

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Funny Games

Opening 14 March

Directed by Michael Haneke

Starring Naomi Watts, Tim Roth, and Michael Pitt

Princess Theatre

An exact shot-for-shot remake of the original 1997 Austrian horror movie of the same name, one might think that *Funny Games* is going down Redundant Road like the infamously awful *Psycho* remake, until you realize that it's also by the original director. Unlike Gus van Sant trying to channel Alfred Hitchcock and failing miserably, director Michael Haneke channels himself in this American version of his film study on the effects of violence in our culture. Starring Naomi Watts, the film revolves around two young white-gloved serial killers who put a family of three through a gauntlet of torture and violence.

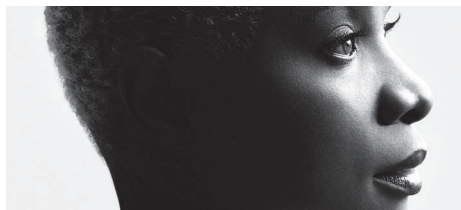
Amuse

by the Vohon Ukrainian Dance Ensemble

Saturday, 15 March at 7:30pm

Jubilee Auditorium (11455 87 avenue)

The Vohon Ukrainian Dance Ensemble brings its fiery Ukrainian merrymaking and traditional dress to the Jubilee stage with *Amuse*. Brother and sister team Ken Kachmar and Debbie Kachmar-Potter direct this tale of a young man's voyage into the world of art, forging a story so grand it would make Ivan want to go and see the sun again. Vohon (Ukrainian for fire) consists of 60 dancers from Edmonton and Northern Alberta who all volunteer their time in order to promote their heritage with the group—both in Canada and worldwide, as the group has toured both in both Europe and Asia.



Angélique Kidjo

Monday, 17 March at 8pm

Winspear Centre (9720 102 avenue)

Born in Benin, West Africa, Angélique Kidjo was singing by the age of six in her mother's theatre group. Now a Grammy-Award-winning vocalist, Kidjo performs in four different languages—Fon, Yoruba, French, and English—with music variously described as jazz, Afrobeat, rumba, and world fusion. Besides her onstage career, Kidjo has been actively involved in humanitarian causes: she's an acting UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador since 2002 and has also founded The Batonga Foundation, which helps young girls in Africa receive higher education. Due to her work on the Darfur crisis, Kidjo received pro-bono praise from Bono, who's pro-Kidjo.

Paul Potts

With the Three Graces

Wednesday, 19 March at 8pm

Winspear Centre (9720 102 avenue)

While Paul Potts' success has been enormous in Britain, this mild-mannered former cellphone salesman has just recently begun to strike a chord with North American audiences. Quiet and reserved in his first appearance on this past summer's *Britain's Got Talent* show, Potts blew away audiences with his operatic tenor, singing a rendition of Giacomo Puccini's "Nessun Dorma," which stunned Simon Cowell and brought one of the judges to tears. The video of this performance has consistently remained as one of the most-viewed videos on YouTube ever since.

Potts went on to sweep the competition, release his now multi-platinum opera album *One Chance* in July 2007, and is currently embarking on his first North American tour since rising to fame.

JOHN KMECH
Celebrity schmoozer



The solo musings of Raine Maida

Our Lady Peace's frontman turns to face the mirror about his band, religion, and Columbia Records

musicpreview

Raine Maida

With *Billy The Kid*

Friday, 14 March at 8pm and Saturday, 15 March

at 5pm

The Starlite Room (10030 102 street)

KRISTINA DE GUZMAN
Arts & Entertainment Staff

For years as the frontman of Our Lady Peace, Raine Maida was the young man hiding behind the counter, covering his face as he expressed his frustrations in esoteric ways. These days, Maida is diving for the root of his troubles, unwilling to concern himself with what others might say just for the chance to be truly honest with everyone—including himself.

A few months ago, Maida independently released his first solo effort, *The Hunter's Lullaby*, in which he divorced himself from OLP's usual brand of alt-rock for something more beat driven. The genre shift saw Maida performing spoken word, as well as a guest appearance by rapper Jared Paul on "The Less I Know."

"I listen to a lot of hip hop, but the good hip hop that's out there—guys like Saul Williams, Mos Def, Talib Kweli, Q-Tip, Sage Francis—that's what I consider the true hip hop. These people are more spoken-word artists first. The words are really important to them," Maida says before giving an example of what he considers fake hip hop. "I don't have the last Ludacris record."

One thing that hasn't changed much in Maida's music is his socially conscious lyrics.

One theme that has become increasingly prominent is religion. Having grown up as an "Italian Catholic punk," Maida has always felt a tug-and-pull with his religious identity. While he has no trouble discussing politics, he continually searches for the right thing to say when discussing the divine.

"I'm a walking contradiction," Maida sighs. "The concept of a single god is so removed from where I am as a human being on this planet right now. But at the same time, whether it's just bred into my soul, it's like, if I'm on an airplane and there's turbulence or something, it's all 'Our Fathers' and 'Hail Marys' under my breath. I do believe in something powerful and bigger than us, but religion as an institution is really parallel to something like Wal-Mart as an institution for me."

Growing up, Maida recalls going to a Catholic school, going to confession on Saturdays, and attending mass on Sundays, while constantly having fights with his father on the subject of religion.

"I will never let a record company manipulate this band the way that Columbia Records did on our last record."

RAINE MAIDA
SINGER-SONGWRITER

"As I went into high school, I kind of stopped going to church. It was like, church on Easter, Christmas, and maybe a few times during the year and some baptisms and confirmations, but I wasn't regular. I used to fight with my dad about it, and it got into bigger discussions as I thought I got smarter and wiser. In university, I took some theology classes, and [I started] arguing with him."

Maida has since come to realize that changing someone's religious views isn't always fair.

"I can argue for myself that I don't want to go to church for whatever reason, but I started trying to change my dad's views on Catholicism, and what right do I have? As long as [they're] not hurting someone or taking extremist views,

what right do you have to try to strip away someone's faith that keeps them solid and grounded everyday? I've really come to understand that. That's almost as evil as just discounting religion completely."

Having released *The Hunter's Lullaby* without any intention of recognition and to subsequently have people notice, Maida feels more confident about taking more of an independent approach for the next OLP record. The release of *Gravity* in 2002 and *Healthy in Paranoid Times* three years after witnessed many changes in the band's sound, including the substitution of Maida's renowned cryptic writing for more easily digestible lyrics. While he has no ill feelings towards the record companies he worked with for so long, Maida admits that, in recent years, the band fell victim to the mindset that record labels know best.

"We were total pawns. We were totally played, and it took the art out of our music," Maida confesses. "[The record companies] wanted us to write for the radio, and it almost broke up the band. It was really devastating to be involved in that."

"Again, I don't have regrets. It's like, I went through that. I will never go through that again. I will never let a record company manipulate this band the way that Columbia Records did on our last record."

Knowing first-hand how music can be lost amidst profit goals, Maida still feels that music has a purpose. Recently, he came across a remark made by Neil Young about music's current lack of power to bring about change.

"Music doesn't have the power to change the world," Maida agrees, before explaining his problem with the statement. "What music does is it changes people, and that changes the world, so to say that music doesn't change people anymore is just ridiculous. It does everyday. It doesn't have to be on a political or social level. You could be feeling shitty, and it makes you happy. And if that's all it does, it's changing the world. It's making it a better place."