

Music News

La Zoo captures wild sound in tame studio setting

■ The release of the CD "Media Zebra" offers fans a chance to hear the live sounds they've loved for years and come to expect

By Yael Menahem
Oregon Daily Emerald

La Zoo.

Interesting name for a band whose sounds are as eclectic as its name. The music is a "mixture of funk, hip-hop, acid-jazz [and] global-groove," the group's guitarist/percussionist Brent Bosworth says.

Fans of La Zoo and new listeners alike can hear that catch-all mix at the Wild Duck Saturday night, when the band throws a CD release party to celebrate "Media Zebra."

The six current members of the band have been together for five years, and this CD is either La Zoo's second or third release, "depending on who you ask on any given day," reads the liner notes for "Media Zebra." Band members are Bosworth, Eric Abaté, Edwin Coleman III, Will Moye, Dave O'Toole and Brian Price.

This latest La Zoo release is the result of six to eight months of rehearsals in the form of live shows. The band recorded "Media Zebra" at Eugene's Pro Arts Produc-

tion studio during one weekend.

The sound that La Zoo aimed for was a reproduction of its live sound but created in a studio. Bosworth maintains that many bands record a CD in the studio and make themselves sound better using studio tricks that they can't reproduce onstage. La Zoo managed to do a studio recording that captures the sound that its fans have loved for years and know they will hear at a live show.

The band also wanted to make this 18-track release more radio-friendly, without losing its jam-session sound, Bosworth says.

Each member of the band contributes to writing the music, and as a group they fuse the various efforts to create their sound as a group, though "most songs are doctored," Bosworth says.

The band's influences range from Miles Davis to Yes to The Beatles, and each musician's history has spanned decades.

Bosworth has been a composer for 30 years and has performed with bands such as Wisdom Star, the Bosworth Brothers and White Liberals. Abaté, who sometimes adds a touch of French rap to the music — he's originally from Lyon, France — attended the acclaimed Aimer Jazz School of Music in France and is a former member of the group Love, Death



Courtesy of La Zoo

La Zoo plays its funky brand of jazz Saturday night at the Wild Duck. The show doubles as a CD release party.

& Agriculture.

With its second (or maybe third) CD packaged and ready to sell, La Zoo is planning to tour in San Francisco and Los Angeles in February. Abaté plans to visit Europe soon with hopes of landing

the band some overseas jazz festival dates for this summer. In addition, Bosworth says the band is also interested in having its songs appear on film and television soundtracks.

Catch La Zoo, an original band

with a funk-up acid jazz sound, Saturday at the Wild Duck, 169 W. Sixth Ave. Doors open at 9 p.m., and the music begins at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased only on the day of the show.

VH1 rock poll denies satisfaction

■ A recent poll conducted by a music video station offers some off-base picks for the top rock song

By Jack Clifford
Oregon Daily Emerald

In case you missed this news last week, VH1 conducted a poll of 700 music industry people, and the group chose The Rolling Stones' "Satisfaction" as the greatest rock song of all time.

That choice begs an obvious question: What exactly does VH stand for, "Very High"?

Don't get me wrong, I like the Stones. In fact, when I turn 80 years old I'd like nothing better than to have Mick and the boys play at my birthday party. If they're not still on the road, that is. (What might a 2050 Rolling Stones tour be called, "Steel Wheelchairs"?)

Seriously though, the VH1 top selection is a fine tune and anyone older than 25 years has probably engaged in some rather illicit activity while listening to the 1965 song about, what else, sex.

But rockiest ditty ever? Don't think so. In fact, Keith Richards has said that the words and music came to him one night while he was sleeping, which doesn't exactly evoke images of raising the roof.

By the way, how did Richards recognize the difference in his consciousness?

To be blunt, "Satisfaction" isn't even the best Stones song of all time. "Sympathy for the Devil," which at least made the list of 100 greatest at No. 26, is better than the poll winner. For that matter, so is just about anything off that "Sympathy" album, "Beggar's Banquet."

Todd Schwartz, VH1 programming director told the Associated Press that "[Satisfaction] kind of sticks up as an anthem for the time it was released and for every generation that came since."

Yep. All of those wacky kids going bonkers during last sum-

COMMENTARY

Jack Clifford

mer's Woodstock were secretly wearing headphones, listening to Jagger's lips flap, while Limp Bizkit's cry to "Break Stuff" went unheard.

More to the point, the list didn't have anything on it past the 1991 release of Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit," which ended up No. 41. So, let's see the Beach Boys "Good Vibrations" makes the cut at No. 8, but Beck's "Loser" doesn't even crack the top 100. Who sponsored the vote, the makers of Prozac?

Schwartz pointed out that the voters for this poll were older than the network's usual audience, which falls into the 30 and older category. Remember that Abbie Hoffman once said never trust anyone over the age of 30. Amend that to read "especially voters in a rock-music poll."

Easily the most glaring omission from the list is a song, any song, by Santana. In a monumental lapse of music appreciation, voters put Billy Joel's "Piano Man" in the top 100 but left off Carlos Santana, the "guitar man," arguably the best ever.

"Free Bird" made it for God's sake, but not Santana? Supernatural forces must have been at work.

Another unacceptable oversight by the voters was ignoring Chrissie Hynde and The Pretenders. Ask any female rocker today who influenced her the most, and the overwhelming response would be Hynde. Either "Middle of the Road" or "Brass in Pocket" would be a perfect choice from The Pretenders.

Getting back to the overall lineup, Aretha Franklin's "Respect" came in second. Since dishing dirt on the Queen of Soul is strictly forbidden, we'll let that choice slide. Besides, the song's pretty damn good.

Following Aretha in slots three through five are Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" — What? Not "Whole Lotta Love" or "Dazed and Confused"? — then Bob Dylan's "Like a Rolling Stone" and finally Bruce Springsteen's "Born to Run," perhaps the most sensible pick of the top bunch.

Pickings became more questionable as the top ten rounds

VH1's top ten rock songs of all time

1. "Satisfaction," The Rolling Stones
2. "Respect," Aretha Franklin
3. "Stairway to Heaven," Led Zeppelin
4. "Like a Rolling Stone," Bob Dylan
5. "Born to Run," Bruce Springsteen
6. "Hotel California," The Eagles
7. "Light My Fire," The Doors
8. "Good Vibrations," the Beach Boys
9. "Hey Jude," The Beatles
10. "Imagine," John Lennon

For the complete list of 100 songs, plus the top ten in other categories, go to the VH1 Web site, www.vh1.com/insidevh1/shows/100great.

SOURCE: VH1

out. "Light My Fire" by The Doors in seventh place? The Beatles' "Hey Jude" in the ninth spot? Oh, the humanity.

Interestingly, the song most likely to be heard coming from a high school marching band, "Louie Louie," finished 11th overall.

So what is the top rock song of all time?

Right. You don't expect me to answer that one, do you?

No thanks. I just write the critiques, I don't provoke them.

Unless, of course, you want to debate the best movie of all time.



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