



## YouTube guitar hopefuls inspire Purdue artists

BY TIM BROUK • TBROUK@JCONLINE.COM • FEBRUARY 24, 2011

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Think you've heard "Stairway to Heaven" a countless number of times?

Try hearing the blazing "Stairway" solo performed by countless Jimmy Page wannabes on YouTube -- all at the same time.

The amateur shredding is part of "One Nite Only" by Aaron Nemec and Micah Bowers, graduate students in Purdue University's Electronic and Time-Based Art program.

"It's like this wall of sound, a barrage of guitars," said Nemec of the "Stairway" effect.

The hour-long video project serves as the duo's thesis show. "One Nite Only" officially opens Monday in the Rueff galleries inside Purdue's Pao Hall before the Nemec and Bowers production is screened at 7 p.m. March 4. Before then, one gallery will be turned into a movie theater with a ticket booth and the other will loop a trailer for the work as well as other related images.

Nemec and Bowers combined their efforts when they realized they both were going to work mainly with video. However, the approaches are different enough to see the students' distinct styles.

Using YouTube and rock 'n' roll inspiration, Nemec shows the din of "Stairway" as well as singers crooning the same song. The collaging of these videos brings "a weird, almost choir effect."

Local guitarists playing solos in front of their cars is another part of "One Nite Only."

"I'm not sure where that project is going," Nemec laughed. "Maybe I was envisioning something more dramatic like people jumping on their hoods. It just ended up being a guy standing in front of his minivan but it still looked pretty cool."

Nemec reaches back to classic rock with footage of him drumming along to an instructional video on how to play Black Sabbath's "Iron Man." Manipulation of the audio and video bring interesting results.



Micah Bowers (left) and Aaron Nemec will present their graduate thesis show "One Nite Only" at Rueff Galleries inside Pao Hall at Purdue on Friday, March 4. (By Brent Drinkut/Journal & Courier)

Bowers' works focuses on animation of his drawings as well as manipulation of found images. "Buttercup" is a new way to look at Deborah Butterfield's sculpture "Silver Bow," which sits just outside of Pao Hall. "You've got horses, robots and tasteful nudity," Bowers said of his work. "I think a lot of the stuff is really like a flash or instant or a minute video. It isn't necessarily a story, just looking in on a story. You see a part of it and it's done."

The two artists combined their work like the flow of a good rock 'n' roll record.

"You start off a little fast and then get serious and then trail off into something fun at the end," Bowers explained.

**IF YOU GO**

Rueff galleries are open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. "One Nite Only" will be screened at 7 p.m. March 4.

Online

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