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NEWS RELEASE

Jan. 6, 2006

Contact: Tom Webster, director, University Theatre Productions, (406) 243-2853.

GUITARIST LEO KOTTKE PERFORMS AT UM IN FEBRUARY

MISSOULA -

Legendary guitarist Leo Kottke will bring his music to The University of Montana on Wednesday, Feb. 15

"An Evening with Leo Kottke," begins at 8 p.m. in the University Theatre, located in UM's Fine Arts Building.

Tickets for reserved seating only cost \$21 in advance, \$23 at the door. They are available at all GrizTix outlets or by calling (406) 243-4051, toll free (888) 666-8262. Tickets also may be purchased online at http://www.GrizTix.com.

Whenever Leo Kottke steps up to the stage, one thing is certain: It'll be a good night for the guitar. "Try and Stop Me," the title of Kottke's new album, encapsulates the spirit of the man himself.

Kottke is profoundly original, a little cantankerous perhaps, a deep talking Midwestern raconteur whose quick wit is matched by his astounding virtuosity on the six- and 12-string guitars. For more than 30 years, he has pursued a unique musical vision that has placed him among the foremost acoustic guitar stylists.

"My music is maybe hard to categorize," Kottke said. "It doesn't fit conveniently into the bins at record stores."

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Kottke's ability to embrace folk idioms and pop melodies as readily as he assimilates jazz and classical influences makes him unique among guitar virtuosi. But for all its technical brilliance, wicked syncopation and harmonic sophistication, his music is eminently accessible.

In 1969, Kottke recorded his first album, "12 String Blues," live at a Minneapolis folk club. He followed that in 1971 with his major label debut, "Mudlark." In 1972, his album "Six and 12-String Guitar" announced the arrival of a major new voice in acoustic guitar instrumental music.

Classic Kottke albums, such as "Chewing Pine," "Time Step," "Peculiaroso," and "One Guitar, No Vocals," have consistently won over new fans while continuing to surprise and delight longtime aficionados.

Usually a meticulous planner, Kottke threw all preconceived notions to the wind when he recorded his newest album, "Try and Stop Me."

"Over time, the importance of improvisation for me has increased," he said.

For more information about "An Evening with Leo Kottke," call University Theatre Productions, (406) 243-2853.

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