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Updated **SUNDAY** March 12, 2000



Woodstock returns in a musical show at Cabaret Oldtown

By Diane Lewis
The Wichita Eagle

Where were you in the summer of 1969? Slogging through the jungles of Vietnam?

Glued to your TV watching Neil Armstrong walk on the moon?

Painting peace signs on your battered VW bus, ready to take off for a rock 'n' roll festival?

The year 1969 produced many remarkable events, but the summer itself had two disparate ones.

Armstrong became the first American to walk on the moon, a notion that only a few years earlier seemed like science fiction.

Then, a few weeks later, as many as 500,000 people, most of them young, converged on Max Yasgur's farm in upstate New York for a rock 'n' rock show unparalleled by any before or since.

Woodstock, the happening, is the inspiration for "Summer '69," a musical show opening Thursday at Cabaret Oldtown.

Written by Bill Van Horn, Ellen Michelmore and Leer Paul Leary in 1994, when the 25th anniversary of Woodstock was marked for a short run on Long Island, the show was revived during the summer of 1999 for an off-Broadway run, coinciding with the 30th anniversary of Woodstock.

The staging at Cabaret is not only the Kansas premiere, it's the first time the show has been produced outside New York, said director Dennis Courtney.

"Summer '69" consists mostly of songs from the era, so the show has music and lyrics by the likes of Joni Mitchell, Janis Joplin, Bob Dylan, Graham Nash, Country Joe McDonald, Stephen Sills, Grace Slick, John Lennon, Paul McCartney and Pete Seeger.

Money	Not all were actually sung at Woodstock, but performers who made them popular were there.
Movies	
Music	
Nation-World	Christine Tasheff, owner/producer of the Cabaret, said "Summer '69" begins in the present and then returns to 1969 when a group of high school friends, some of whom are members of a garage band called the Road Apples, head for Woodstock. The seven performers in the cast (including Tasheff) play some 30-plus characters. They borrow a VW bus for their journey and trade it for LSD when they arrive at the concert.
NBA	
NBC	
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Outdoors calendar	
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Politics	
Prep sports	"The first Woodstock," said Courtney, "was about community." Though the '60s generation has been criticized for its emphasis on sex and drugs, it also promoted a value system of helping, sharing, peace and love, he said.
Regional news	
Religion	Staging the show presented a unique challenge, he said. Unlike a typical musical, it did not come with a score and musical arrangements, so he and Tasheff has to search for sheet music. Tasheff, though, had plenty of familiarity with the era's music; she graduated from high school in 1969 and had her first singing gig at the college hangout The Cedar.
Religion calendar	
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Thunder	Among the tunes in "Summer '69" are ""Summer in the City," "Black Magic Woman," "The Times They Are a Changin'," "Somebody to Love," "Turn, Turn, Turn," "White Rabbit," "With a Little Help From My Friends" and "Dance to the Music."
Travel	
Trends	Appearing in the show are Barb Schoenhofer, Monte Wheeler, Kyle Vespestad, David Weaver, Robert Barnes and Roberta Stevens-Satori.
Weather	The band includes David Sewell on guitar; Sean Fanning, bass; Steve Hatfield, drums; and John Probst, guitar and synthesizer.
Weird news	
Wildcats	
Wings	
Wranglers	
Yellow Pages	Courtney said it's his intention that the performers present music in the style and spirit of people like Slick, Mitchell, Joplin, Dylan, the group Santana and others.

Wichita Eagle.com
825 E. Douglas
Wichita, Kan. 67202
316.268.6614

"I hope the audiences leaves thinking they have experienced a happening."

"Summer '69" is scheduled to run six to eight weeks.

If you go

The Wichita Eagle newspaper
825 E.

What: "Summer '69," a musical by Bill Van Horn, Ellen Michelmore and Leer Paul Leary

Douglas
Wichita, Kan.
67202
316.268.6000

When: Opens Thursday. Performances 8 p.m. Thur-Sat through April.

Where: Cabaret Oldtown, 412 1/2 E. Douglas

Running time: 2 hours, including intermission

Rating: PG-13. One obscenity and discussion of drug use.

How much: \$15; for reservations, call 265-4400.

To sample music from "Summer '69," call The Eagle's Cityline, 436-1200, category 4544.

Diane Lewis writes about theater and entertainment. She can be reached at 268-6249 and at dlewis@wichitaeagle.com

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