

Folk artists performs at Bama Theatre

By Jamie Lyons

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Seth Glier will perform an acoustic set at the Bama Theatre tonight at 8. This performance is part of a nationwide tour to celebrate and promote Glier's debut CD, which became available as digital release last week. A \$5 cover charge will be collected at the door.

Glier has recently gained recognition as a young singer/songwriter talent, but the 20-year-old musician has been singing for an audience since the age of 7. He said finding his way to the piano, what he calls "an organizational tool to make music," made his career take root.

He said that his goal is "to write songs that tell stories through a medium that a lot of people can listen to."

Glier said he finds inspiration in all aspects of daily life — usually when he is not necessarily looking for it.

"One of my favorite things to do is people watch...to find a café somewhere and watch from the window," he said, explaining that there is nothing that he does not draw inspiration from.

"My brother is 24 and nonverbal autistic," Glier added, "and my songwriting really changed when I figured out how to communicate with him without words."

Performer magazine said Glier's music "takes you to a place with his intoxicating groove."

Glier described his sound as "folk pop," and cites classic performers Joni Mitchell, James Taylor and Billy Joel as major influences.

Now on his "Offsetting the Trouble" national tour, the Massachusetts native said he is enjoying the opportunity to travel with his music.

"I'm still defining who I am," Glier said. "The idea of traveling and seeing new places and meeting new people and making a career out of it, this is really the best time I could imagine to be doing what I'm doing."

His current tour also promotes the recently popular effort to go green through various strategies, including using all-organic materials, purchasing energy credits from TerraPass, and encouraging fans to carpool to shows.

Ryan Hommel has been playing guitar with Glier for seven years and co-produced the 12-song debut CD. He described the experience of being on stage as "one of the most gratifying and humbling" things to do.

When asked what factor makes the duo so cohesive, Hommel said, "Respect. Seth and I have an extraordinary amount of respect for each other."

Neither of the performers has ever been to Tuscaloosa before, and they are both looking forward to their experience with the people and culture at the show.

Glier said that his favorite part of performing is the audience.

"I love the aspect of being on stage and being rejuvenated by people," he said. "Meeting some of the greatest people, waking up to emails from people thanking you...there are just so many aspects that are just priceless."

Before he performs, Glier has a few rituals to prepare himself for the show.

"I usually try to take five minutes to count my breaths before I go on stage," he said, "clearing my head and focusing on counting each breath."

Glier has previously released albums as do-it-yourself before gaining attention from Rachael Sage of MPress.

The CD release date for "The Trouble With People" is Nov. 3. For more information, visit Seth Glier's official Web site at sethglier.com.

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