

'Filter' Out The Heavy Stuff

By Fereba Zamani
Staff Writer

Imagine flipping back and forth between two very different radio stations.

At one spot on the dial you have hard-edged, heavy metal rock, and at the other soothing acoustics.

That contrast pretty much captures the essence of Filter's new album, "The Amalgamut" (Reprise Records) which is faring well on the Billboard charts.

Unfortunately, this combination doesn't work quite so well for this album. Richards Patrick (vocals), Geno Lenardo (guitar), Frank Cavanagh (bass), and Steven Gilis (drums) are just not heavy enough for that pain-behind-the-ear sound that works well for bands like Papa Roach.

It leaves Filter sounding flat and out of its element. Patrick's voice is too hushed and high-pitched for the heavy drumming and guitar riffs, so he ends up fading into the background. What a shame, since Patrick's lyrics are strong and moving.

Filter's true genius shines through on "God Damn Me" and "The Only Way (is The

Wrong Way)," on which the band sticks to a softer, mellower sound, nicely blending Patrick's heartfelt lyrics with the band's acoustic background.

They compromise on "Where Do We Go From Here" and "My Long Walk To Jail" by shaping the music with a rougher edge yet still maintaining authenticity.

Just about every other number, like "So I Quit" and "American Cliche," leaves them sounding like a freshman rock band - very sloppy and uncoordinated. Filter is definitely more along the lines of Third Eye Blind than Metallica.

Filter is best known for 2000's "Take A Picture," a haunting acoustic number that propelled the band into the spotlight (and in heavy circulation on MTV and VH1), and added proof that they are at their best when they stick to this style.

Although you'll find yourself skipping over nearly half the tracks, the album still manages to be a nice treat. You'll just have to go digging to find the gems. Now, if we could only buy it at half price . . .

Green Shutter Gallery Features Varied Works

By Arlene B. Quitoles
Staff Writer

The Hayward Arts Council currently is displaying works by Christian Jusinski, E.A. Kellas and Machiko Kondo at Main Street's Green Shutter Gallery.

Admission is free to the show, which will run through Sept. 13. The gallery is open Wednesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visitors can view sculpture by Jusinski, oil on canvas and mixed media by Kellas, and paintings, drawings and prints by Kondo. Selected pieces are for sale.

"It's very exciting work," said gallery director Diana Lynn. "It's very fresh. It's delightful, not morose in any way."

This particular show features

works larger in size and quantity than normally displayed in the gallery. And, said Lynn, it's unfortunate that more could not be shown.

Adjacent to each work of art are artist's statements explaining what art means to them, the derivation of their styles and what they are expressing.

Lynn has been art director for the Green Shutter Gallery for over two years. When selecting items for display, she looks for works that are complementary and tries to include artists with strong ties to Hayward.

"There's something lyrical in their work that I was drawn to," said Lynn of the works now on display.

Though the artists share a

lyrical quality in their pieces, uniqueness in artistry is evident.

"Repetition of shapes is very much at the core of my poetic instinct," said Jusinski's statement, "A sense of interior and exterior is also prominent, reflecting the duality of the human experience as I see it."

Jusinski studied technical theater and design and completed a bachelor's of fine arts in industrial design.

Kellas' received her BFA from Cal State Hayward, where she studied painting. She is participating in the MFA program at JFK University.

Her current work is abstract and explores the fundamental elements of art: line, shape,

color, value, texture and space.

"I am moved by simple marks, the smallest gesture exquisitely exposed, pulsing on the surface of the picture plane and by faint suggestions of shape and form in unfathomable distances of deep color," said Kellas.

Kondo's works originate from "mono no aware," a Japanese expression meaning "beauty tinged with sadness," illustrating the uncertainty of life itself, noted Kondo.

Kondo received her BFA from Sonoma State University and MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute.

The Green Shutter Gallery is located on Main between C and B streets.

'Fantasticks' To Close CSUH Summer Theater Run

By Nettie Koo
Staff Writer

The musical fable "The Fantasticks" will be the final production presented by the 2002 Highlands Summer Theatre program at Cal State Hayward, beginning Friday.

"The Fantasticks" is a fable about young love and people's ideas of what that is versus reality.

The musical drama focuses on a young couple in their teens who discover that real life provides more than enough drama. The drama of life injects harsh reality into their relationship.

This musical features some of theatre's most beautiful songs, including "Soon It's Gonna Rain" and "Try to Remember."

"The Fantasticks" authors, Harvey Schmidt and Tom Jones, created the longest running show in history. Since the play was written 40 years ago, it has run on Broadway every year until this year.

For Highlands Summer Theatre, the play was directed by CSUH senior Michael Ryken, who is directing his first, main-stage show. A theatre major at CSUH, Ryken has chosen to stick to the original storyline

and promises that "Fantasticks" fans will not be disappointed.

"Pretty much (for) anybody who is familiar with "The Fantasticks" for the most part, we are doing what they would expect," said Ryken. "We have added a couple of things that are very unique to us that our little group has come up with to give it our own personal touch."

Ryken said "The Fantasticks" has something for everyone. Not only is it very poetic and romantic, there also is a lot of silly fun in the play. The romantic musical score includes waltzes and tangos.

According to producers, "The Fantasticks" is a play for the whole family.

"The story is a simple love story," said Ryken. "It is very family-oriented and there is something everyone can like in the show."

The CSUH Theatre and Dance Department sponsors Highlands Summer Theatre every year to provide opportunities for high school students to participate in college productions. The high school students receive college credit and producers say everyone involved learns from one another.

"I think Highlands is a really good experience for high school students," said Andres Enriquez, a sophomore at Castro Valley High and a Highlands participant. "There are a lot of nice people and everyone is very friendly and easy to get along with."

Enriquez said that the program has encouraged him to

attend CSUH upon graduating high school. He also hopes that the program will expand so that more high school students can participate in the future.

"I think it's fabulous that high school students get the opportunity to work with college students," said cast member and CSUH junior Dustin Halterman. "Everyone contributes their own ideas for the play."

"The Fantasticks" is the final production for Highlands Theatre this summer. Earlier in the summer, productions of "Measure for Measure," "Cinderella" and "The Taming of the Shrew" were performed in front of live audiences.

In conclusion, Ryken defined "The Fantasticks" true meaning.

"The Fantasticks are dreamers, people who are not necessarily based in reality all the time," said Ryken. "The young lovers are definitely Fantasticks, which refers not only to the characters but to all of us in a way."

"The Fantasticks" will open Friday at 8 p.m., with performances Aug. 17, 23 and 24 at 8 p.m. and concluding with an Aug. 25 matinee at 2 p.m.

All performances will be held in the campus' Studio Theatre. Tickets are on sale at the CSUH box office at the Studio Theatre. General admission is \$12, \$10 for seniors and youths.

A special rate of \$8 is available for all CSUH students.

Persons wishing more information may contact Sylvia Medeiros at (510) 885-4299 or by via email at smedeiro@csuhayward.edu.



Opening night: From left, Cassie Maggio, Sheba Howerton and Katie Musgrave rehearse a theme from "The Fantasticks," which opens Friday in the CSUH University Theatre. Photo/Alan Dye



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