

Show

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER • FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2008

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LABORING FOR love

'WALL-E' DIRECTOR ANDREW STANTON TALKS ABOUT THE JOY AND CHALLENGE OF HUMANIZING A ROBOT.

By **BARRY KOLTNOW**
 THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Andrew Stanton, the man responsible for "Finding Nemo," is not resting on his laurels.

He returns today with the most unlikely of movie heroes — "WALL-E."

The title character is a lovable but lonely robot left on a post-apocalyptic Earth after the rest of civilization has

deserted the planet. WALL-E, which stands for Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-Class, spends his days scooping up trash, crushing it into cubes and then arranging the cubes into neat piles. He has been doing this for hundreds of years, and it isn't until a sleek, updated feminine robot comes along that WALL-E realizes how much he

SEE STANTON • PAGE 3

Out there

Events in and around O.C.



MUSIC | 311

The funk/rock/reggae group is joined by rapper Snoop Dogg and all-rock group Fiction Plane at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$20-\$47.50. Verizon Wireless Amphitheater, 8808 Irvine Center Drive. 949-855-8096. ticketmaster.com



VISUAL ART | SAWDUST ART FESTIVAL AND ART-A-FAIR

The Sawdust Art Festival kicks off today with Aloha Day. There will be a ribbon cutting, souvenir leis and complimentary cake. The festival offers arts and crafts, a Children's Art Spot, a ceramics booth and glass-blowing. It continues 10 a.m.-10 p.m. daily until Aug. 31. 935 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach. 949-494-3030. sawdustartfestival.org.

The Art-A-Fair also kicks off today. This year features a Venetian theme and a look at 125 internationally juried artists, plus music, cultural events and daily workshops. The fair runs 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sundays-Thursdays until Aug. 31. 777 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach. 949-494-4514. art-a-fair.com

NEXT WEEK | THE JUICE TAKES YOU TO CAMP PENDLETON

On the Fourth of July, The Juice with Jennifer Galardi discovers what it's like to train with the military. Galardi will also dedicate a segment to those who are serving the country.

On Wednesday, she goes to Anaheim Hills to box with a Land Rover dealer who has some strange tactics.

Join The Juice weekdays at www.oregister.com/juice



More listings inside | **Show 11**

Online: complete listings at events.oregister.com



APPEALING:
 "WALL-E" may be a trash-compacting robot, but he's got soul.

PIXAR

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 Dates, programs and artists are subject to change.



Laura Bell Bundy from the Original Broadway Cast of Legally Blonde The Musical. Photo: Joan Marcus



REVIEW

Petty in control at the Bowl

The Heartbreakers may be the most commanding 'heritage' rock band out there.

By **BEN WENER**
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Desert Jeff loves the Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers greatest-hits show. You know the one: Petty and his gang come out, blast expertly through a half-dozen classics, toss in a few new ones because there's product to promote, then get right back to the smashes, each one more terrific than the last.

"I could see that show 15 times and not get bored," he tells me after Steve Winwood's jammed-out and funk-ed-up 75 minutes, as we start wondering what we're doing back here at the Hollywood Bowl on Wednesday night, spending another evening with the Heartbreakers so soon after the last.

Wasn't there some talk – sometimes from Petty himself – about their superb 2006 tour being the last for a while? Didn't that Stevie Nicks-studded show underneath this shell in the hills play like some sort of farewell? Why, it begs to be asked, are the Heartbreakers back on another big tour (it also stops Aug. 22 at Verizon Wireless Amphitheater) just two years later, when the only thing most of this bunch has done lately is return to roots with the resurrection and fulfillment of Mudcrutch, their first band?

Why? Because they can, that's why. Because rock 'n' roll will never die, and rock 'n' roll never forgets – and when



KELLY A. SWIFT, FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

ROCKING OUT: Mike Campbell, left, and Tom Petty trade licks as their show gets under way Wednesday.

Bo Diddley is dead and the Who are down to two and the Stones strut across a thread that could snap at any moment, then there are only so many practitioners of the Real Thing left. And those practitioners know they have an obligation to keep the flame alive.

Sticking to the 2006 playbook, the group bookended either side of its set with a half-dozen staples. Yank "You Wreck Me" from the encore to pole position, then toss in "Even the Losers" – and you've got the same start as two years ago, filled out by "Listen to Her Heart," its jangle glistening and golden, plus robust takes on "I Won't Back Down" and "Free Fallin'" and that fiery party at the

end of sanity, "Mary Jane's Last Dance."

At the other end of the evening: "You Don't Know How It Feels," delicately sneering; the quieter, gentler arrangement of "Learning to Fly"; "Don't Come Around Here No More," with guitarist Mike Campbell quoting "Angel of the Morning"; a roaring "Refugee; and an encore that reminded you haven't lived until you've spelled and chanted "Gloria" as a member of an 18,000-strong glee club.

What fell between, however, was both unexpected and thoroughly rewarding, leaving a fan with that same feeling you get when you've caught the Stones dusting off "Sister Morphine."

On one hand, there was the scarcely touched – the bluesy, tempo-switching "Sweet William" and the lonely memory of "A Face in the Crowd," its lovely Benmont Tench piano solo draped in cascading arpeggios and Bill Evans moodiness. On the other, there was the delightful (the might-as-well cheeriness of the Traveling Wilburys' "End of the Line") and the predictable but rousing, as when Winwood re-emerged for Blind Faith's "Can't Find My Way Home" (one of the most beautiful songs in the English language) and his first hit with the Spencer Davis Group, the irrepressible "Gimme Some Lovin'."

If I'm honest with myself,

that last one could have done with more pep – it felt geriatric in its bubbling verses, though whenever it reached that "so glad we made it" rise, man did it kick. Still, it was smartly slotted midset; no way was it smokin' enough for an encore.

And yet everything else about this two-hour performance was so masterful – smooth like well-aged Scotch – that you have to wonder: Of all the so-called heritage acts still touring every other summer or so, who can rival these guys at this point? Not Dylan – not when so many can't understand him. Not McCartney – still too much sentimentality. Not ZZ Top, not the Allman Brothers Band, not

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers

With: Steve Winwood
Where: The Hollywood Bowl
When: June 25
Next: The pairing plays Aug. 22 at Verizon Wireless Amphitheater in Irvine
How much: \$29.50-\$115
Call: 714-740-2000
Online:
www.ticketmaster.com

whatever splinters of the Dead might turn up these days. Maybe the Stones or the Who on a really good night? Or Springsteen and the E Street Band when they stick to classics? Or Elvis Costello when he remembers how to?

No one else springs to mind. No one else is quite as commanding yet virtually flash-free. Only at the very end, when Campbell's fingering got chunky trying to hammer out the crazy triplets that close out "American Girl," could anyone detect flubs. The Heartbreakers remain rock 'n' rollers par excellence, in such complete control of every dynamic shift, every subtle nuance, that they can call up a European EP cut like "Sweet William" and storm through it as if it's been in their repertoire for decades.

Only the most perfectly seasoned groups have such feel. This one now manages the rarest of feats among bands at such an advanced stage: It sounds even better this time than the time before ... which was better than the time before that ... which was better than the time before that.

And so it goes. And so may it still, till they can go no more.

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HOT TICKETS

Underwood adds stop in Ontario

By **BEN WENER**
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

We already knew that Carrie Underwood's Carnival Ride Tour was on its way, with a Nov. 5 stop planned for Nokia Theatre in downtown Los Angeles.

But here's a twist: The "American Idol" champ-turned-country superstar also will play a somewhat closer venue (depending on where you live) that is rarely used for such big-ticket shows: the Citizens Business Bank Arena in Ontario, where Underwood will perform Nov. 9.

Tickets for both dates, with Little Big Town opening, go on sale at 10 a.m. Monday. Prices: \$35-\$55 for Ontario, \$37.50-\$57.50 for Nokia. And a reminder for South County fans: Underwood and LBT also play Nov. 8 at San Diego Sports Arena.

Also coming to Nokia: Latin pop star Luis Miguel, Sept. 26-27, \$65.50-\$250.50, on sale at 10 a.m. today; and Santana with the Salvador Santana Band (his son's outfit), Oct. 3, \$84.50-\$134.50, on sale at 10 a.m. Monday.

And while we're on a Latin trip: Ana Gabriel, Gibson Amphitheatre, Sept. 20, on sale at 1 p.m. today.

Trent Reznor may be helping to revolutionize how artists release albums with his new one, "The Slip," but when it comes to touring, well, he's no different from anyone else. He still sells entrance fees to Nine Inch Nails concerts through Ticketmaster. The band's next stop: Sept. 6 at the Forum.



FILE PHOTO: ASSOCIATED PRESS
CLOSER TO O.C.: Carrie Underwood will play Nov. 9 at Citizens Business Bank Arena in Ontario.

Tickets, \$36.50-\$52.50, go on sale at 10 a.m. Saturday. Deerhunter will open.

Closer to home, 3 Doors Down heads up a bill Aug. 31 at Verizon Wireless Amphitheater in Irvine that also will include Aaron Lewis of Staind, Hinder and Sick Puppies. Tickets, \$19-\$69, also go on sale at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Orange County band Lit will play a benefit July 26 at House of Blues Anaheim for its cancer-stricken drummer Allen Shellenberger, suffering from a brain tumor. No Doubt's Adrian Young will fill in for him, and other special guests are planned. Tickets, \$32.50-\$57.50, go on sale at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Also at the Mouse House and on sale now: Steel Pulse, Aug. 28; Musiq Soulchild, Sept. 16; Dark Star Orchestra, Sept. 25; and Flogging Molly, Sept. 29. Going on sale Saturday are shows from Hoo-

SEE TICKETS • PAGE 13

ORANGE POP

Trout swims against current

By **ROBERT KINSLER**
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

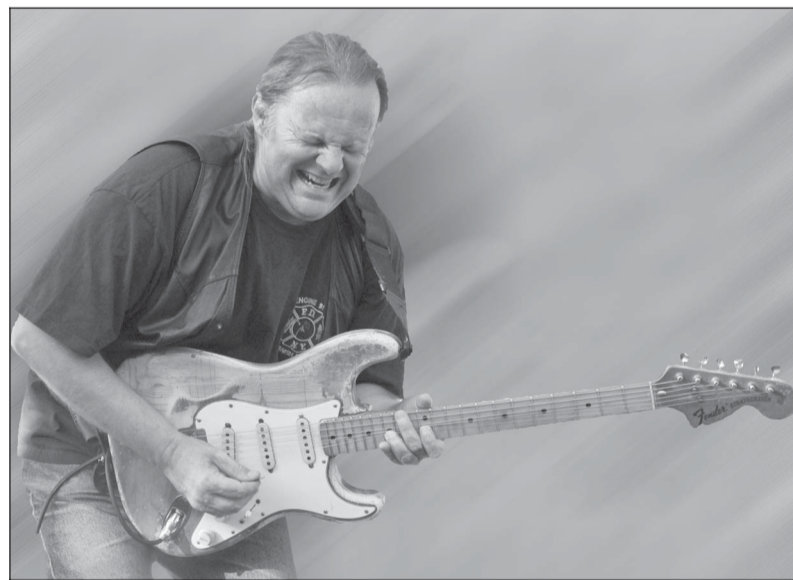
In an age when countless rockers are has-beens by age 30, Walter Trout is defying every rule in the playbook by continuing his unlikely ascent as a blues-rock guitar hero at age 57.

Trout's latest album, "The Outsider," was released by Provogue Records on Tuesday, and the Huntington Beach resident will celebrate its arrival when he performs at the Irvine Lake 10th annual Blues Festival on Sunday.

Produced by John Porter and recorded at Mad Dog Studios in Burbank, "The Outsider" ranks as one of Trout's finest albums. A follow-up to his 2006 album "Full Circle," it puts the focus squarely on all aspects of Trout's arsenal – namely his talents as singer, songwriter and virtuoso guitarist.

"After 'Full Circle,' which was really a guitar showcase jam album, I was determined on this one to really concentrate on the songs," Trout said in a recent interview. "So that's where I really put my thought and my energy. (I thought if) I'm going to make another CD, I'm not gonna go in there and jam this time. I'm going to have songs that can live on their own whether I'm playing them or somebody else is."

So, while "Full Circle" found Trout teaming with the likes of James Harman, John Mayall, Jeff Healey (who died this year) and Joe Bonamassa, the 13 tracks on "The Outsider" showcase Trout. Fiery blues-rockers "Wel-



NOT THE SAME OLD REFRAIN: Walter Trout is broadening his artistic horizons at an age – 57 – when most rockers have been forgotten. The guitarist wrote songs for and sang on his latest album.

COURTESY OF WALTER TROUT

Irvine Lake 10th annual Blues Festival

With: Walter Trout, Rod Piazza and the Mighty Flyers, Roy Gaines, Les Dudek, Eric Sardinas, Savage City
Where: 4621 Santiago Canyon Road
When: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday
Call: 714-649-9113
Online: www.IrvineLake.net or www.WalterTrout.com

come to the Human Race," confessional acoustic number "All My Life" and the British-style blues-rock groove of "Child of Another Day" are among the many standouts on the disc.

"I'm 57 and still climbing the ladder," Trout said of his career. "I'm playing 20 major festivals (this year) and many as a headliner. I'm enjoying it, really."

Just because names like Healey, Mayall, Coco Montoya and Guitar Shorty are absent on "The Outsider," there is no shortage of sonic star power. Acclaimed drummer Kenny Aronoff (John Mellencamp), bassist James "Hutch" Hutchinson (Boz Scaggs, Bryan Adams, Willie Nelson) and pianist Jon Clearly (Bonnie Raitt) serve as his band on

the disc.

Trout recalled how the celebrated Aronoff came to play on the tracks.

"You know, believe or not, that guy sent me an e-mail and said, 'I would really like to play on your record.' ... And you know what was funny, he sent me an e-mail and gave me his cell number. I gave him a call and we had a long talk. We became buddies over the phone. I was knocked out by his humbleness, and he is just an incredible gentleman and unimpressed with his achievements."

Trout recalls telling Aronoff that he was impressed by the drummer's work with a wide range of artists, including Melissa Etheridge, Elton John, John Fogerty and Mellencamp.

"And then he said – I'll never forget it – 'I'm humbled by what I don't know.' And I thought, 'What an awesome attitude.'" Aronoff told Trout he would be available for four days, plenty of time to lay down drum tracks on "The Outsider."

"He said, 'I'm going to cancel some other stuff I have, but I have one gig on Sunday night I'll have to do, so I'll have to leave early on Sunday.' I said, 'What's your gig?' He said, 'I have to play on the Grammys with John Fogerty, Little Richard and Jerry Lee Lewis.' 'Well man, go do that gig (Feb. 11, 2008) and I'll go home and watch you.'"

Born and raised in Ocean City, N.J., Trout began his long road to fame when he was in his teens, playing in a number of area rock bands. In 1973, he moved out West.

During that decade, he scored spots playing in bands of John Lee Hooker,

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