

Musician Dave Hall comes home

Hopewell native plays West Strand

By Lee Park

For the Poughkeepsie Journal

Dave Hall takes things personal. Then he makes music out of it.

Originally from Hopewell Junction, Hall now lives in Brooklyn. Tonight, Hall will bring his folk stylings back to the Hudson Valley at the West Strand Grill in Kingston.

"I went to the Manhattan School of Music," said Hall. "I've really always thought of myself as a folk singer, but having studied musical composition, it tends to be more structured. It's more of a hybrid."

Hall's newest release, "True," is a collection of songs that take a personal account of his experiences and observations. However, he does it in a way that tells the story, without exploiting his own

emotions and feelings.

"I never wanted to be one of those writers that writes therapy songs about their own problems," he said.

Hall grew up in a musical and diverse family. Coming from a multi-ethnic background, Hall was exposed to everything from opera to Arabic. Listening to "True," the cornucopia of sounds is blended with such elegance that the end product is a unique representation of where Hall is coming from, both spiritually and physically.

Describing Hall's music simply is a difficult task. Linda Boyd Kavars of Great Dames Productions is producing the show. She described Hall's sound as poetic.

"It's kind of moody," she



Hall

said. "He played at the West Strand before and the people who were at the show really seemed to enjoy him."

Moving blend of voices

A common thread is the haunting, yet stirring, women's chorus showcased on the album, particularly "Dizziness and Dreams." Combined with Hall's own majestic voice, the songs bring the soul and teeth to the intricate compositions.

Kavars is fond of Hall, as he has connections to the area.

"He's such a nice, nice guy," she said. "This is his old hometown, so I'm helping him anyway I can."

Hall's past releases, "Playin' The Man" and "Places," both use folk and rock with sharp lyrics. "Zoe and Chloe" from "Playin'" tells the story of a lesbian couple murdered in their backwoods home.

"I got to thinking about

IF YOU GO

DAVE HALL

What — Dave Hall with Marcus Hutcheson.

When — Tonight, 8 p.m.

Where — West Strand Grill, 50 Abeel St., Kingston.

Tickets — \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. For tickets, call (845) 331-8128.

Information — Visit www.gluseppejoe.com for more on Hall and Hutcheson.

what was really going on in people's minds," he said. "I take something that has happened, along with other stories I've heard and use that to tell the story."

Hall is already hard at work on a new release. Actually, he's working on several.

"I've always got things in my mind," he said.

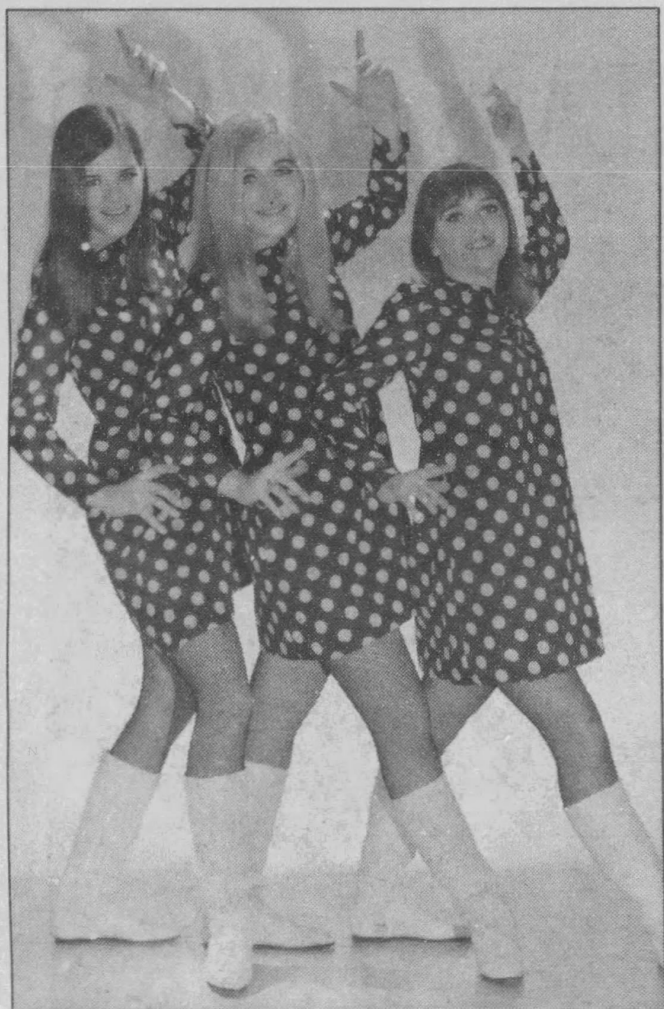


Photo submitted by Nancy (Birdsell) Whipple

The Women (from left) — Alice de Buhr, drums; Marcia Seeberger, organ; and Nancy Birdsell, guitar. All three also sang in the rock group.

The Women: Original Act

The year was 1967 and three Mason City High graduates were shooting for the moon in the entertainment business.

They formed a rock band called The Women, and played in places from Dubuque to Ames to Mason City and beyond.

Managed by Linda Kavars, members were Nancy Birdsell on guitar, Alice de Buhr on drums and Marcia Seeberger on organ. All three did vocals as well. Jacque Furman later replaced de Buhr, who moved to California, where she played with the nationally known rock group Fanny.

The Women performed original songs like "Funny Clown" and "Look My Way."

With Furman, the group went to Philadelphia and began touring the East Coast for about two years.