

Machines

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unregulated and unconcerned; we see a lot of racial tension, a lot of hate groups. Our surroundings affect us personally and in our songwriting," he added.

Lukacinsky, a Farmington Hills resident, added that those issues inspired the album title "Battle Hymns."

"It has nothing to do with violence. Instead, it's more about battling ignorance and racism. The music is therapeutic — it's a good way to get stuff out of our system. I hope that when people listen to the album they get the messages. But even with the seriousness of the music, we're definitely not trying to be preachy. We try to always keep sight of the fact that this band is mainly about having fun," he explained.

Weaving back and forth between ska, punk and hardcore, the music of "Battle Hymns" keeps the mood of the album upbeat.

"The issues that we bring up are depressing, but the music counteracts that. It makes it fun," Navarro said. The album was recorded in December with producer Julian Raymond, who also produced "Destruction by Definition," and mixer Chris Lord-Alge. Lukacinsky described the album as "a lot less produced. There's no second guitar parts, no horns, no keyboards. But sonically, this record is flat."

Lord-Alge's influence gave "Battle Hymns" less of a pop sound than "Destruction by Definition."

"Chris is a different mixer than Jerry Finn (who worked on 'Destruction by Definition'). He was into more of a pop sound. This guy is into more of an in-your-face phat mix," Lukacinsky explained.

Quick success

The Suicide Machines — which also includes bassist/vocalist Royce Munley of Redford and drummer Erin Pitman of Dearborn — formed in 1991 and soon thereafter opened for the Mighty Mighty Bosstones at the band's second Detroit show.

Its reputation as an energetic live band led to gigs opening for Rancid in Detroit in 1993 and 1994. The Suicide Machines, a former Observer and Eccentric Newspapers Band of the Year,

organized its own tours in 1994 and 1995.

After releasing two self-produced recordings, The Suicide Machines made its major-label debut with "Destruction by Definition" in 1996. Named "one of the best American pop albums of '96" by Alternative Press magazine, "Destruction by Definition" has sold more than 200,000 copies and landed at No. 15 on Soundscan's 1997 ranking of alternative new artists.

Besides touring with the U.S. Warped Tour, The Suicide Machines played its music to audiences in Eastern Europe and Japan.

"Prague is the most amazing city. Honestly if I were to move to any city in the world, that's one of them," Navarro said.

With "Battle Hymns," The Suicide Machines is hoping to expand its touring schedule to include Australia.

"We want to take the music to as many places as we can. Those people want to hear our music too," Lukacinsky said.

The Suicide Machines will kick off its U.S. tour Friday, April 17, with an all-ages show at Clutch Cargo's in Pontiac.

Touring, Lukacinsky explained, helps the band hone its sound.

"The real growth comes from live shows. I can see from the last album that the music has come a long way. The music, the songwriting, you can really see the progression," he said.

"Destruction by Definition" is what it is. It's a different record.

It has more of a pop type of sound. The next album might be a collection of love songs."

"This is what The Suicide Machines is all about. This is the pinnacle of what we've been doing for the last seven years. I want people to understand that we're not going to make the same album every time," he added.

The bottom line, according to Navarro, is that the band is satisfied with "Battle Hymns."

"We're happy with the way it came out. A lot of albums you can't listen to the whole thing," Navarro added saying his album is different.

"We're not shoving our ideas down anyone's throat. You can take it or leave it."

Actors

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While the work of actors, directors and playwrights appear as a smorgasbord, there's a unmistakable camaraderie.

The general attitude is that artists have to create opportunities for themselves.

Coming together

For Hainault-Buzinski, a founding member of the mid 1970s theater group Roadside Attractions — the precursor to the Attie Theatre — on-stage performances have been infrequent since her days a decade ago performing Shakespeare.

It's the same story for many

actors across metro Detroit who patch together free-lance acting assignments to support their insatiable yearnings as serious thespians in search of a compelling script, stage and audience.

As anyone bitten by the theater bug can attest, theater might be the ultimate artistic laboratory to appreciate human motivations, but it's a lousy place to make a living.

"Part of being an actor is thinking on your feet, creating your own work," said Kirk Hanley of Farmington, who will perform in three short plays, "Labor

of Love," "Hypothetical Situation," and "Paternity Ward."

A self-described "struggling actor," Hanley said he often has several auditions per week for industrial films and voice-over work.

"(Play By Play) is a way to get your work out there," said Han-

ley. "You can see the process of how a play comes together."

In fact, "coming together" is also an appropriate description for the theater community.

For many of the participants in "Play By Play," there's a hope that the marathon is both a catalyst and a microcosm of the

changes ahead.

Local participants

Kitty Dublin, Loretta Higgins, Jan Radcliff, Joyce Uzelac of Birmingham; Marshall Zweig of Bloomfield Hills; Shirley Benyas of West Bloomfield; Steve Domkowski, Dean Vanderkolk of

Clarkston; Kirk Hanley of Farmington; Sarah Kamoo of Lathrup Village; David MacGregor of Livonia; Elaine Kaiser of Novi; Gillian Eaton of Plymouth; Beverly Hainault-Buzinski of Rochester Hills; Chris Guyotte of Southfield; Diane Pickert of Troy; P.W. Henry of Westland.

Dorothy

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McGuire shorts two years before the Detroit Fox Theatre opened (in 1928). He was the No. 1 box office attraction for three years in 1938-40, has been nominated for three Academy Awards, honored with two special Oscars and won the Golden Globe and Emmy for his performance in "Bill." He has also been a hit on stage in the long-running "Sugar Babies."

He wouldn't name a favorite

film. "After 360 pictures what are you going to say. I enjoyed doing a lot of them," he said.

He also didn't want to talk about this production ("It's fine, great for the kids") or the original "Wizard" and its star.

"I don't believe anyone knew what it would become, it's one of those cult films," he said and then reeled off the names of the film's famous stars (Ray Bolger,

"I'd really like to do a show on Broadway and stay a few months, originate a role, make a cast album because that's really the best way to become known."

Jessica Grove
Dorothy in "Wizard of Oz"

Jack Haley, Bert Lahr, Frank Morgan, Margaret Hamilton) as the reason for its endurance.

He said he can't wait to come to the Fox and has good memories of Detroit from performing here in "Sugar Babies" at the Masonic.

He has a practical approach to show business.

"I enjoy getting a check every week. I love it. No, really I love the business, I'm happy to be performing," he said.

Rooney recently completed filming on "Babe in Metropolis" featuring the talking pig and scheduled for Thanksgiving release.

Jessica Grove still has more starry views of show business and a set of goals and ambitions.

"I'd really like to do a show on Broadway and stay a few months, originate a role, make a cast album because that's really the best way to become known," she said.

And when this tour is over? "I just got my driver's license and I can't wait to drive," she said.

Meanwhile, for the next year or so, she'll be dancing down the yellow brick road with Scarecrow, Tin Man and the Cowardly Lion.

WSU hosts dance conference

Michigan Dance Archive is co-sponsoring "Dance Preservation in Michigan for the 21st Century," a conference on the campus of Wayne State University Friday-Saturday, April 24-25.

For registration information, call the Wayne State University

Dance Department at (313) 577-4273.

Dance resources and information are becoming readily accessible through the Internet, CD-Rom information storage and retrieval, and digital imaging technology.

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