM OF 1996!"

WOODY HARRELSON COURTNEY LOVE EDWARD NORTON
The People vs. Larry Flynt

STARTS FRIDAY, JANUARY 10th

AMC BEL AIR 10	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC MAPLE 3
AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	AMC STERLING CTR. 10	AMC WONDERLAND
BEACON EAST	SHOWCASE AUBURN HILLS	QUO VADIS
SHOWCASE PONTIAC	SHOWCASE WESTLAND	STAR GRATIOT
STAR JOHN R	STAR ROCHESTER	STAR TAYLOR
SHOWCASE FAIRLANE	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS
STAR TAYLOR	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR TAYLOR
STAR JOHN R	STAR ROCHESTER	STAR TAYLOR
SHOWCASE FAIRLANE	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS

THE #1 MOVIE IN AMERICA!

JOHN TRAVOLTA ANDIE MACDOWELL WILLIAM HURT
"TWO THUMBS UP!"

"A DELIGHTFUL AND DAZZLING COMEDY!"

MICHAEL
BOB HOSKINS

AMC BEL AIR 10	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC MAPLE 3
AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	AMC STERLING CTR. 10	AMC WONDERLAND
BEACON EAST	SHOWCASE AUBURN HILLS	QUO VADIS
SHOWCASE PONTIAC	SHOWCASE WESTLAND	STAR GRATIOT
STAR JOHN R	STAR ROCHESTER	STAR TAYLOR
STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS	STAR TAYLOR
STAR TAYLOR	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS
STAR JOHN R	STAR ROCHESTER	STAR TAYLOR
SHOWCASE FAIRLANE	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS

TIME MAGAZINE says:
"YOU MUST SEE 'EVITA'!"

5 WINNER GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS BEST PICTURE

ANTONIO BANDERAS
MADONNA
JONATHAN PRYCE

EVITA

NOW SHOWING EXCLUSIVELY AT MAIN ART THEATRE

ADVANCE TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT THE BOX OFFICE

STARTS FRIDAY, JANUARY 10th AT THESE THEATRES:

AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC MAPLE 3	AMC STERLING CENTER
AMC WOODS	BIRMINGHAM 8	GENERAL CINEMAS NOW
SHOWCASE AUBURN HILLS	SHOWCASE PONTIAC	SHOWCASE WESTLAND
STAR GRATIOT	STAR JOHN R	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS

JACKIE CHAN FIGHTS FOR AMERICA IN HIS BIGGEST ACTION FILM EVER.

JACKIE CHAN'S FIRST STRIKE

STARTS FRIDAY, JANUARY 10th AT THEATRES EVERYWHERE!

www.fiststrike.com

SURVIVE THE RIDER!

RAY LIOTTA LAUREN HOLLY

TURBULENCE

STARTS FRIDAY, JAN. 10

AMC BEL AIR 10	AMC EASTLAND	AMC LAUREL PARK
AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	AMC STERLING CTR.	AMC WONDERLAND
BEACON EAST	SHOWCASE AUBURN HILLS	SHOWCASE WESTLAND
SHOWCASE PONTIAC	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8
STAR TAYLOR	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS	STAR TAYLOR
STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS	STAR TAYLOR
STAR JOHN R	STAR ROCHESTER	STAR TAYLOR
SHOWCASE FAIRLANE	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS

THE NEXT EVOLUTION IN TERROR.

THE RELIC

STARTS FRIDAY, JAN. 10

AMC BEL AIR 10	AMC EASTLAND	AMC LAUREL PARK
AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	AMC STERLING CTR.	AMC WONDERLAND
BEACON EAST	SHOWCASE AUBURN HILLS	SHOWCASE WESTLAND
SHOWCASE PONTIAC	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8
STAR TAYLOR	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS	STAR TAYLOR
STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS	STAR TAYLOR
STAR JOHN R	STAR ROCHESTER	STAR TAYLOR
SHOWCASE FAIRLANE	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS