

Search

- [Home](#)
- [Big Screen](#)
- [Small Screen](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Dining](#)
- [Arts & Culture](#)

Home / Entertainment / Arts-and-culture / Theatre

Radio Happy Hour updates the old-time radio mystery show

[Story](#) [Discussion](#)

Font Size:

By MICAH MERTES / Lincoln Journal Star | Posted: Monday, April 19, 2010 11:45 pm | [No Comments Posted](#)



A few of the Radio Happy Hour gang are (from left to right) musician Stephanie Davilla, host Sam Osterhout, and actors Robin Reed and Matt Skibiak. Radio Happy Hour will be at the Rococo Theatre Thursday night. (Courtesy photo by Maegan Gindi)

It's the radio show that's not on the radio.

Radio Happy Hour, a live "mystery-meets-late-night-talk-show," pits guest stars in an old-time radio murder mystery.

Previous shows have featured Norah Jones as Norah Jones, who moonlights as a motel management intern, Michael Showalter as the host of a cable fitness show, and writer Chuck Klosterman as the father of The Hold Steady's Craig Finn and Tad Kubler. All of them were players in a grisly whodunit.

While murder-mysterying, Radio Happy Hour takes breaks for out-there interviews with the guests and musical performances, all of it in what the Onion AV Club called "an environment that encourages daytime drinking and slurred questions from enthusiastic audience members."

The NYC-based Radio Happy Hour comes to Lincoln this week with guests Eugene Mirman (of "Flight of the Conchords") and indie rock band Matt Pond PA.

Matt Pond doesn't quite know what he's going to be doing for them yet.

"They're a little vague, to be honest," he said. "I like vague. Everything around the performance, I'm pretty detailed about. The rest of it is a little haphazard. I've never done anything like this."

We caught up with a few members of the Radio Happy Hour crew (host and co-creator Sam Osterhout and producer Massoumeh Emami-Osterhout) to talk about the perks of not being on the radio and what makes a good guest star.

Journal Star: How did Radio Happy Hour come into being?

Osterhout: We started this storytelling group, going around to bars and doing readings. We started adding a little music to it, and before long we realized we were writing interconnected narrative with musical transitions. People started showing up, and it grew into a real show.

Journal Star: The Electric Arc Radio Show.

Osterhout: That show was one long narrative, so it worked really well for the live audience, but it worked less well for a podcast. People, when they listen to podcasts, they like to change gears every five or six minutes. That's how we decided to do Radio Happy Hour - have a lot of different segments with a narrative in the center.

Journal Star: What are some of the advantages of being a radio show that isn't on the

Calendar

April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Connect with Us

[Text Alerts](#)

[Community](#)

[Email Alerts](#)

[RSS](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

radio?

Osterhout: You have to sculpt your whole narrative differently when it's on the radio. You have to meet certain guidelines and time constraints. So not being on the radio is really freeing in a couple ways.

Emami-Osterhout, producer: There's that freedom to make it as dirty and ridiculous as we want for the live audience and the podcast listeners. I don't know how much of it we could put on the radio.

Journal Star: I've listened to a few of the shows. It flows easily. It seems like some of it's very off-the-cuff but some it is precisely planned. How much is rehearsed?

Osterhout: (Laughs) I don't think precise is a good word to use for the show. How about 'very carefully unstructured.' We rehearse more now. We really came together to have fun, but we made a show that people actually wanted to see.

Emami-Osterhout: We try to do three rehearsals before the show. It's unstructured and free, but it's still nice when everyone's on the same page. But the guests don't usually read the script until the day of the show. They do a quick run-through. That's the most fun, them discovering the material and just being super confused during the entire rehearsal and then going with it. They're all super good sports about it.

Journal Star: What makes a good Radio Happy Hour guest?

Emami-Osterhout: Someone who'll do the show.

Reach Micah Mertes at 473-7395 or mmertes@journalstar.com.

Posted in [Theatre](#), [Music](#) on Monday, April 19, 2010 11:45 pm Updated: 6:20 pm. | Tags: [Music](#), [Radio Happy Hour](#), [Eugene Mirman](#), [Matt Pond Pa](#),

[Print Email ShareThis](#)

Similar Stories

- [LES open house](#)
- [Red X's mark Atlanta start to transit cut protests](#)
- [Red Sox CF Cameron put on 15-day DL](#)
- [Mastering a one-pot meal](#)
- [Yahoo 1Q profit nearly triples, tops analyst views](#)
- [Stocks advance on higher earnings, energy prices](#)
- [Too much salt: Report urges FDA to force rollback](#)

Sponsored Links

[Louisville Veterinarians](#)

Find Louisville Veterinarians - 24 Hour Clinics, Hospitals.
[yellowpages.com](#)

[Authentic Old Time Radio](#)

CD audio, MP3, discs as low as \$1 Printed Color Labels, Old TV too.
[www.OTRnow.com](#)

[Soluna Grill](#)

Read reviews for this business with directions, offers and more
[Portland.Citysearch.com](#)

Ads by Yahoo!

[Home](#) | [Big Screen](#) | [Small Screen](#) | [Music](#) | [Dining](#) | [Arts & Culture](#)
© Copyright 2010, The Lincoln Journal Star, Lincoln NE | [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)