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Concert Review



The Makaha Sons Entertain All At Green River Community College

May 16, 2008

Auburn, Wa.

With summer-like weather and sweet nahehane, you could almost imagine you were in Hawai'i. Auburn provided the warm temperatures and the Makaha Sons supplied the Hawaiian music, something they have been doing for over thirty years. The Sons performed at Green River Community College last night to a sold out audience.

The show began with a hula performance by local halau hula, Ke`ala `O Kamailelaui`ili`i and Manawai opuna honoring Hawai'i's Ali'i. This stunning performance featured wahine and kane dancers as well as a solo keiki performance.

With much anticipation the crowd welcomed the Makaha Sons which consists of Uncles Jerome and John Koko and Louis "Moon" Kauakahi . They began the show singing, "Where I Live, There Are Rainbows" followed by "Ali'i Iolani." While introducing each other to the audience, the Sons sang "Maile Lau Li`ili`i" during which each member showed off their instrumental talent; Moon on guitar, Jerome on 12 string guitar and



John on upright bass.

The Sons were joined by Jerome's daughter, Kealo, who danced hula to several songs throughout the night. Kealo is an accomplished hula dancer who has competed in the Merrie Monarch Festival.

The Makaha Sons have a way of making their concerts inclusive to everyone in the audience. The Sons played a mix of songs that appealed to both locals and mainlanders. Mid-way through the show they played two old school songs only familiar to locals but also played a number of hapa haole songs such as "Honolulu/Waikiki" and "Drums of the Islands." Some memorable songs played were; "Kamali`I O Ka Po/Hanohano Wailuanuiahoano" and "Mehameha/White Sandy Beach."

Jerome and John are well known for joking around during the concert but the highlight had to be when guest artist Barry Kimokeo sang "No Ka Pueo" in great falsetto style with Jerome Koko doing back-up vocals. One would never know that Jerome could hit such high notes, the crowd was in stitches. You had to be there to hear it.

The Makaha Sons once again offered a crowd pleasing concert. After the show they made themselves available for autographs and pictures. The Makaha Sons return to the Pacific Northwest in June with shows in Salem and Grants Pass, Oregon and Spokane and Kennewick, Washington. Concert information can be obtained at www.makahasons.com or www.pacificmele.com.

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