

FEATURES

The Duquesne Duke

Scorching spring and summer tours

JON WALDBAUER
FOR THE DUQUESNE DUKE

The summer music scene is shaping up strongly with new releases on the way from Audioslave, Dave Matthews Band, Foo Fighters, Kanye West, Fat Joe and System of a Down. The record industry showed growth last year in album sales, thanks to blockbuster albums by Usher, Outkast, U2, Eminem and Norah Jones, but concert attendance has declined recently, mostly due to high ticket prices. Many of the highest priced tours came from artists like Prince, Madonna and Metallica, who many people would call "classic" acts and past their prime. Concerts announced for the Summer 2005 season foreshadow the return of popularity to the live concert experience. Of the hundreds of bands hitting the road this summer, it's difficult to know where to spend that hard-earned cash. Here's a look at some of your best bets.

Maroon 5
From opening for John Mayer two short years ago to becoming one of the biggest names in popular radio today, Maroon 5 is riding their wave through fame. They found their niche on MTV by releasing their second single off of 2002's "Songs About Jane." "This Love." Maroon 5 won the Grammy for Best New Artist earlier this year, but that hasn't stopped their relentless work ethic. Still on the road, Maroon 5 will hit Duquesne's own A.J. Palumbo Center on Friday night.



Green Day
It's been 11 years since the release of "Dookie" thrust Green Day into the public eye. The band's fame fluctuated in the new millennium, never leaving the public's peripheral, but the release of 2004's punk rock opera, "American Idiot" brought Green Day front and center. The new album is an escape of the limits of their old style without losing the energy and flare that propelled them to the top. Two songs from "American Idiot" even break the nine-minute mark, which is especially impressive considering that most of their songs off records like "Kerplunk" and "Nimrod" never saw four. Quantity often is implemented where quality cannot be supplied, but the new album is an exception to that rule. Green Day will rock Mellon Arena on April 23, bringing with them one of the quickest growing bands in the nation, My Chemical Romance. Upbeat, goth-punk songs with angst-ridden lyrics define the New Jersey band's style and will hold an

anxious crowd over with no problem until Green Day hits the stage.

Sarah McLachlan
Pittsburgh will host singer/songwriter Sarah McLachlan on May 25 at the Mellon Arena as she winds down her tour to promote 2003's "Afterglow." Best known for "I Will Remember You" and "Angel," McLachlan has held her own among the growing ranks of popular women musicians and was an original act on the Lilith Fair tour in the late nineties.



Nine Inch Nails
It has been five years since touring for 1999's "The Fragile" wrapped up, but Nine Inch Nails' frontman Trent Reznor has returned to the road to promote "With Teeth," due out internationally May 3. A small number of tour dates will ravage the United States through May 31, when Reznor and his new bandmates will cross the world for tours of Europe and Japan. Nine Inch Nails will make a two-night stop in Philadelphia on May 18 and 19, but both shows are sold out, forcing many salivating headbangers to wait for yet-to-be-announced fall tour dates.

Rascal Flatts
Blending the sounds of pop music and country to create something of a cowboy band, Rascal Flatts has toured with the likes of Kenny Chesney and Uncle Kracker. Proof of their growing popularity is in the sales of the band's 2004 release "Feels Like Today," which knocked Green Day's "American Idiot" out of the top spot in record sales in October of last year. The nominees for American Music Awards' Best Country Band will stop in



Dave Matthews Band
Kicking off summer album releases is Dave Matthews Band, releasing their first LP since Dave Matthews' 2003 solo effort, "Some Devil. Stand Up" will hit record stores May 10 and will provide two stops at the Post Gazette Pavilion on June 4 and 5. Fans had a chance to wet their lips with politically fueled performances hyping voter

participation in the 2004 presidential election, but it's been nearly a year since a full tour. For many DMB fans, that's too long.

Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers
Seasoned veteran Tom Petty will resume touring this summer after a two-year break. Stops in Florida, Georgia and Ohio will give Petty a chance to get comfortable with the Heartbreakers again before their June 15 show at the Post Gazette Pavilion. Old and young hippies alike can count on a strong show from Petty, whose concerts will most likely provide a musical synopsis of the band's 28 year history. Opening act the Black Crowes will have no trouble igniting the crowd and setting the pace for the show.

Ozzfest
The summer's biggest collection of metal acts will roll through the Post Gazette Pavilion July 23. Metalheads will get a chance to see Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden, Black Label Society, Rob Zombie, Mudvayne and Killswitch Engage, among many others. With over 15 bands performing on two stages, it's no surprise that the festival will kick off at noon. A Dozen Furies, the band that won MTV's "Battle for Ozzfest" where one representative of a band competed against others for a chance to perform on the summer concert tour, will be appearing on the second stage.

Kenny Chesney
Country music's well-documented rise over the last decade has been personified, most recently, in Kenny Chesney. Riding the momentum of last year's "When the Sun Goes Down" and his recent follow up "Be As You Are," Chesney is climbing the ranks of country music's elite, selling out major venues across the nation. Heinz Field will host his next Pittsburgh performance on July 30.

Vans' Warped Tour
Punk fans suffer through fall, winter and spring for their shot at the summer's biggest concert event, the Vans' Warped Tour. The annual festival is scheduled to stop at 40 cities across the nation and will feature two stages of performers including Atreyu, Billy Idol, Dropkick Murphys, Fall Out Boy, My Chemical Romance, The Offspring, Senses Fail, Simple Plan, Something Corporate and Thrice. Pittsburgh hosts the madness August 1 at the Post Gazette Pavilion.

Weekend EVENTS

Music:

Honda Civic Tour presents
Maroon 5
with The Thrills
7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 15
A.J. Palumbo Center

The Shins
with Ari Hest
Friday, April 15
CFA Lawn
Carnegie Mellon University
Shadyside

Mindless Self Indulgence
with Morningwood, Killradio
7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 15
Mr. Small's Theater
Millvale

"Exposure"
featuring more than 20 local alternative
and punk bands
10 a.m.
Saturday, April 16
Mr. Small's Theater
Millvale

Sparta
7 p.m.
Saturday, April 16
Rex Theater
South Side

Seven Color Sky
with Jeff Coffin MuTet
7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 16
Club Cafe
South Side

Comedy:

Bobby Slayton
8 and 10 p.m.
Friday, April 15
7 and 9 p.m.
Saturday, April 16
The Improv
Waterfront

That's WHACK

There I was, minding my own business on Wednesday afternoon, standing on the corner of Magee and Seitz Street in front of the music school, when along came a blue BMW. Behind the wheel, a girl with flowing blonde hair and aviator sunglasses. She stopped at the stop sign, looked once, twice, smiled, and then proceeded to peel out in front of me and about ten other people.

Beamer Girl, I remember you from high school. You were the one who drove daddy's BMW to school and peeled out of the parking lot on the way to lunch with all the windows down, blasting that hot new Sisqo single, "Thong Song," to make sure everyone knew you were driving daddy's Beamer. In high school you were annoying, but I was able to overlook your "I look really cool in daddy's car" flaw for one simple reason: you were only 17. You had just gotten your license. You didn't know any better. But honestly, I always believed that by 21, once your impressionable high school friends were long gone and you were a college student, you would be mature enough to be over this phase. But apparently, five years later you still think we will turn our heads and comment, "My god, did you see that girl peel out? She is awesome!"

This week, we dedicate "That's Whack!" to you Beamer Girl, because you certainly are awesome ... wait, no, I mean whack.