

'CAVEMAN' RETURNS TO PHEASANT RUN

BY RANDALL G. MIELKE
For GO

Almost as reliable as the change in seasons, the Noble Fool Theatricals' production of the popular "Defending the Caveman" returns to the Pheasant Run Resort & Spa in St. Charles in July.

"The first performance of 'Defending the Caveman' here at the resort was in the summer of 2007," said Audra Sybert, marketing manager for Noble Fool Theatricals. "It proved to be quite a hit, with near sold-out performances and a great word-of-mouth throughout the community. Due to its constant popularity, we've continued to invite 'Caveman' back at least three times a year. In fact, the show will be back for a special New Year's event, which is always a fun date night, with champagne and party favors."

Rob Becker's one-man show, "Defending the Caveman," is a hysterical exploration of the gender gap. The play is about the ways that men and women relate, and both sexes will recognize themselves in the stories be-

DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN

When: 8 p.m. July 17; 5 and 8:30 p.m. July 18; and 2 p.m. July 19

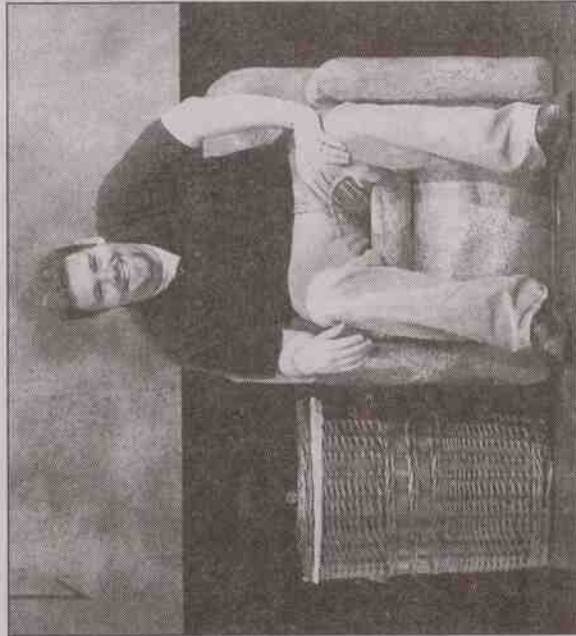
Where: Pheasant Run Resort & Spa, 4051 E. Main St., St. Charles

How Much: \$39 (dinner packages from \$59)

Contact: 630-584-6342 or visit www.ticketmaster.com

ing told on stage. Ben Tedder, who has appeared in "Caveman" several times at Pheasant Run, enjoys returning to perform at the same location.

"The 'return engagement' cities are cool because there are often audience members who have seen the show before that brought friends with them," said Tedder, who has been performing the role for four years. "The show doesn't change that much from performance to performance. It is scripted, and I hold to the script pretty closely, but it is live theater, and audience energy and responses certainly affect each show differently."



COURTESY OF PHEASANT RUN

"Defending the Caveman" stars Ben Tedder.

Tedder is one of eight actors who currently perform the show in various locations in the United States.

"Some people come back to bring their friends," he said. "Some come to get a refresher course with the material. I've talked to some people who loved the show and wanted to see how a dif-

ferent actor approached the material.

"The whole idea of the show is that men and women are different, and that they have misunderstandings," Tedder continued. "In the caveman days, men were hunters, and women were gatherers."

Tedder relates how a summer pastime, such as cooking

could grip a gorilla head and a grilling fork that could fend off a pack of lions. I love it because if I ever need to grill in the jungle, I'm ready. Having these over-sized utensils is like having weapons. Every man standing around the grill can spin, twirl, or flourish his weapons in some way. The caveman would be proud."

on the grill, is reminiscent of caveman days.

"Grilling is something that men really love," Tedder said. "It's something very primal. The smell of meat sizzling on an open flame in the outdoors is something that connects us with our cavemen ancestors. Men were hunters in caveman times. Modern man standing by the grill with tongs or a grilling fork in hand is much like a caveman standing by his fresh kill holding a spear."

Tedder believes that grilling gives men an opportunity to bond.

"Men traditionally don't bond through conversation," he said, "and standing around a grill gives us something to DO. It's a comfortable way to spend time with a male friend."

Tedder also thinks that grilling utensils reflect the mindset of earlier man.

"I've noticed that grilling tools are always much bigger than they really need to be," he said. "I have a grilling set with an enormous spatula that has serrated edges, tongs that

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