

Time Travel -- House of Floyd plays 'Dark Side of the Moon' **By Amy Maginnis-Honey Daily Republic** **11/01/07**

VACAVILLE - For Mark Showalter, it happened when he was a teen listening to Pink Floyd's 'Dark Side of the Moon' in his bedroom after school.

'It had such an impact on people. It's awe-inspiring. It makes you think of things. It takes you through life's ups and downs from 'Breathe' and being born to 'Brain Damage' and being insane at the end,' he said of the classic album.

Today, some three decades later, Showalter and his band, House of Floyd, play 'Dark Side of the Moon' in full as well as many other Pink Floyd tunes. You can hear them in Vacaville on Saturday night.

The seven-piece band, brings a complete show with them from lasers to an inflatable flying pig. 'It will be the total visual and audio experience,' Showalter, a Benicia resident, said of the show.

He speaks from experience as Showalter saw Pink Floyd perform live about five times. He's also seen one solo show by band member David Gilmour and two featuring Roger Waters.

'You won't see a Pink Floyd tour anymore,' Showalter said. 'Gilmour and Waters do their own material. They reach back and do the old stuff to appease the crowds.'

After working 20 years as a warehouse foreman, Showalter got a break when he was 42 and auditioned for Gregg Allman. He ended up touring three years with Allman, quitting his warehouse job. 'That was the best experience of my life with the tour bus, big hotels and sold-out shows,' he recalled.

When he returned he and his wife made the decision he could concentrate on music. The idea of a Pink Floyd tribute band surfaced and Showalter researched but didn't find a Pink Floyd tribute band of note in Northern California.

It took about 18 months to get personnel in place and learn the material, he said. 'We came out with the show and we have grown bigger and bigger,' Showalter said.

Showalter finds it hard to choose what he considers the best Pink Floyd song. 'For the masses, it's got to be 'Wish You Were Here.' It's all encompassing. It's a classic,' he

said.

It's even more difficult for him to name a favorite. 'I have my favorites since I play sax they are the ones with sax on them. But I guess I'd have to say 'Shine on Crazy Diamond.' It has a sax at the end,' he said.

The music of Pink Floyd endures today, Showalter feels, because 'it sends a message of life. It's about greed, insanity, birth, death, everything. And, not to mention the surreal sound of it. It's not dancing material. You just sit and listen to the lyrics and reflect on them it's about life.'

House of Floyd was formed almost three years ago and the band tweaks its set list based on the venue. For theater crowds, 'Dark Side of the Moon' seems to be the heavy favorite. 'We do all the hits,' he said, noting the band plays for an hour, takes a short break, and comes back on stage for another hour.

And, yes, Showalter has played 'Dark Side of the Moon' while watching the 'Wizard of Oz.' (For years there's been a story that the film and album correspond with each other.) 'Frankly it didn't me the impact I thought it would,' Showalter said. 'It's a stretch. Dorothy opens the door to Munchkin Land and 'Money' is playing on the record. Some things match up. '

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House of Floyd

A Tribute to Pink Floyd

8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 3

Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre, 1010 Ulatis Drive, Vacaville

\$22 adults; \$18 youth/seniors

Reserved Seating

449-6217 or www.vpat.net for tickets and information

Those attending are asked to bring a canned food donation in support of the Contra Costa Solano Food Bank. There will be collection baskets in the lobby.