



ENTER THE FUNHOUSE

A Caravan of Thieves show; you are entering a world apart of the norm, one that is far from the daily grind. A Thieves show can almost transport you to a world where you could easily see Edward Scissorhands as your neighbor and Tim Burton as the mayor. The flakey town kook would be, of course, Johnny Depp in outrageous makeup.

One thing is certain with a Caravan show is one is not like the other. The show you are witnesses/participating in that night is unique to that night. Sure the music stays somewhat the same, but the vaudevillian antics of Fuzz and Carrie Sangiovanni vary from tour stops.

Without a drum set, Caravan's percussion section consists of a couple of paint buckets turned upside-down and played with old, beaten, paint brushes. Sure it is for show, but if you close your eyes, you would not be able to tell there was not a drum set on the stage.

As the band visited songs old and new (plus a couple clever covers), there is never a lull in the flow of excitement or level of enthusiasm.

All the fun would be fruitless if the band could not pull the music off live. But that is a fleeting thought seconds into the show as the band nails the songs as well as they sound on the CD, plus with addition of any live spontaneous extras they want play with.

The group's cover of "Bohemian Rhapsody," showcased their musicianship, especially that of violinist Ben Dean as he almost pulled off a note for note mimicry of Brian May's fret work on the Queen classic.

Closing out the night with an encore of "Raise the Dead," Fuzz and Carrie led the band off stage and performed truly acoustic in the middle of Club Cafe with the crowd adding the stomps and clamps required in the song.

You owe it to yourself, even if you consider yourself a casual music fan, to check out a Caravan of Thieves show. It is organic and not something that seems forced to fit a certain constraint, say like a Rasputina.

