

Trout Fishing entertains kids, adults

By Jeffrey Cranor
THE BATTALION

Trout Fishing in America is neither a wacky new name for a Seattle grunge band nor a feature out of Field and Stream magazine. Trout Fishing is a musical duo transcending any kind of label.

This comedic singing team, although equal in talent, show a slight discrepancy in appearance. Keith Grimwood (bass and vocals)

stands at 5-feet-5 inches and partner Ezra Idlet (guitar and vocals) is a towering 6-feet-9 inches.

For over 15 years, Grimwood and Idlet have brought giggles to the faces of children and adults across the states. They will bring their varied musical repertoire to Dixie Theatre Saturday.

But their music is more than just goofy, Raffi-like entertainment. At 6 p.m. they will perform a concert aimed at children, but their 10 p.m. performance

will be targeted at adults.

Idlet said their diverse musical style goes beyond age groups.

"B.B. King can play to anybody," Idlet said. "The music he plays does not sacrifice any integrity by playing on Sesame Street. Nor does he sacrifice any integrity by playing in a bar."

"The concept that runs through our music is a sense of humor and a joy of playing music and being alive."

But, audiences should not expect just plain silliness, Grimwood explained.

"We do a mixture," Grimwood said. "We'll rock. We'll do a slow song, or a meaningful song with decent lyrics. Then we'll turn around and just to prove that we don't take ourselves so seriously we'll do something that is just mind-numbingly stupid, as Ezra would say."

Trout Fishing is commonly labeled as a folk-rock band, but its sounds comprise much of the spectrum of musical genres, from reggae to rock to R&B.

The two met in 1976 when Grimwood joined Texas folk-rock band St. Elmo's Fire, to which Idlet also belonged.

The two began performing gigs on the side, and Trout Fishing in America was born, sharing the title of one of Grimwood's favorite books of the '70s hippie era.

After a broken tour that almost diffused St. Elmo's Fire, both men decided to stick together and resorted to playing on street corners with an open guitar case to catch change.

Idlet said experience has helped them develop their entertaining skills.

"If you are out there on a

street corner with a guitar case open, either you are going to grab somebody's attention and make them drop a quarter in, or they are going to walk by," Idlet said. "Guilt doesn't work."

Grimwood said now the two are now on the road promoting their upcoming album Reel Life in their red pickup, registering close to half a million miles.

"It's a 1982 F-150," Grimwood said, "and we call him Robert because his name is Robert 'Red Ford.'"

Idlet and Grimwood play not only a varied musical selection, but they also play to a varied audience.

Idlet said the size of the audience changes with each show. "We can draw an audience of a few thousand people from time to time," he said, "and then we'll go to a place with either 35 or 400 people."

Trout Fishing has been to the White House, and the Kennedy Center and performed the national anthem at a Phillies' game and songs at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.

Grimwood said all these things look great in a press kit but what is important to each of them is a rewarding performance.

Grimwood said one of their best concerts, was at a small town in Pennsylvania.

"It was a beautiful day outside, there were lots of fans. It was just a great day. Everything worked good," Grimwood said. "I looked out and there was a sea of about 4,000 people."

"You're doing your show, you have a lot of people show up and you're having a great night. That feels good."



TROUT FISHING IN AMERICA

Rainravens knock on Bryan's door

By April Towery
THE BATTALION

When Andy Van Dyke began playing guitar, he had no idea that 16 years later he'd be recording an album and touring the United States and Europe with his band, the Rainravens.

The Rainravens released its self-titled debut album in February of this year, and it will be playing at Dixie Theatre with the Derailers tonight.

Van Dyke said the band's music is different, an acoustic rock 'n' roll incorporating some country and blues.

"Everybody in the band listens to different types of music, so we bring in a lot of influences," Van Dyke said.

The band consists of Van Dyke, guitarist David Ducharme-Jones, drummer Herb Belovsky and bassist Dave Evertson. All of the musicians sing on the album, which brings together a harmonizing effect with 11 beautiful ballads, all written by the Rainravens.

Van Dyke said although he writes most of the lyrics, the entire band is part of songwriting.

"Anyone of us may bring in an idea for a song, and we'll just all work together on it in rehearsal," he said.

Van Dyke said one of the band's favorite songs to perform is "Coyote Moon," which evolved from a drum beat Belovsky played one night during a sound check.

"Coyote Moon" is a little different, not what listeners are expecting," Van Dyke said. "But it is really accessible. It's about isolation and fatherless children. There's an old proverb that says, 'It takes an entire village to raise a child.' That sense of community really struck me, so that's where the lyrics came from."

The album was recorded at The Woodshed in Austin, where the Rainravens set out to

make themselves heard.

"We went out to Nashville and New York, and talked to some people there, but no one really responded," Van Dyke said. "Deja was the label we really liked and I kept bumping into the guy (Chris Leonard) at record fairs and thought that he put out quality stuff. Even if I didn't like the artist, I liked the production. He's really well-respected by people with small labels."

The Rainravens plan to tour the Midwest in July and then come back to Austin, San Antonio and Corpus Christi for three weeks in August. They will also be in the New York area for a while in September.

"There's a big DJ in New York City who really likes our stuff," Van Dyke said. "So we're going to do a radio show and play at the Bottom Line."

Recently, the Rainravens' album was distributed in Europe. They will be touring in Europe, for three weeks in October adding to the success the album has already received there.

"We just got distribution with a label called Blue Rose out of Germany, Austria and Switzerland," said Van Dyke. "A guy from the label told us it was the best thing on their label and that it was getting good reviews over there, but it will be fun to tour there since we haven't really had much feedback from that part of the world."

Van Dyke said that although they got off to a slow start, they are enjoying their music now.

"We want our fans to know that we're out here working hard," Van Dyke said, "and we love to play."



RAINRAVENS

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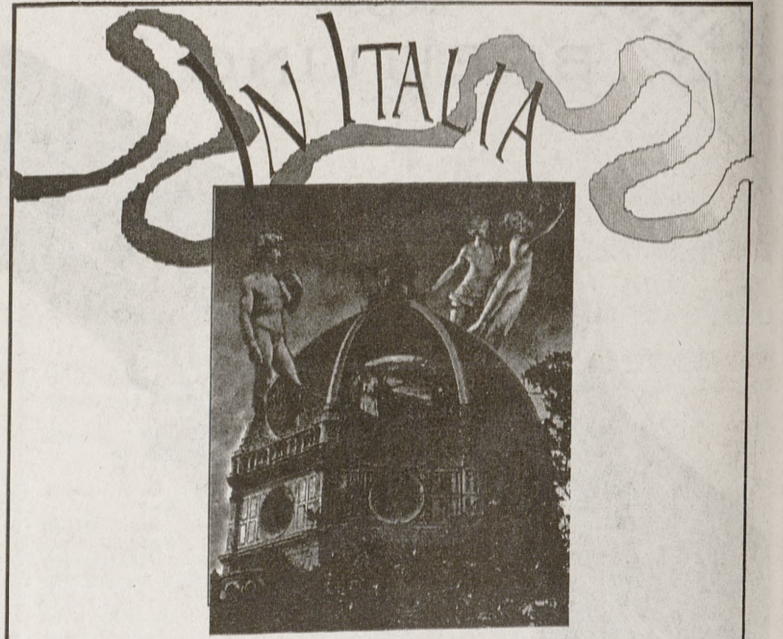
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