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# Seattle band resurrects at EMU

SUNNY DAY REAL  
ESTATE IS BACK AFTER  
ITS 1994 BREAK-UP

By Khaiersta Flowers  
for the Emerald

Eugene fans will witness the rebirth of Seattle's Sunny Day Real Estate when the band visits the EMU Ballroom May 26.

Born in the grunge era of the early 1990s, Sunny Day Real Estate took a short route to fame with its dramatic, emotional take on punk rock. Its music drew comparisons to the revolutionary sounds of Nirvana and the enduring quality of U2.

The group formed 1991 as a three-piece band with guitarist Dan Hoerner, drummer William Goldsmith and Nate Mendel on bass, and it rose in notoriety with the addition of a young, captivating vocalist named Jeremy Enigk. Enigk brought the band to a new status, and reviewers said Sunny Day seemed poised to become the next great sub-pop act.

According to the Alternative Press' Norm Arenas in a September 1998 article, the band found little need for the press.

"You have to remember, this is the same band who ... got away with doing only one interview, refused to play in the state of California as a full band and quite purposefully released only one photo to the press."

The band broke up shortly after releasing its brilliant debut album "Diary" in 1994. Higher powers intervened, strengthening Enigk's devotion to Christianity, and the rest of the band dissolved before the second album was released.

Mendel and Goldsmith joined the Foo Fighters, Hoerner bought a farm and Enigk released a tortured solo album. The band's short existence inspired a hefty following, and the members' continued silence left its legacy shrouded in mystery.

Lately, however, Sunny Day Real Estate has reunited with new breed of post-Nirvana soul. Their following is strong, and their legacy is emerging in a new light. Mendel, Hoerner and Enigk have joined former Mommyheads bassist Jeff Palmer, and members report the group is here to stay.

According to music magazines, tours across the country have drawn thousands of adoring



### Coming Up

What: Sunny Day Real Estate  
When: May 26 at 6:45 p.m.  
Where: EMU Ballroom  
Tickets: \$14 for University students, \$18 for the general public; available at the EMU Ticket Office.

fans awaiting the familiar sounds of Sunny Day. Crowds in New York and Seattle were met with all new songs as the band played their latest album in its entirety. Enigk's heavy-handed poetics deliver a gritty, grandiose sound comparable to Radiohead.

The sound is markedly different from the band's first two albums, with a more moody, intricate, less explosive feel.

Sunny Day Real Estate will come to the EMU Ballroom on Wednesday May 26 at 6:45 pm. Tickets can be bought at the EMU ticket office, House of Records and CD World. The cost is \$14 for University students, \$18 for the general public.

## Smith

Continued from Page 5B

has added singing to her repertoire. She admits that the scheduling nightmares between music and theater cause stress on her and her instructors.

Even with this abundance of talent, Smith believes she is "very lucky to get a chance in the theater department," almost unwilling to acknowledge that "lucky" people usually create their own triumphs.

"Megan has total dedication to whatever she does," says Joseph Gilg, the University theater department's development director. He directed Smith in the musical "Working" and is currently working with her in the "Dark of the Moon." She plays the female lead, Barbara Allen.

"I think it's amazing her range of characters in plays and in class projects," he continues. "I haven't seen anything Megan has taken on that hasn't been a complete success."

Absolute Improv, which Smith helped found in 1996, is arguably her smash hit for now. Crowds have packed The Wild Duck to egg on the troupe in its theater sports format. In addition, the group has a standing Thursday night gig at Charlie's Comedy Club, although Smith is on hiatus while she rehearses for "Dark of the Moon."

"Megan is so good at not being intimidating in the least while on stage," says John Sanders, one of her Absolute Improv "dorking out" buddies. "She's a very organic actor, and she doesn't get bogged down in the technical aspects of acting. Megan is always right there in the moment."

Away from the stage, Smith doesn't mind hiding out in the middle of nowhere and drawing to relax. She might also be indoors, hanging out with her cats. Or she obsesses about her gardening.

When the final curtain falls on

her University acting career, Smith's plans include tending to her friendships and the lessons she has learned. Who knows, she asks. She could tour with the improv gang or perhaps emulate another of her heroes, Jim Henson, and establish a theater that stages full-body puppetry.

One thing she won't do is put limits on herself. A question about her "perfect role" goes unanswered for the most part. Instead, she replies by talking about her versatility, even in gender-bending roles. After more thought, Smith comes up with a group effort she would enjoy, "filming a (Jean) Molière play with really witty people."

"It's not about me, it never was; it's about the craft," she adds. "It's about finding people and the synergy that makes you feel that you are an artist."

It's also about impressively filling that empty space, a task that Smith seems well suited to make happen.



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