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Bowling for Soup plans to rock The Lyric for Daniel Pearl Music Day

Emily Hannah, lifestyles contributor Sep 20, 2017

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Oftentimes, community and music coming together in unity is almost too good to be true. But on Thursday, Oct. 5, Hillel at Virginia Tech is hosting Daniel Pearl Music Day at the Lyric Theatre. Hillel at Virginia Tech is a Jewish fellowship of 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

Daniel Pearl Music Day is a national event held to remember the life of Daniel Pearl, a Jewish journalist who was captured and killed in Pakistan in 2002. His family holds a concert every year around his birthday in his remembrance. According to the Daniel Pearl Foundation, thousands of bands have made 13,900 performances in 140 countries.

“He really loved music and the arts,” said Sue Kurtz, executive director of Hillel. “He wanted peace in the world. His articles were always about achieving some level of peace.”

The event has been running for 17 years, and has been held at Virginia Tech for 13 of those years through Hillel at Virginia Tech. Bowling for Soup is this year’s band for Daniel Pearl Music Day. Currently touring in London, the sensational pop-punk band is making a pit stop to perform at the Lyric Theatre.

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Len Comaratta

production manager at the Lyric

“It’s a student decision. Most of the bands are good for wider audiences and usually at least one band member is Jewish,” said development associate Dayna Guadagno. “The event is 98 percent student-run.”

Guadagno is a Virginia Tech alumna who has taken up a staff position at Hillel after graduation. She has run two Daniel Pearl Music Days in the past.

“It’s a lot of fun to work with the bands. You feel so cool behind the scenes,” Guadagno said.

Daniel Pearl Music Day is one of the biggest shows to be held at the theater. Len Comaratta, production manager at the Lyric, is performing a personal experiment for the show that will help him decide if the venue can handle bands with bigger names.

“I want to see if we can hold these types of bands in the theater,” Comaratta said. “The crowd for this show will be rowdy and not really suited for a seated venue.”

This event is different from other live events held at the Lyric because of the lower ticket prices and the large turnout. Bands with bigger names attract more people to the venue and there is possibility for interesting results.

“I’m excited to see if we can house a rock show without destroying the Lyric,” Comaratta said.



Despite the worry, Comaratta is positive that Hillel will put on a great show that will attract a lot of supportive people.

“Hillel has a history of pulling in pretty good bands,” Comaratta said. “The kids at Hillel love the organization and bring a lot of friends out. The show will sell out.”

Virginia Tech is one of the most prominent campuses that promotes Daniel Pearl Music Day every year, with planning for the event beginning the spring prior to the concert. The opening act, Jewish rapper Kosha Dillz, is in touch with Daniel Pearl’s family, making the event even more personal.

“The goal as we go along is to add more and more student organizations to help out,” Kurtz said. “So we can be what Daniel Pearl and his family want: a diverse community coming together for a common interest.”

The “Harmony for Humanity” theme of Daniel Pearl Music Day encourages people of all different backgrounds to come together and enjoy music despite conflicts. Coming together in unity and getting along is a big goal for the event, especially during times of tension in local and national communities.

For more information, contact the website for Hillel at Virginia Tech. Tickets are still on sale, and students can purchase them at a discounted price for \$10 now and \$12 at the door.