



Gypsy pop band to play the Bullfrog

WILLIAMSPORT — Jazz meets the folk side of pop when the band Occidental Gypsy plays The Bullfrog Brewery, 229 W. Fourth St., at 10 p.m. Saturday, July 14.

Occidental Gypsy is pioneering “gypsy pop.” A melange of uptempo, high-energy rhythms of gypsy folk music melded with the catchy, melodic hooks of pop delivers a thrilling auditory experience to listeners.

The name Occidental Gypsy (Western gypsy) embodies the concept of what these musicians do — taking the folk sound that originated in Eastern Europe and blending it with contemporary American music.

“Gypsy Swing” was created by taking American jazz to the East and blending it with the gypsy tradition. Now almost a century later, Occidental Gypsy is bringing the music back home.

The band has “gypsy-fied” Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” on its debut album, “Over Here,” released in February 2011, and the group’s appeal has been finding its way across multiple markets ever since.

Motif Magazine defined the musicians as “a terrific and unpretentious fab four.”

Occidental Gypsy is now a five-member group, originally formed by brothers Brett (lead guitar) and Jeff

Feldman (bassist) as a straight-ahead gypsy jazz quartet. Through the release of “Over Here” and the addition of new members, the band has taken on a far more diverse, sophisticated and eclectic sound.

The group is fronted by Berklee-trained singer and rhythm guitarist Scott “Scottie” Kulman, and supported by two Berklee students: violinist Jakub Trasak from the Czech Republic and percussionist Francisco Vielma from Venezuela.

The circumstances that brought this ensemble together are far from ordinary. Brett and Scottie serendipitously met on a park bench. Scott’s grandmother had approached the guitar-slinging Brett at the same park bench months earlier, speaking highly of her grandson’s musical talent. Scottie then introduced Francisco and Jakub to the band.

Live, the band complements original material with expertly arranged gypsy-fied cover songs.

But an Occidental Gypsy performance includes more than just music. Scottie, Jakub, Brett, Jeff and Francisco are incredibly energetic and charming entertainers who interact with fans on a personal level, and incorporate audience participation in every show. On stage, the dialog between band members is never less than entertaining.



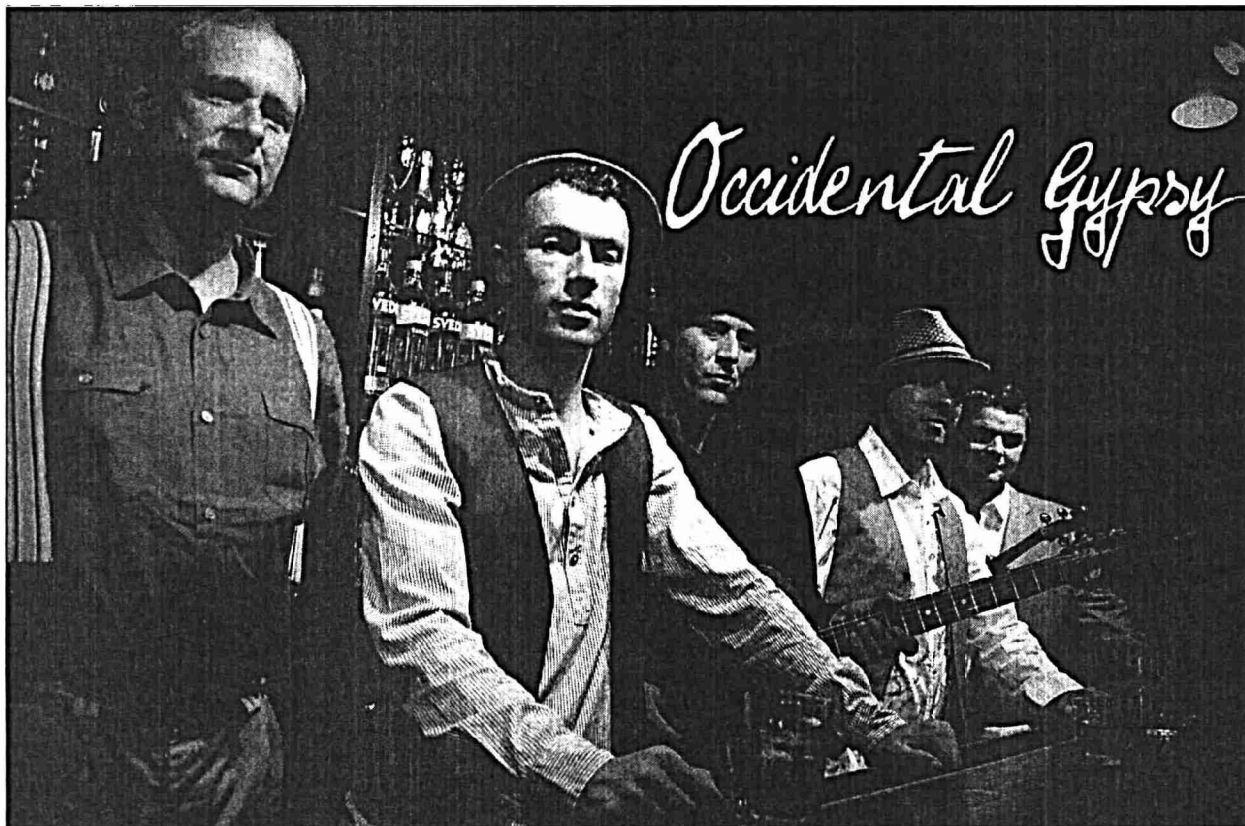


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Occidental Gypsy will perform "gypsy pop" at The Bullfrog Brewery in Williamsport, Saturday, July 14.