

UCSD sponsors British percussion group Stomp in performance February 9-11 at Spreckels Theater

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UCSD SPONSORS BRITISH PERCUSSION GROUP STOMP IN PERFORMANCE FEB. 9,10 AND 11 AT SPRECKELS THEATER

Garbage cans, brooms, wooden poles, matchboxes, Zippo lighters, hubcaps, oil drums, and yes, even the kitchen sink. Come on! Hardly the stuff music is made of, you say. But that is exactly what STOMP does.

The eight-member percussion group which uses common objects to create uncommon sounds will perform Feb. 9, 10 and 11 at Spreckels Theater in downtown San Diego.

"If you can tap it, bang it, slap it, knock it or just drum your fingers on it, the performers of STOMP can transform it into a remarkably expressive percussion instrument," writes The Village Voice.

The six-man/two-woman stompers perform in tank tops, work pants, what appear to be army boots -- and the countenance of hungry British street urchins geared more for mischief and mayhem than music and moxie.

But alas, they are winners of the Olivier Award for Best Choreography (London's Tony Award). In New York, they received an Obie Award, a Drama Desk Award for Unique Theatre Experience, and a special citation from Best Plays. Their 1994, 21-city North American tour was a sell-out, garnering rave reviews.

STOMP has appeared on The Kennedy Center Honors, The Late Show with David Letterman, The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Good Morning America, Dateline NBC, and Live with Regis and Kathie Lee, to name a few national television shows. They are also the noise-makers for the award-winning Coca Cola ice pick commercial, as well as hot shots for Target Stores commercials.

The impish STOMP is the brainchild of Brits Steve McNicholas and Luke Cresswell who combine their street smarts, love of pounding sounds and comedic theater to create a 90- minute wordless romp devoted solely to percussion. "We wanted to make something that was definitely, eccentrically British," says McNicholas.

"We desperately were looking for our own style," adds Cresswell. "Which is jumping up and down with our boots and kicking on the ground."

STOMP made its debut at the Edinburgh Festival in 1991 and met with instant acclaim that led to an Australian tour, quickly followed by performances throughout the world.

These percussion gigs have been variously described as "Jackson Pollock for the ears" and "the closest thing to aural sex." Playbill writes "trying to describe STOMP is like trying to put into words the sound of Niagara Falls."

STOMP performances are being sponsored by the UCSD University Events Office. Performances on Feb. 9 and 10 are at 8 p.m., and Feb. 11 at 3 p.m. General admission tickets and tickets for UCSD faculty and staff and seniors citizens range from \$22 to \$29 depending upon seating arrangement. Student tickets range from \$17 to \$24. Tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office and Ticketmaster outlets. For further ticket information, call the University Events Office at 534-4090.

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