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The Black Lillies bring genre-mashing roots music to Olympia *Benefit concert for United Way of Thurston County*

July 1, 2014 – Olympia, Wash. – Back by popular demand, the Black Lillies are returning to the Northwest's historic Capitol Theater in Olympia on August 7 at 8 p.m., to benefit United Way of Thurston County and its work to support vulnerable children and families.

Rolling Stone Magazine last month called the Black Lillies *one of the 10 New Artists You Need to Know in 2014*: "No independent band has played the Grand Ole Opry more often than the Black Lillies, a co-ed, ragtag group of Knoxville pickers whose songs bridge the gap between Appalachian folk, California folk-rock, bluegrass and jazz." They have played multiple times at Bonnaroo and Portland's Pickathon Festival.

"The blessing and the curse of this band," says leader Cruz Contreras, "is the fact that we don't like to repeat ourselves. I'll write a soul tune, then a rock tune, then a country tune. Every day, people ask us what kind of music we play, and we still don't have a one-word answer for them."

The five-member Black Lillies have been praised for their rootsy flair, mixing folk, honky-tonk country and gospel into a winsome hybrid traditional enough to appeal to an Opry crowd and expansive enough to ensnare a broader audience.

"The Black Lillies and United Way are very similar in that we both bring together diverse talents and voices for the good of our whole community," said Paul Knox, executive director of United Way of Thurston County. "We thought what better way to build momentum for our fall fund drive than have the Black Lillies lead us in a night of fun, music and dancing."

All net proceeds from the concert will benefit United Way of Thurston County.

Local favorites, the Blackberry Bushes, will kick off the night. Doors open at 7 p.m. Show begins at 8 p.m. Advance tickets are \$15. Tickets are available online (olympiafilmsociety.org), at Rainy Day Records and at the door on the night of show.

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