

THE ARC ANGELS

Band brings Texas rock to Rudder

By TRICIA MARTINEZ
Special to THE BATTALION

It's August 1990 and four talented musicians are hanging around the Austin Rehearsal Complex (the "ARC"), writing music and rehearsing their solo projects in the various rooms. Someone suggests playing a few local gigs together in Austin. Two years later the four are touring the United States to support their hot new album.

The Arc Angels will bring their music to Rudder Auditorium tomorrow night. The group consists of Charlie Sexton, lead vocals/lead guitar; Doyle Bramhall II, lead vocals/lead guitar; Tommy Shannon, bass; and Chris Layton, drums.

All four members have made names for themselves with other projects. Sexton made his national debut at the age of 17 with his solo album "Pictures For Pleasure," and Bramhall played guitar with the Fabulous Thunderbirds. Shannon and Layton made up the rhythm section for Stevie Ray Vaughn's band Double Trouble.

Layton said, "Hopefully people will care about us now based on our music, and that it wouldn't be the type of thing where people felt like they had to come hear us because we used to be this or that."

Whatever the reason may be, the Arc Angels' reputation has certainly taken flight. Their first performance came before the band even formed.

"Robert Cray was doing a



The Arc Angels will perform in Rudder Auditorium Friday night.

tour through Texas and apparently a rumor had gotten out that we were already a band and he asked us to open his show," Layton said. "We went ahead and accepted it and rehearsed enough to play for 40 minutes and we've been together ever since."

Three singles have been released from the group's self-titled debut album, which has gone gold in Canada and is on the verge of going platinum.

The band is writing songs for a second album, has toured Texas and recently returned from Japan.

"It was great," Layton said. "We did tons of press, TV shows and radio shows. We were there for ten days and did six shows that were some of the best we ever had."

The Arc Angels will be touring the United States through Christmas and then they will be off to Canada.

Layton describes their music as simply Texas rock and roll but said there are a variety of sounds in their music that make it appealing to many audiences.

"It was interesting making

the album because we were trying to get to the bottom line of what the band was all about collectively and try to sound like one," he said. "Everybody was coming from different places and we had to put it all together and bring it down to a sound."

Layton said his influences come from all over.

"Some of them are just from old high school teachers that were pretty hip and influenced me personally, others range from James Brown to Muddy Waters," he said. "That music has so much soul in it that I get a good feeling."

Layton and Shannon visited Bryan/College Station in the mid-80s with Double Trouble and Layton said he is looking forward to returning.

"The crowd can expect a good show," Layton said. "We won't be shooting anyone out of cannons, but we'll be playing some good exciting songs."

The Arc Angels are presented by MSC Town Hall and KTSR-FM 92.1. Tickets are \$12 for students and \$14 for non-students. The Poorboys will open and the show will begin at 8 p.m.

Reggae arrives this weekend Jimmy Cliff delivers Jamaica to B-CS

By ANAS BEN-MUSA
Reviewer of THE BATTALION

The rhythmic sounds of reggae, Afro-Caribbean and Latin music will be heard at Stafford Opera House Saturday night.

International reggae star and Grammy award winner Jimmy Cliff will perform at 8:00 p.m.

A recent New York Times review describes Cliff as "a mixture of an elder statesman and self-conscious third-world pop star."

Cliff is an established musician with smash reggae hits such as "Wonderful World, Beautiful People" and "Reggae Nights."

For thirty years, Cliff has played with artists such as Steve Winwood and Bob Marley.

T.C. Nguyen, promotions manager of Stafford Opera House, said, "Jimmy Cliff actually produced Bob Marley's first album and introduced him to the international world."

Artists such as Bruce Springsteen, Bob Dylan, and Linda Ronstadt have performed songs Cliff has written.

Dylan said he considers Cliff's single "Vietnam" one of the best protest songs ever written.

Through the years Cliff has established himself with his own particular style of reggae.

Cliff said his homeland, Jamaica, and African religion, culture and history influence the majority of his music.

"Identity has always been important to me. I want to be in control of the quality and image of my work," Cliff said. "In Africa, I had the greatest satisfaction of my life as an artist."



Jimmy Cliff plays at Stafford Opera House Saturday.

Cliff's latest release, "Breakout," continues Cliff's attention to politically conscious lyrical content.

Nguyen said he was lucky to book Cliff because Cliff was originally supposed to play in Dallas, but had a late cancellation.

"We are fortunate to have him come," Nguyen said. "I hope there will be a large turnout."

Play depicts struggles for women's rights

By JULIE POLSTON
Feature Writer of THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's theater arts department will present "Thea," a play exploring the role of women in a historical and modern context.

The play is about the life of Dorothea Lynde Dix, an American reformer who struggled to obtain women's rights while dealing with the problems of living in a male dominated world.

Jessica Lowe, scene designer for the production, said the play is about basic human rights and depicts different images of women over time.

"What this play really does more than anything is present different images of women throughout history," Lowe said. "This includes different stereotypes of women and different kinds of women."

"The play kind of forces you to examine your preconceptions about gender," she said.

"Thea" is part of the American Laboratory Theater Project and is produced by A&M theater arts majors who comprise the cast, designed the set and costumes and choreographed the play.

"Thea" will show Nov. 12-14 and 19-21 at 8 p.m. in the Fallout Theater in 144 Blocker.

Tickets are \$4 at the Theater Arts box office or at the door.

The playwright, Ren Katherine Powell, is a former student who graduated last year. Powell is working in College Station while producing the play.

Lowe said that because "Thea" has never been produced before, the audience turnout may be a little lower than usual.

"It is different when doing a play that has never been produced before, because no one is familiar with it," she said.

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