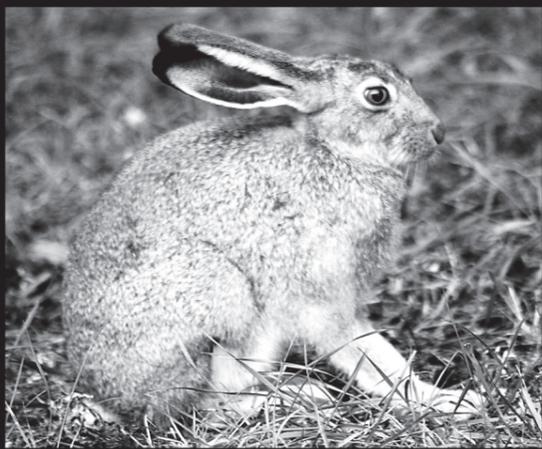


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Campus Recreation Enhancement Fund 2007-2008 Applications

The Campus Recreation Enhancement Fund (CREF) was created to help ensure that high quality campus recreation programs, equipment and facilities remain diverse, convenient, accessible, equitable, and affordable to all University of Alberta Students' Union members.

Recreation for all is an integral part of a positive U of A experience. Therefore, those organizations applying for funding from CREF must show that their request will have a positive impact on student life at the University of Alberta. The request must facilitate healthy, active lifestyles for University of Alberta students.

Deadline for applications: Fri., March 2 @ 4PM
Application forms may be obtained in the
Campus Recreation Offices
Rm. W-10 and W-90, Van Vliet Centre
or ONLINE at:
www.campusrec.ualberta.ca

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Burnin' for some dirty music

Vancouver-based klezmer musician Geoff Berner wants to revive the politics and anger in music, all while singing about female fertility and booze

Geoff Berner

With AA Sound System and Manraygun
Saturday, 10 February at 8pm
The Powerplant

CARLA KAVINTA
Arts & Entertainment Writer

To most people, accordions conjure up images of German folk singers sporting red toques, high-waisted khaki shorts and suspenders, playing on the cobblestone street corners of Eastern Europe. However, songwriter/accordionist Geoff Berner not only defies these stereotypes with a unique sound and intriguing lyrics, but also paves the road towards greater appeal for accordion folk artists with his flair for punk.

Labelling his music as the "new Jewish-Canadian drinking songs," Berner is currently dabbling in a style of traditional Jewish music known as klezmer—popular music played mostly at Jewish weddings. His latest record, *Wedding Dance Of The Widow* is the second in a trilogy of klezmer-inspired albums. But according to Berner, the theme for this record is quite different than the first instalment.

"Yeah, the first [album] was *Whiskey Rabbi* and that was more about drinking," Berner explains. "These songs mention drinking as well because drinking and music kind of go together, but this one is more about women."

"I was pretty deep into studying popular klezmer, [and] the wedding theme kept popping up again and again, so it seemed like something I should address," Berner says. "I just took this theme of the wedding and the bride and tried to think of what that really brought it to mind for me. Bride. Women. Both are symbols of happiness and fertility and that made me think about how, in Canada, we have so much happiness and fertility and prosperity, but it's tempered by the fact that our happiness is built on the misfortune of others. You know, like the fact that we stole the whole country from the First Nations and



everything."

Clearly, this Vancouver native has no problem expressing his opinions, and he does just that throughout the album. Some may consider Berner's lyrics to be controversial or even offensive, but he believes that leaving the grit in his music is essential to keeping the klezmer tradition alive.

"Well, I think there's some sex, violence and politics in the record, but then there's sex, violence and politics in the Bible," Berner says. "So, anybody who could be offended by my stuff should read about things like who Noah slept with and stuff like that."

"I guess people have an idea of tradition and it tends to be a mid-20th century, middle-class idea of respectability more than anything that has to do with real tradition," Berner continues. "In this post-war era, people want

to be respectable and middle class so anything kind of dirty or difficult is often leached out of traditional music, you know?"

Not only is Berner self-assured in defending his "dirty" music and lyrics, but he also suggests that the modern portrayal of traditional folk music is offensive in its own right.

"You see a lot of these at the [Edmonton] Folk Festival: these happy, technically proficient folk bands singing about pretty much nothing except what a happy day they're having or whatever, and there's no dirt or politics or anger in any of it," Berner says. "And to me, that's actually an act of cultural defacement—when people present folk music that way. So I'd say that by keeping the dirt in the music, I'm staying truer to tradition than people who just bowdlerize traditional music."

Hotel Dusk a sexy seductress

Hotel Dusk: Room 215

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RAMIN OSTAD
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Hotel Dusk: Room 215 is saucy dame. She's like nothing I've ever played. Everything about her is bohemian, like one of those *Choose Your Own Adventure* books where each turn of the page is potentially fatal. This time, though, I'm not flipping pages—even though *Hotel Dusk* makes me read my DS like it's a book.

I'm given a name—Kyle Hyde—and a past I can't forget. I'm an ex-

copper, canned from the force three years ago because of my search for my former partner, a man I trusted and who betrayed me. Now I use a gig as travelling salesman to look for my wrong-doer. I end up in this dump, *Hotel Dusk*, where every customer has a story and every story brings me closer to my goal.

Hotel Dusk is like a game of cat and mouse, letting me control every move with the touch screen while the other screen shows me all that I'm allowed to see. There's a simple beauty in its visual features, where three-dimensional backgrounds push forward one-dimensional characters. Every colour is in a darker shade and every character looks hand drawn, like a graphic novel with animated frames—a perfect ambience for this

tale of dysfunction.

Indeed, this saucy dame never lets me feel like I'm behind the wheel, as if I'm an action figure driving a remote control car. Every detail of this story slips out at an arduous pace, like water drops from a leaky faucet. I would have turned my back on it after a few hours if the narrative hadn't been so intriguing, my curiosity begging me to continue. Each character drawn on this tapestry of self-loathing has his or her unique and well-developed struggle. And they don't give you arbitrary puzzles to solve.

Fortunately, this story does have the satisfying ending it needs to satiate my infatuation. *Hotel Dusk* will stay in your mind long after she's done with you, kind of like your first love.