

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

The Irish Descendants

Thursday, 29 March at 8pm
Edmonton Event Centre (formerly Red's)
Tickets \$15.90 plus tax at ticketmaster.ca

Ireland has many famous symbols associated with it, such as leprechauns, shamrocks and Pierce Brosnan, but it's the Irish passion for music that has always stood above everything else. Despite not having formed directly in Ireland, the Irish Descendants do presumably consist of descendants of Irish people and they've been belting out Irish folk melodies from their home base in Newfoundland for so many years—17 to be exact—that all the snakes on the East Coast of Canada have mysteriously vanished. Just don't get them confused with that other group, The Scottish Descendants. They hate that.

Kara Keith and the Cop Outs

With Hot Panda and Electricity for Everybody
Friday, 30 March at 8pm
Victory Lounge
\$10 at door

Even after several months together, Kara Keith, lead singer for Calgary rockers Falcon Hawk, has had no luck with her new band. For every gig that she's booked for them, one or all of her band mates have somehow found excuses not to play or just don't show up. Hopefully with this gig at the Victory Lounge on Friday, Kara will be able to rally her group together and finally close out a show.

Against Me!

With Riverboat Gamblers and Fake Problems
Friday, 30 March at 7pm
Dinwoodie Lounge
Tickets \$19 advance, \$20 at door

Folk-punk group Against Me! will travel all the way from Gainesville, Florida to hit Dinwoodie Friday night. Gainesville has a storied history of breeding killer punk groups, as evidenced by the success of hardcore forefathers Hot Water Music, as well as a few lesser known bands such as Assholeparade and the Grabass Charlestons. By avoiding the *derrière* tendencies of Gainesville band-naming, along with their obvious talents, Against Me! has quickly risen up the punk popularity ladder. Their highly anticipated major label debut, *New Wave* is due out this spring.

Jay Crocker and His Electric Apes

With Guests
Saturday, 31 March at 8pm
Starlite Room, 18+
\$10 at door

Jay Crocker's ambitious album *Melodies from the Outskirts* is self-described as "avante-garde indie pop Afro jazz," and features a sound full of "soul, angles, roots, grit, and heart." A significant number of adjectives for an eight-song record, indeed, but is it possible that Mr Crocker can satisfy his audience's desire for hardy, down-to-earth descriptors? Find out Saturday, when Crocker takes the stage with his ten-piece live band the Electric Apes, who have been described by various NRA spokesmen as damn dirty.

The Acorn

With Storyboard and Hills Like White Elephants
Saturday 31 March at 8 pm
Victory Lounge, 18+
\$10 at door

In a nutshell, Ottawa-based quartet The Acorn claim to be influenced by such various eccentricities as the scabies vaccine, that old lady who said, "Where's the beef?" and 16th century Japanese haiku poet Basho. Wha! Haikus! That settles it, The Acorn deserve a haiku dedicated to them, and here it is!

The Acorn's folk rock
Hits Victory Saturday
Basho would be proud

JONN KMECH
A&E Poet



In it for the long program

Saturday Night Live's Amy Poehler chats about her role as a figure skating diva in *Blades of Glory*

Movie Preview: *Blades of Glory*

Starring Will Ferrell, Jon Heder, Will Arnett and Amy Poehler
Directed by Josh Gordon and Will Speck
Opens Friday, 30 March
Empire Theatres

MARIA KOTOVYCH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

After spending a number of years on *Saturday Night Live* and dabbling in comedic films such as *Mean Girls* and *Tenacious D*, there's really no stopping Amy Poehler from making bizarre conjectures about ice sports. Her upcoming move, *Blades of Glory*, might feature the eccentric, blond-haired vixen performing elegant axel jumps, but if Poehler had a choice, she'd prefer the sport that involves screaming, "Harder!"

"From what I can see, I think you can smoke while you [curl] and I enjoy any sport where you can sit and yell at the people that are performing and also smoke," she says with a laugh. "And my husband [*Blades of Glory* co-star Will Arnett] and I really got into curling and watching it over the Olympics. I don't know how to do it, but it looks like a lot of fun and it's a crazy-looking sport."

Blades of Glory, unfortunately, isn't about curling, but rather figure skating. Chazz Michael Michaels (Will Ferrell) and Jimmy MacElroy (Jon Heder) are two champion figure skaters whose behaviour at a competition gets them banned for life, but thanks to a loophole in the rules, they discover that they can still continue as a pairs team. And they do. This infuriates Fairchild (Amy Poehler) and Stranz Van Waldenberg (Will Arnett), the brother/sister current reigning champs who spend the movie trying to bring down the new pairs team.

"My character, Fairchild, is like that evil girl who would sit on the top of a cake. She looks

sweet, but inside, she's very sour," says Poehler. "What I [thought] about was prima ballerinas and ice queens, really rich mothers and also super villains where you think ... they look very together, and inside, they're kind of like maniacal crazy people."

Thinking it would be fun to play a villain is really the only reason Poehler took on her character; however, this rational approach to picking a role was very different than the more unconventional way in which she normally narrows down her job offers.

"I like to think that I'm going to try to represent those people who spent their whole lives working at their craft by pretending to do it for two hours in a movie."

AMY POEHLER

"As far as picking roles, I don't know if this is wise, but I just take scripts and I just throw them up in the air and whatever one lands [in the place I want] is where I go," Poehler describes, her comedy roots in full force. "So right now, I'm in real trouble because I have to play a 45-year-old Black janitor and I don't think I can pull it off, but that's what landed so that's where I'm going to go next."

Poehler doesn't do any sweeping in *Blades of Glory*, neither as a curler nor as a janitor. But in order to play Fairchild, she did have to learn to skate. While she admits that her husband and Ferrell had to prop her up on the ice at times, she currently can skate backwards and do different tricks and jumps. It was nice working with her husband as her on-screen skating

partner, Poehler explains, because she was able to rehearse her moves with someone she trusts.

"We did a lot of practicing while we watched our dogs and while we were watching *Lost*. Yes, we did a lot of at-home practicing of our moves," Poehler says.

Blades of Glory features the new skating abilities of Poehler, and also showcases a number of Olympic athletes like Nancy Kerrigan and Peter and Kitty Carruthers, the brother/sister 1984 Olympic silver medallist pairs team who hail from Poehler's hometown of Burlington, Massachusetts.

"I like to think that I'm going to try to represent those people who spent their whole lives working at their craft by pretending to do it for two hours in a movie," Poehler says with a laugh.

Along with learning to skate like the Olympic athletes, Poehler and her co-stars also had the honour of dressing in the outrageously flamboyant costumes ubiquitous in the figure skating world. Poehler explains that their outfits started off looking pretty wild; however, after re-watching the Olympics, she and her co-stars would realize that the clothes needed to be even crazier. For example, one item that Poehler wears in the film lights up like a Christmas tree, while another creation makes her and Arnett look like thugs—outdated thugs, at that. Ferrell and Heder don't miss out on the costume fun either, Poehler notes.

"[They] sport some really special looks that I think [are] going to start sweeping the campuses and be the next trend," she says with mock seriousness. "It's very, very tight lycra outfits and lots of jewels and feathers and stuff. We'll see if that catches on."

Along with predicting fashion trends, Poehler also envisions her plans for the near future.

"I'm going to go on a curling tour, and I'm going to do a fierce curling regimen of drinking beers, packing butts and yelling at my fellow players," Poehler laughs.