

Two Of 10,000 Maniacs To Be On Late Night Show

By TIM O'BRIEN

Q: Which popular Late Night talk show host will have two of Jamestown's 10,000 Maniacs on his show?

A: It's Daaaavid Letterman!

Lead singer and lyricist Natalie Merchant and guitarist Robert Buck are scheduled to appear Friday, Nov. 20, on *Late Night With David Letterman*.

Laurie Guthrie, talent researcher for *Late Night*, said she had seen the band open for the group R.E.M. at Radio City Music Hall.

"A number of people on the show have been fans of theirs and followed them," she said. "We always try to break new bands."

The Maniacs will be the last act on the show, she said, and whether Letterman will merely introduce them or talk to them will depend on how much time is left. "If there's time, they will (talk to Letterman). We have a full show that day."

John Malkovich and Victoria Principal will also be appearing, she noted.

Ms. Guthrie said she encouraged the staff of another NBC show also to see the Maniacs perform. "It's always great to break a new band, a new sound, and I've tried to get some people from *Saturday Night Live* to go too."

The Letterman show is recorded at 5 p.m. the day of the broadcast, and it airs in Jamestown at 12:30 a.m. on Channel 2.

Buck and Ms. Merchant will join Letterman's band for a rendition of "Don't Talk," the new single from their *In My Tribe* album.

The Maniacs' other three members — Steven Gustafson, Jerome Augustyniak and Dennis Drew — will be watching from the audience.

The Jamestown musicians have already mailed the music to "Don't Talk" to Letterman's band. The single

was written by Ms. Merchant and Drew, and it depicts a woman's decision to confront her love's drinking problem.

Friends of the band expect Letterman, known for poking some fun at his own guests, may target the band's name for any jokes.

Although the band is known for its songs about social issues, its name was taken — incorrectly — from a slasher film called *2,000 Maniacs*.

For the band, the exposure could help widen their appeal, said Sheri Cheng of The New York End, the Maniacs' management team.

"It'll probably bring them in line with the mainstream audience," she said.

While the band has proven popular among college students, Ms. Cheng noted, the *Late Night* appearance should also attract older listeners.

The Maniacs, who are in Europe for a week of concerts, also are prominently featured in the most recent edition of England's music magazine *Melody Maker*. Ms. Merchant is pictured on the magazine's cover.

New Music Express, another London magazine, also is writing a story about them, Ms. Cheng said.

The day after the Letterman appearance, the Maniacs are participating in a hungerthon at the United Nations. Their performance will be broadcast on radio station WNEW in New York City, and parts of the show are to be broadcast nationally. The proceeds will benefit World Hunger Year and UNICEF.

In My Tribe is marking its ninth week on the *Billboard* charts, and it is listed at number 161 this week. Two weeks ago, it had risen to number 143 and last week it was ranked 163.