

S.O.A. hopes to spread love in music



STEPHANIE A. CASOLA

crooner Adam Duritz as one of his top musical influences.

He even met the enigmatic frontman after a performance at Detroit's State Theatre. And while there's no true connection to Mr. Duritz himself, Terill's band happens to be called Son of Adam — a name derived from C.S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia*. Strange coincidence? I think not.

Perhaps drawing from the inspiration of Lewis and the heart and emotion of Duritz and other artists, S.O.A. is breaking new ground. Here is a band that dares to seek out messages of love in a pop landscape that thrives on hate. Terill, a Northville resident who speaks in animated and honest tones, will quickly admit he's "a hippie at heart." But there's more to him, and to this band than hints of peace, love and understanding.

The core

Core members of S.O.A. have been together since childhood. Terill started playing drums after watching his uncle — a jazz drummer — perform.

"He was amazing," recalled the musician, wide-eyed. "That's probably why I started." Beginning with drums and piano, he gravitated toward others in his class who were also musically

inclined; namely guitarists Tommy B and Bryan Deane. They all attended Riverside Middle School in Dearborn Heights.

Growing up on a musical diet that began with the Dead Milkmen, that later gravitated toward The Cure and Depeche Mode and was nearly satisfied with grunge pioneers Pearl Jam and Soundgarden, Terill sought out music that made him think. He chose to write his own words in the same vein.

Pursuing a dream

It was the voices of Duritz and Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder that encouraged him to find a voice of his own and spread his own message. Nine years after S.O.A. first formed, he's still pursuing the dream. Terill took a short hiatus and moved to California, but he missed the band, and the feeling of brotherhood he found here.

About a year-and-a-half ago, he returned, and the band reformed. Along with Bryan and Tommy, S.O.A. now includes bassist Tom Currie of Livonia and drummer Tom Elmore of Southfield. The band is working on a follow-up to its 1998 debut, *Your Friend Jessica*.

With the expertise of engineer Tim Pak the band is recording at Ferndale's Woodshed Studio and Method House in Waterford. "He's an amazing engineer," said Terill of Pak. "He knows how to make you feel very comfortable."

Collaborating with Deane on the music, Terill writes all the band's lyrics. Most, he admits, are scribbled down between 1 and 4 a.m. Terill finds himself questioning life and his place in it in most of his songs.

"Unfortunately most of my



Son of Adam

songs come from frustration and anger," he said. But the band's music doesn't take listeners to an angry or frustrating place. S.O.A. manages to produce material that evokes inspiration. Songs like *Regret* and *Morning After*, both released on *Three Songs*, an E.P., wander from the headphones like streaming sonic wonderment. Blending the organic elements of bands like Counting Crows with the energy of heavier rock acts, S.O.A. has no boundaries.

Making a path

While it could be deemed yet another throwback to the grunge-era, S.O.A. isn't following in the footsteps of Creed. Making it's own path, the band appreciates bands like Creed and P.O.D. who've managed to break out in a musical climate seemingly dominated by messages of hate.

"I want to change the world," said Terill. "I really feel like it's possible. To me, the only way it's possible is through music. It's my gift, my obsession. I want to

live, eat, drink and sleep it."

All he really wants is to continue to follow this dream of making music, hopefully making a living, and perhaps touching listeners in some way.

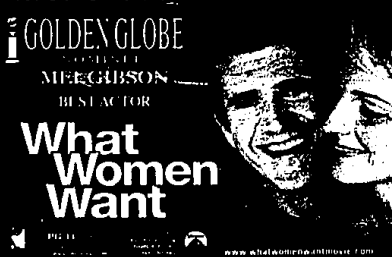
When the band performs at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia this month, listeners will have the perfect chance to experience S.O.A. on a personal level — in a fully acoustic setting.

"I love being on stage," he said. "I love the energy you get feeding off of each other. There is something cool about being in a room singing to 50 people and just playing songs."

Sing along with Son of Adam, 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, Trinity House Theatre, 38840 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia. Tickets \$8 or \$6 for theater members. Call (734) 464-6302.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about popular music for the *Observer & Eccentric News* papers. She can be reached at (734) 953-2130 or e-mail at scasola@oe.homecomm.net. To send a fax, dial (734) 691-7279.

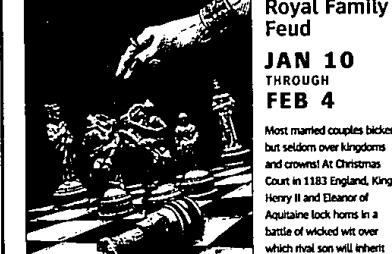
Mel Gibson Helen Hunt



NOW PLAYING	AMC FORUM 30	AMC LAUREL PARK
AMC LIVONIA 20	AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	BIRMINGHAM 8
CANTON 6	MJR SOUTHGATE 20	NOVI TOWN CENTER 8
SHOWCASE ANN ARBOR	SHOWCASE DEARBORN	SHOWCASE PONTIAC 1-5
SHOWCASE HUNTSVILLE	SHOWCASE WESTLAND	STAR FAIRLANE
STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE	STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING	STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE
STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS	STAR SOUTHFIELD
STAR TAYLOR	UA COMMERCE STADIUM	STAR WEST RIVER

Members of the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals have ruled that the federal government's policy of denying asylum to immigrants who are not persecuted in their home countries is unconstitutional. The ruling is a significant victory for immigrants and their advocates.

Meadow Brook Theatre



the LION in winter
BY JAMES GOLDMAN
MBT BOX OFFICE: (248) 377-3300
GROUP SALES: (248) 370-3316
www.mbttheatre.com

Made possible by:
LEAR CORPORATION
Observer & Eccentric!

Film from page B1

can do," said Wilhelm. In that way Yi Yi seemed most appropriate as the opener of yet another highly-anticipated season for film buffs.

This season offers an array of films whose only overriding theme may be that many come from first time directors.

Highlights

Some of these season highlights include: David Gordon Green's coming-of-age story amid poverty-stricken youth in *George Washington*, Feb. 9-11; Ed Harris' portrait of an artist in *Lolita*, Feb. 23-25; Lynn Ramsey tells the tale of a 12-year-old

boy in the Scottish projects of Glasgow in *Ratcatcher*, March 23-25; Benito Zambrano speaks of love and redemption with *Solo*, March 30-April 1; Ann Hu offers *Shadow Magic*, April 27-29 and Andrew Dominik will undoubtedly raise a few eyebrows with his controversial *Chopper*, May 4-6.

Integrity

Just as the theater is able to embrace and offer stunning debuts, it can take film-goers to places they won't reach attending more commercial movie houses. Marc Singer's *Dark Days* is the perfect example. The jour-

nalists' documentary uncovers the lives of about 75 homeless men and women in a New York Amtrak tunnel.

"There's a certain integrity about the filmmakers whose films we show," said Wilhelm. "A lot of commercial pictures you do see seem to be made by people who don't really want to be making the film."

Singer spent two years under the streets of Manhattan to make *Dark Days*. That's the sort of dedication to craft that will open eyes and educate those who might otherwise find it easy to ignore such a bleak topic.

Technology too has influenced

the films the DFT offers. Thirty years since the historic work that captured the events of Altamont Racecourse during a Rolling Stones concert, the previously unreleased and restored *Gimme Shelter* will be shown as it was meant to be on March 19. When 300,000 fans clashed with the Hell's Angels, documentary filmmaking would never be the same. The burgeoning home video and DVD market spurred the restoration of films like this one, creating prints ready for the silver screen. This is one not to be missed by Rolling Stones fans and the growing followers of the theater's Monday Night series.

DETROIT FILM THEATRE SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

The following is a partial list of films showing this season.)

■ *One Day in September* (1999) — 95 minutes, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19; 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20; and 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21.

Kevin Macdonald's Academy Award-winning documentary returns to the scene of the 1972 Munich Olympics to shed light on an incident that destroyed the idea "Olympics of Peace and Joy."

■ *The House of Mirth* (2000) — 140 minutes, 7 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2; 4 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3; and 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4.

Director Terence Davis tackles this Edith Wharton novel about a turn-of-the-century New Yorker who refuses to trade passion for money. The film stars Gillian Anderson, Laura Linney, Eric Stoltz and Dan Ackroyd.

■ *Criminal Minds* (1999) — 90 minutes, 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 5.

Seduction and murder abound in this Francois Ozon (See the Sea) feature that twists the familiar into a world driven by immoral and selfish acts. Here Ozon tries to shake up the French

film industry, a throwback to the 60's and 60's French New Wave. No one under 18 will be admitted.

■ *Shadow Magic* (2000) — 112 minutes, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Friday, April 27; 4 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28; and 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, April 29.

Director Ann Hu revisits the early days of cinema in this tribute to Chinese filmmaker Liu Jing Lun. She tells a story of passion and expresses the far-reaching effects of cinema. A favorite at Sundance and the Toronto Film Festival, it stars Jared Harris.

Now offering
Reliable Motorcoach Service To
CASINO WINDSOR

STARTING JANUARY 15, 2001
DEPARTURES FROM

- Bloomfield • Farmington
- Hamtramck • Madison Heights
- Southfield

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY
\$5.00 PER PERSON
Includes \$15.00 Food Voucher from Casino Windsor

CALL: 1-800-290-2957

Service provided by Commuter Express and is not affiliated with Casino Windsor Trademark of the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation used under license.

THE ONLY PERSON YOU
NEED TO BE IS YOURSELF

JULIA STILES • SEAN PATRICK THOMAS
SAVE THE LAST DANCE

STARTS FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	MJR SOUTHGATE 20	AMC LIVONIA 20
SHOWCASE ANN ARBOR	SHOWCASE DEARBORN	SHOWCASE PONTIAC
SHOWCASE HUNTSVILLE	STAR FAIRLANE	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE
STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING	STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE	STAR LINCOLN PARK
STAR ROCHESTER HILLS	STAR SOUTHFIELD	STAR TAYLOR
UA COMMERCE STADIUM 14	STAR WEST RIVER	

NO REFUND OR EXCHANGE POLICY. SEATING FIRST COME FIRST SERVED.

THE SPORTS AUTHORITY
Get Out and Play!

In The Sports Authority 1/14 insert, page 5 advertises Everlast apparel and bodywear. The "25% Off" promotion applies only to Everlast Men's & Women's Apparel & Bodywear.

We apologize for any confusion and inconvenience this may have caused our customers.