

Experience Hendrix at the Fabulous Fox

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Jimi Hendrix died on Sept. 18, 1970.

I remember the date because that was my first birthday. And even though I can't play a lick of guitar, I have inherited a love of music.

If you love music, you will love being at the Fabulous Fox on Saturday night as "Experience Hendrix" heads to Atlanta.

This is the fourth edition of the biennial concert tour paying homage to the music and legacy of Jimi Hendrix.

Joe Satriani, Jonny Lang, Eric Johnson, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Brad Whitford (of Aerosmith), Doyle Bramhall II, Ernie Isley, Living Colour, Susan Tedeschi, Double Trouble's Chris Layton, Robert Randolph, along with original Hendrix bassist Billy Cox will be performing music written and inspired by the legend.

Cox, who first befriended Hendrix when the two were in the 101st Airborne division of the US Army, played in both the Jimi Hendrix Experience and Band of Gypsys.

"It's a thrill for me to play Jimi's music for audiences now as it was in the 1960s. The Experience Hendrix tours have shown how timeless this music really is," Cox said.

Featured in every show are signature songs including "Purple Haze," "Voodoo Child (Slight Return)," "The Wind Cries Mary," "Little Wing" and "Red House."

Kenny Wayne Shepherd, a veteran of several Experience Hendrix tours remarked: "Jimi Hendrix's music has really inspired [me] to push the limits of my own music. He didn't observe any boundaries musically. He was an amazing player and a tremendous showman so I incorporated some of his showmanship in what I do."

As far as having been part of the Experience Hendrix touring phenomenon, Shepherd said: "It touches you on the inside and gets you fired up."

Along with the tour, The Experience Hendrix foundation has been unearthing Hendrix classics, the latest of which is "Valleys of Neptune." It features 12 previous unreleased studio recordings and will be re-releasing many classic Hendrix albums in CD/DVD format.

Also available is the 2008 "Experience Hendrix" tour on DVD, which features highlights from San Diego and Seattle dates featuring Buddy Guy, Hubert Sumlin, Paul Rodgers, Mick Taylor, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Robert Randolph, Chris Layton and Tommy Shannon from Double Trouble, Pearl Jam's Mike McCready, Kid Rock's Kenny Olson, Vernon Reid, Mitch Mitchell and Billy Cox.

If there was ever a reason to head out on the town, "Experience Hendrix" is definitely it.

If you thought the 3-D Disney "Alice in Wonderland" brought Lewis Carroll's classic to life, wait until you see the Alliance Theatre's inventive "Lookingglass Alice," which opens a week from Wednesday on their main stage.

The show brings the story to life in the most creative stunts ever brought to the stage.

Flying high on a trapeze, towering above on stilts or tumbling around the stage in playful acrobatics, you will join Alice as she goes down the rabbit hole to the place of her wildest dreams.

Director/Creator David Catlin radically reconfigures the Alliance Stage to allow audience members to be seated on stage for a whole new point of view.

It is a timeless tale of a little girl who journeys through the looking glass to become a queen. She floats, falls and flies overhead in a playful feat of ingenious wonder designed to awaken the kid in all of us.

The fun is non-stop with appearances by such beloved characters as Alice, Mad Hatter, Humpty Dumpty, Cheshire Cat, Tweedledee and Tweedledum, the Red Queen and the White Knight.

"Lookingglass Alice" premiered at Lookingglass Theatre in Chicago on Feb. 13, 2005, and was developed in affiliation with The Actor's Gymnasium Circus and Performing Arts School.

"Lookingglass Alice" features a cast of five actors, all in their debut at the Alliance, including Molly Brennan, Kevin Douglas, Anthony Flemming III and Doug Hara.

However, the key role of Alice has yet to be announced.

Members of the artistic team are Sylvia Hernandez-DiStasi, chore-ographer/circus captain; Daniel Ostling, set designer; Mara Blumenfeld, costume designer; Christine Binder, lighting designer; Ray Nardelli, sound designer; and Andre Pluess and Ben Sussman, original music and composition.

This is sure to be the highlight of the Alliance Theatre year and it will definitely be worth a night on the town.

The show plays through May 2.

Caption: Ira Miller Columnist Chelsea Handler 'Experience Hendrix' 'Looking glass Alice'

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