

Jazz warms up theatre on a cold evening

By ROB TAYLOR

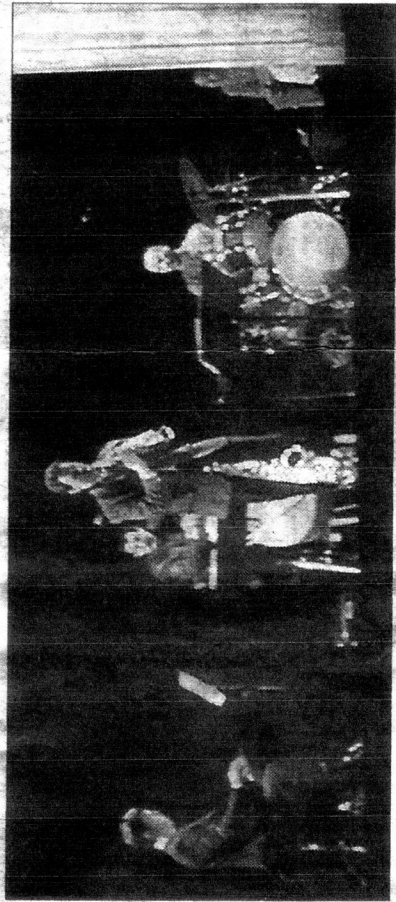
Gazette Staff Writer

What started out a typically cold February evening last Saturday transformed into a warm and soothing to the ears night, thanks to the Doug Talley Quartet performance and the genuine hospitality of the Augusta Historic Theatre.

The performance and audience couldn't have been more heartfelt.

First to play was the Doug Talley Quartet. The band consists of saxophonist Doug Talley, Tim Brewer on bass, Wayne Hawkins on piano, and Keith Kavanaugh on drums. The performance was sponsored by the Kansas Arts Commission and the Augusta Arts Council.

The group has performed throughout the Midwest at various schools including the University of Minnesota, Coe College (IA), Kansas State, Peru (NE) State, Central Missouri State, Northwest Missouri State, and Southeast Oklahoma



The Doug Talley Quartet on stage here Saturday night.

Gazette photo by Rob Taylor

really went out on a limb, pushing the envelope, losing and finding one another in performance.

The show pushed viewers to the edge of their seats with energy. The instruments would then calm down to the point where you could hear the strike of a match. Sounds flickered back at one another in a blaze of vibrance, leaving the audience warm, as if in front of a fire.

During "Get Out of Town," Talley blew his saxophone soft as a cloud,

then would burst off like a steam engine. Brewer's bass sounded as if the notes were dripping off of his bass into a street puddle.

Hawkins and Kavanaugh also took turns taking the spotlight as all four members played solos that went off like fireworks fading into the moonlight.

During the quartet's song "Cherokee" it sounded as if the instruments were speeding down a race track, passing and cruising side by side, then merging into the fast lane. The audience also enjoyed the Augusta High School Jazz Band. They finished their set with "Cut to the Chase," by Bill Chase, a great funk song.

The concert was followed by a dessert buffet with a list of treats too long to list.

The show was triumphant, leaving people high in spirits, proving once and for all that "jazz lives in Augusta."