

The News-Herald Newspapers

Current TV

Your weekly guide to Arts, Entertainment, Leisure & Television in the Downriver area.



Dave Caruso and Bill Jacques are set to square off in "Piano Wars!" at Hickey's in Woodhaven.

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Local musicians wage 'war' in Woodhaven

by Nick Brandon

Dave Caruso is enjoying where his path in music has him right now — a regular gig in the Downriver area, fighting in a musical "war" behind the strength of his piano in Woodhaven.

That show — called "Piano Wars!" — combines the Trenton musician's talents with Bill Jacques of Belleville for a dueling piano extravaganza — one that is certain to entertain people of all ages and musical tastes.

"We're really happy to be doing this," Caruso said. "We've never had such a big audience."

The weekend show at Hickey's Grill in Woodhaven displays Caruso and Jacques playing musical favorites both old and new on two face-to-

face pianos with comedy, theater and music combining to make for a memorable evening event.

Billed as a "live jukebox" that has the ability to play a different show every night, an evening of "Piano Wars!" brings a selection of hundreds of different artists' work, everything ranging from ABBA to The Who.

But instead of a stuffy, lackluster

concert sitting through song after song, Caruso and Jacques provide a high energy, nonstop interactive experience for their audience — one which is just as much fun

a member of the band Caruso in the 1980s, Dave and his three brothers gained a fair amount of notoriety with the younger market.

“We're really happy to be doing this. We've never had such a big audience.”
— Dave Caruso, musician

for the performers on stage as those watching.

"This is like I'm getting paid for all the work I've done," Caruso said.

And he has put in his share of work: As

"Piano Wars!" actually took place Downriver.

"Somebody came to us a year ago at a bar in Lincoln Park (and) said, 'We want to try this thing,' Caruso said. "The



Dave Caruso

Bill Jacques



idea is that 90 percent of the people at Hickey's haven't seen dueling pianos before.

"It (initially) started out as piano playing with comedy. ... It has since developed into a genre."

Caruso said that the pairing of his abilities with Jacques helps the show to be a well-rounded, enjoyable experience from a musical perspective.

"Bill is more of a blues singer (and) I knew everything teen idol-wise," he said.

"I love it all. The cool thing about us being so different is we can cover everything."

The show is unique in that the audience more than the musicians directs what goes on both in the sounds and sights that come from the

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