

**Site search**

Advertising  
 Agriculture  
 Archives  
 Area briefs  
 Arts  
 Aviation  
 Aviation pioneers  
 Babynamer  
 Beanies  
 Births  
 Books  
 Business  
 Cars.Com  
 Classifieds  
 Collectibles  
 College  
 Columnists  
 Comics  
 Crime/Courts  
 Editorial  
 Elections  
 Environment  
 Entertainment  
 Events calendar  
 Family  
 Fashion  
 Feedback  
 Food  
 Gardening  
 Giving  
 Guest Book  
 Health  
 Health calendar  
 Home  
 Home Page  
 Internet access  
 Jayhawks  
 Job Hunter  
 Just Go  
 Learning  
 Legislature  
 Local business  
 Local News  
 Lottery  
 Military

[Home](#) >> [Just Go](#) >> [Entertainment](#)

Updated **FRIDAY** March 24, 2000



# Summer '69 revisited at Cabaret Oldtown

"Summer '69" at Cabaret Oldtown

**By Diane Lewis**

*The Wichita Eagle*

The summer of 1969 was indeed a memorable one. Astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first man to set foot on the moon. His singular achievement buoyed the earthbound spirits of many Americans who found themselves in an increasingly fragmented society.

For some, a gathering of hundreds of thousands of young people for three incredible days of music (and sex and drugs) on a pig farm in upstate New York would be the defining event. That event, known as Woodstock, would eventually define a generation.

Six years ago, when the 25th anniversary of Woodstock was about to be marked, Bill Van Horn (who was a high school student on Long Island in 1969), Ellen Michelmore and Leer Paul Leary put together a musical about Woodstock, "Summer '69". It was revived last summer for a run off-Broadway.

And now "Summer '69" is having its first production outside New York as the current offering at Cabaret Oldtown.

The show has a terrific score. Why shouldn't it? It includes some nearly two dozen songs from the era, most of which were actually performed at Woodstock by such people as Bob Dylan, Graham Nash, Stephen Sills, Joni Mitchell, Pete Seeger, Grace Slick, Janis Joplin, Joe McDonald, John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

The story is a little on the lame side. A group of high school students, some of whom are in a garage band, finagle a Volkswagen bus and head for the music fest at Woodstock. They want to escape their staid parents and partake of the happening.

Along the way, the kids mingle with a number of other characters, including leather-clad motorcycle riding women and a Girl Scout leader who volunteers her troop to clean out the latrines at Woodstock.

Money	<p>The talented cast who play multiple characters includes Kyle Vespestad (very funny as Doobie, a stoned hippie), Monte Wheeler, Barb Schoenhofer, Christine Tasheff, David Weaver, Robert C. Barnes and Roberta Satori.</p> <p>But it is as singers (and some dancing) that they shine. Especially noteworthy at last Saturday's performance were Tasheff's renditions of "Joe Hill" and "Piece of Heart," Barnes' "With a Little Help From My Friends," Weaver's "The Weight," and duos by Tasheff and Vespestad ("Get Together") and Weaver and Satori ("Somebody to Love") and the ensemble number "Turn, Turn, Turn."</p>	
Movies		
Music		
Nation-World		
NBA		
NBC		
NIE		
Neighbors		
NFL		
Obituaries		
Outdoors		
Outdoors calendar		<p>The show marks Cabaret debuts for Satori and Weaver, but they are both experienced performers. Satori has been singing "since the womb," she said. Weaver is a soloist with the Metropolitan Ballet of Wichita and principal with the touring company Midwest Regional Ballet.</p> <p>The beat goes on with the help of the exceptional band: Steve Hatfield, drums; Sean Fanning, bass; David Sewell, guitar; and John Probst, guitar and keyboard.</p> <p>"Summer '69" revisits the music of the Woodstock nation beautifully and with authenticity. Director/choreographer Dennis Courtney went for "the style of" the performers rather than impersonations, and with good results.</p> <p>If the show fails to transport us back, it is because the book only flirts with the disparity of the times. But the performers and the music are a trip.</p>
Pets		
Politics		
Prep sports		
Regional news		
Religion		
Religion calendar		
Rent Guide		
Royals		
Scrapbooking		
Search		
Shockers		
Site map		
Sports		
Sports headlines		
Technology		
Thunder		
Travel		
Trends		
Weather		
Weird news		
Wildcats		
Wings		
Wranglers		
Yellow Pages		

---

**Additional performances are at 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays through May at Cabaret Oldtown, 412 1/2 E. Douglas. Tickets are \$15; call 265-4400.**

---

[© The Wichita Eagle](#) || [Return to top](#)

<p><b>Wichita Eagle.com</b> 825 E. Douglas Wichita, Kan. 67202 316.268.6614</p>
---

<p><b>The Wichita Eagle newspaper</b> 825 E.</p>
--

Douglas  
Wichita, Kan.  
67202  
316.268.6000