

Entertainment

LIFESTYLE AND ARTS LISTINGS

We welcome your submissions. If you would like Niagara Frontier Publications to list an event, send it to josh@wnypapers.com, or mail to 1859 Whitehaven Road, Grand Island, NY 14072.

Modern English headlines next 'Spirit of the 80s' concert

The "Spirit of the 80s" is back at 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24, at The Ontario House, aka "The Stone Jug," 358 Main St., Youngstown. Tickets are \$25 presale and online at Eventbrite.com, or \$30 at the door.

The yearly event is making up for lost time, having been on hiatus since bringing Mike Peters and The Alarm to Lewiston in 2018. Organizers Mike Hanrahan and Michelle Hosie planned to take one year off to regroup, but the break was extended due to the pandemic.

Earlier this summer, "Spirit of the 80s" brought synth-pop legends China Crisis to "The Jug." The success of that show has Hanrahan looking forward to bringing more shows to the newly renovated outdoor stage.

"We've got lots of plans for more shows," he said. "We loved having the shows at Academy Park, but the change of venue opens up more opportunities for us."

British post-punk/new-wave/alt-indie rock band Modern English is best known for worldwide

hit "I Melt With You." The song was featured in the 1983 film "Valley Girl," and was played frequently on MTV (it still lives on in any 1980s music retrospective). The song has been featured recently in television shows such as "Stranger Things" and "The Deuce," and prominently closed the series finale of "Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist."

But this group is far from a one-hit-wonder.

Modern English began recording in 1979 and released several albums. There were some changes – and members even disbanded for a while – but the original cast reunited in 2009 and has been recording and touring together ever since.



Modern English photo provided by "Spirit of the 80s"

"After The Snow" was the band's second – and arguably most successful – studio album. It spawned three singles, originally recorded in 1982. The group released a live version of the entire album last year, and has been touring those songs of late, as well as some favorite songs.

"We were lucky to get them at the end of their tour, before they take a break again," Hanrahan said.

Along with members of the Lewiston-Porter Class of 1987, he started this event 10 years ago with the intention of celebrating the music classmates loved in high school – and to celebrate the class' 25-year reunion. "Spirit of

the 80s" soon became a vehicle for supporting new music.

"We've got a couple of opening acts this year from Buffalo that we're really excited about," Hanrahan said.

Tim Britt will play solo at 5 p.m. The singer describes himself as "a one-man band with lots of energy." Singing, playing percussive guitar and using loops to create an "upbeat bluesy" style. He has been winning Buffalo music awards for over 10 years.

At 7 p.m., "Spirit of the 80s" welcomes The Abruptors to the stage. This act brings a blend of ska, soul, rocksteady and reggae. With their influences going back to '50s and '60s ska, their

catchy sound is said to appeal to a wide range of fans from 2 Tone to The Clash. The band is a mix of three guys and a couple of premier female musicians. Members have toured the U.S. and Canada, promoting a recently released album. Their latest music video was released this week.

Hanrahan said, "I was so glad to get this band; I think they're going to get big! The night before our show, they're opening for Sublime."

Music & Memories

Organizers said, "Nostalgia may play a small role in bringing people together for events like this, but what keeps people together is the music itself."

Philip Hastings, a member of the Class of 1987, said, "These events are a celebration of that bond – it's a celebration of growth and acceptance in the wake of adversity. That's what the 'Spirit of the 80s' is all about. Thanks to Mike and Michelle, we get to celebrate that with Modern English who wrote 'I thought of all the times gone by, and laughed aloud at the crimson sky.' That's the unbeatable spirit of our generation – and that's what we're celebrating with every show."

Organizers added, "These events would not be possible without the support of our friends, family and these generous sponsors: Niagara Outfitters, The Tatler Inn, TM Montante Development, and Bison Logo."

Porter Empty Return Center

Bring In Your Wine Bottles too!
(5¢ each up to 20 per visit!)

Bring in Those Cans & Bottles & Receive an Extra **15%**
Now thru September 30

3628 Ransomville Road (Next to Rite Aid), Ransomville • 716-791-1113
HOURS: MONDAY & SATURDAY 9AM TO 3:30PM / TUESDAY THRU FRIDAY 10AM TO 6PM

Q&A: Amanda Schull brings something new to screen

BEHIND THE SCREENS WITH JOSHUA MALONI

@joshuamalani

Amanda Schull is a unicorn. She is an outlier in an industry that relishes sameness.

A creator whose path to success is contrary to established convention.

The math tells us to be in-demand as a leading actor, one needs talent, certainly – though lots of talented people will never appear on our screens – but even more so, appeal.

Now, appeal also could be called star power. And it rarely comes without establishing oneself in a particular way. Put plainly, many of the most recognized actors rose to fame by ascending in one particular genre: "She is an action star." "He is a romantic lead."

In doing this, these performers become bankable for studios in search of that one specific thing – but they also become typecast. The "action star" and "romantic lead" can't easily (or profitably) switch roles.

Schull – like the fabled one-horned creature – is that rare example of someone who has found success in the entertainment industry by being different.

Her appeal doesn't lie in her star power (though she's charting on the IMDb top 100), but in what she can bring to her performances. Schull's allure is her ability.



Abby is a successful executive moving to Paris and planning to marry Edward. Life is perfect until she learns her divorce to high school sweetheart, Luke, is not exactly official. Shown are "Marry Go Round" stars Amanda Schull and Brennan Elliott. (Photo ©2022 Hallmark Media/photographer: Bettina Strauss)

And talk about capability: How many actors do you know who can star (and dance) as a principal ballerina ("Center Stage"), and then competently play a time-jumping, gun-toting virologist ("12 Monkeys"); try their hand as a no-nonsense, cut-throat lawyer ("Suits"), and then jump into a history buff building a golf course ("Love, Once and Always"); or play an investigative reporter hilariously failing at yoga ("Romance Retreat"), and then a holiday connoisseur and dreammaker ("Project Christmas Wish")?

Through hard work and, yes, talent, Schull has crafted her own brand of appeal – convincing us she can play any role – in any situation or setting – and create interesting characters we can't help but want to watch.

Added bonus: Schull has proven to be un-typecastable.

The actor's work will be on display again Sept. 10, when she returns to the Hallmark Channel with a starring role in the twisty romantic dramedy "Marry Go Round."

SEE MULTI, continued on Page 12

COMPUTER PROBLEMS?

Friendly Certified Computer Repair Experts

Simply mention coupon code **42513** and get **\$20 OFF** any service you need!

Geeks on Site
Call Now for a FREE Diagnosis
1-866-848-0045

THEY'RE BACK!
BEES • WASPS • HORNETS • SPIDERS

Bugg Control, Inc.

PUT UP THE BARRIER BEFORE THEY MOVE IN

716-773-BUGG (2844) www.buggcontrol.com

FREE TAX SCHOOL
CALL EG TAX

EG TAX 716-632-7886
www.egtax.com