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Indigo Girls pack DeWare for feel-good folk-rock at weekend performance

By ELIZABETH TISCH

Acoustic guitars, lovebeads, smiling faces, and devout followers set the scene for Saturday night's concert at DeWare Field House.

The return of the Indigo Girls — Amy Ray and Emily Saliers — attracted over 1,300 fans and made the dark field house come alive with their folk-rock, feel-good performance.

Opening for the Indigo Girls was the five-member Ellen James Society from Atlanta. Although I'm not familiar with this group, they seemed to please the disappointed fans who expected the scheduled Rave Ups. Their overall style and sound reminded me of a female-Led Zeppelin, with plenty of energy.

The Society appeared on the Indigo Girls' latest album *nomads* and assisted the duo with background instruments during its set.

The Indigo Girls' growing popularity allowed the "down-to-earth" duo to more than double the admission price from last year's \$5. Also, \$250,000 worth of lighting and sound equipment brightened up this year's show. The 1989 concert production crew worked with less than half this amount.

The Indigo Girls, however, really didn't need the added gimmicks for the performance. The duo's heartfelt songs and delightful humor was all the A&M audience required.

Ray and Saliers had such a good, open rapport with the audience that they sang "Itsy-Bitsy Spider" upon a casual request from a fan.

Not only did they entertain with their musical talents, but they also

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required the audience to think twice about topics such as relationships, family, and friends.

One song in particular that mesmerized the audience was a solo song by Saliers. Her voice was captivating as she sang "The Girl with the Weight of the World in Her Hands." The lyrics were reminiscent not to be so quick to critically judge others because of the painful struggles they may be experiencing in life.

The Indigo Girls do not label themselves as a religious group, but I felt a sense of peacefulness as they serenely harmonized philosophical statements to the crowd.

There were plenty of times, though, where Ray and Saliers strummed their guitars with so much energy that the audience couldn't stop their feet from stomping and their hips from swaying. "Hammer and a Nail" was especially delightful and drew the biggest response.

The concert ended about 10:30, but the crowd cheered for their return until 11. The Indigo Girls ended with the song "Get Together" by the Youngbloods. A peace sign was projected upon the DeWare wall as The Ellen James Society and the crowd chimed in with Ray and Saliers.

The concert was a definite success and I'm sure it would be safe to say that the Indigo Girls will be more than welcomed for another folk-rock, feel-good, future performance.



Michael (Matt Craven), who may have the explanation for the strange things that have been happening to Jacob (Tim Robbins), drags him away from an explosion in "Jacob's Ladder." The Adrian Lyne film is a Tri-Star Pictures release.

'Jacob' slides down ladder of insanity

Film questions reality vs. illusions

By CAROL GLENN

"Jacob's Ladder" disturbingly explores the thin line between reality and illusion leaving the audience in a complete state of confusion until the last 15 minutes of the film. Frustrating, yes, but interesting enough to make you wait for the conclusion.

Adrian Lyne, who has some experience in directing suspense movies such as "Fatal Attraction," directs "Jacob's Ladder" and implements the perfect balance between Jacob's terror and confusion into each scene. So much in fact that the audience is never quite sure if Jacob is dreaming or if what is happening to him is real.

The movie opens with a combat scene in Vietnam where Jacob is suffering from bayonet stab wounds. Some Army medical personnel find him and hoist him into a helicopter.

Suddenly Jacob is shaken awake. It's the mid-'70s. He is on a New York City subway in his postal service uniform heading home where he and a co-worker/lover share a small apartment.

The audience learns that Jacob has recently gone through a bitter divorce, which began after his wife threw him out of the house and that his young son was killed in a car accident.

Pretty sad, yes, but it gets worse. Jacob starts having hallucinations of demons coming after him on the streets, in subway cars and at parties. He's not sure if he is dreaming that he is living with his girlfriend from the post office, that his son is dead, or even that he ever had a divorce. He can't tell if the demons are real or if he is in hell.

Flashbacks of Vietnam haunt him nearly every night and the hallucinations are making him paranoid. He is sure he's going crazy. But what is the cause of all of this?

He also discovers at a funeral of a

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fellow platoon member that he's not the only one in his platoon having these nightmares.

Is the Pentagon covering up something that happened in Vietnam? Is he already dead and having difficulty making peace before ascending to heaven or is he doomed to a life in hell? He has to find out the answers to these questions for the sake of his sanity and for his own peace.

I wish I would have known more about this movie before going to see it. I didn't know what was going on during most of the film until the last 15 minutes.

Despite what the advertisements suggest, this is not a horror film. This movie is more of an account of a tragedy that happens to a Vietnam veteran and his platoon and how it involves the United States government.

"Jacob's Ladder" stars Tim Robbins as Jacob Singer, Elizabeth Pena as Jezzie (Jacob's girlfriend) and Danny Aiello as Jacob's chiropractor and fatherly figure who gives the advice Jacob needs to gain peace with the world. The cast works well together to produce a believable suspense-filled movie.

The movie is interesting, but it is confusing and somewhat frustrating to watch. You never quite know if he this is a dream within a dream, if it's reality or if Jacob is dead. What is going on? It's the type of film that you want to ask someone what's happening, but you're sure that things are going to get clearer any minute.

"Jacob's Ladder," which is rated R and now showing at Manor East Three, may have you climbing the walls, but it is enlightening intensity. Don't walk out on this movie early.

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Date: **Mon., Nov. 12, 1990**
Time: **7:00 p.m.**
Place: **Rudder Theatre**
Admission: **Free**

Everyone is welcome!