

Does Las Vegas have a growing art-house movie scene?

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Nobel poet laureate to speak at Wright Hall

Polish poet Czeslaw Milosz, winner of the 1980 Nobel Prize for literature, will speak at UNLV Wednesday.

The reading and discussion, which is open to the public free of charge, is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in Wright Hall, Room 103. Afterward, a reception for the poet will be held in the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History.

Milosz, whose works were banned in Poland for decades and were available there only through the underground press, now is considered a literary hero in his homeland. In Gdansk, a monument to slain Polish workers is inscribed with two quotations: one from the Bible, the other from a Milosz poem.

Christopher Hudgins, chair of UNLV's English department, called Milosz "a poet of great international stature."

"Czeslaw Milosz also is a man of courage," Hudgins said, referring to Milosz's work in the Polish resistance movement during World War II. "Here is a man who was a witness to the Holocaust and has written about it with feeling and artistry."

"In spite of all the darkness he saw in his life, a profound optimism reveals itself in his works," Hudgins said. "He sides with life."

Born in Lithuania in 1911, Milosz was raised in Poland and by the '30s had become the leader of the nation's avant-garde poetry movement. During World War II, he participated in the Polish resistance movement against the Nazis.

After the war, he spent several years in his country's diplomatic service. In 1951, he severed ties with Poland's com-

unist government and defected to the West.

For decades he taught in the department of Slavic languages and literature at the University of California at Berkeley. Today he holds the title of professor emeritus there.

Among his books of poetry that have been translated into English are "Bells of Winter," "Selected Poems," "The Separate Notebooks," and "The Unattainable Earth."

In addition to the Nobel Prize, Milosz, who also is an essayist and novelist, has been awarded the Neustadt International Prize for Literature.

For more information on Mislosz' presentation, call 739-3533.



Polish poet Czeslaw Milosz will speak Wednesday at Wright Hall.

Bang Tango gives Vegas a hot foot

by Daniel W. Duffy

Las Vegas was treated to the rough-edged Cajun fixins of Bang Tango last week at the Shark Club as part of the Riki Rachtman Cathouse tour. The crowd was monstrous and pumped for the last night of the "Wild West Tour."

"Everybody who pays \$10 is gonna get in," said Rachtman, the host of MTV's "Headbanger's Ball," discussing the policy to only sell tickets at the door to discourage ticket scalping. The tour hasn't been easy for Rachtman due to lack of promotion in some cities, but for the most part it has been an overwhelming moral victory, showing that a tour like this could succeed.

Rachtman attributes this success to having "good people to work with me," and that it's all about "people talking to people." Rachtman said things have worked so well because he prefers to deal with people he knows on a personal level, rather than working so much with agents and big promoters. KOMP DJ Mike Culotta commented that as a result of shows like this and others at places like Club Rock, "the whole market is opening up."

Death Valley Jupiter, a new band from the Los Angeles area, opened the evening. While they offered very little in the way of originality, they boasted an in-

exhaustible amount of energy and enthusiasm.

After a wait that would make Guns N' Roses envious, Bang Tango took the stage in the midnight hour. They stormed the stage with "My Saltine" and didn't stop for breath until after "Watch Me Move," a song they made up in sound check over the last few months.

Lead singer Joe LeSté brought to mind a younger Stephen Tyler with madman screeches, flexible facial structure, long black lid and a shirt right out of Greg Brady's bead-toting wardrobe. The band continued to trip the light fantastic with songs like "Cactus Juice" and "Big Line" from their latest album *Dancin' On Coals* including an extended trippy-discomix of "I'm In Love." Tango also played several selections from their debut LP, *Psycho Cafe* including "Love Injection" and "Don't Stop Now."

The swamp juice dual guitar attack of Mark Knight and Kyle Stevens combined for some intense harmonic riffs on "Someone Like You," while bassist Kyle Kyle and drummer Tigg Kettler provided some severe bass and rhythm for the ultra-cosmic "Soul to Soul." The only problem with "Soul" was the lack of a saxophone which forms the backbone of the song from *Dancin' On Coals*, and without the it, the sound was



photo by Ched Whitney

Bang Tango performed Wednesday night at the Shark Club.

rather empty.

For the encore, Bang Tango performed the title track, "Dancin' On Coals" and a cover of the T Rex tune, "20th Century Boy," until the PA blew. "Don't mellow out," was Rachtman's plea to the crowd during the technical difficulties, but the delay only lasted a few minutes so no real mellowing occurred. The band then concluded with a song from their first album,

"Attack of Life," which unlike the title, was far too subdued for a finale.

Other than the minor bugs, the show came off without a hitch. The psychedelic light show was amazing and the cagey mood was just right. This was the inaugural tour for Rachtman's Cathouse, and if the Vegas date was any indicator, the Cathouse will soon return.

University hopes to bring back the 'Dead'

by Rick Nielsen

After last year's impressive showing, the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl is hoping to bring the Grateful Dead back again this year.

Though negotiations are in progress, no contract has been signed at this time.

This is in conflict to the report on the front page of the *Las Vegas Sun* on Friday, Feb. 28, which stated that Daren Libonati, events coordinator for the Thomas & Mack, had confirmed two dates in May.

"We're working real hard to close the deal right now, but we have no contract," Libonati said. "The report in the *Sun* could hurt negotiations."

The target dates for the two shows are Saturday, May 30 and Sunday, May 31. A possible third show may be added the previous Friday.

As soon as they have a solid contract, dates will be announced as well as ticket prices and the number of tickets allowed to be purchased.

Last year's shows sold out completely, the first time that has happened for any event.