

DJs, step off: New Deal always play it live

■ The Canadian trio brings dance music to Taylor's — but they play instruments

By Rebecca Wilson
Oregon Daily Emerald

Live musicians seldom appear in the spinning, throbbing world that candy ravers call home. At raves, dance mixes pound from speakers and occasionally a DJ spins and samples from a set of turntables. Dance lovers have reconciled themselves to never seeing a drum set or a guitar. Instrument-playing musicians and dancers travel in separate worlds, and never the twain shall meet.

Until now.

On Tuesday, Taylor's Bar and Grill will host the New Deal, a group that plays for the dancer lurking within the live-music lover.

The New Deal are a trio of exclusively live musicians who create energetic music without the aid of turntables or samples. They describe their music as "live progressive breakbeat house," explained keyboard player Jamie Shields.

Bass player Dan Kurtz, drummer Darren Shearer and keyboard player Shields formed the New Deal at a 1999 impromptu show in their

home city of Toronto, Ontario.

"Darren was playing in all these really boring, bad, acid-jazz bands in these really bad clubs in Toronto," Shields said. "One night, we figured since no one was listening anyway, we might as well make it up."

By chance, someone taped the show.

"We basically had a CD before we had a band," Shields said.

The band has been on tour ever since, said Mark Alghini, the band's manager. Alghini has managed the New Deal since September 2000.

"It is all about the boys," Alghini said. "They are wonderful people ... very fun to work with."

Currently, the New Deal have three live albums and are at work on a studio-quality LP. "But the new album will still be live," Shields said.

The New Deal are always met with a great deal of audience enthusiasm, Shields said. The music "is not always dance. But for sure it's improvised, and for sure it's live."

The band has something to offer everyone, Alghini said from his office at Nettwerk Management in New York City.

"Some people come and just

dance, some people listen to melodies, and some people are just interested in what we do," Shields said.

Shields attributes the band's eclectic, hybrid sound to the fact that the band members don't like the same types of music. In fact, they rarely listen to dance music.

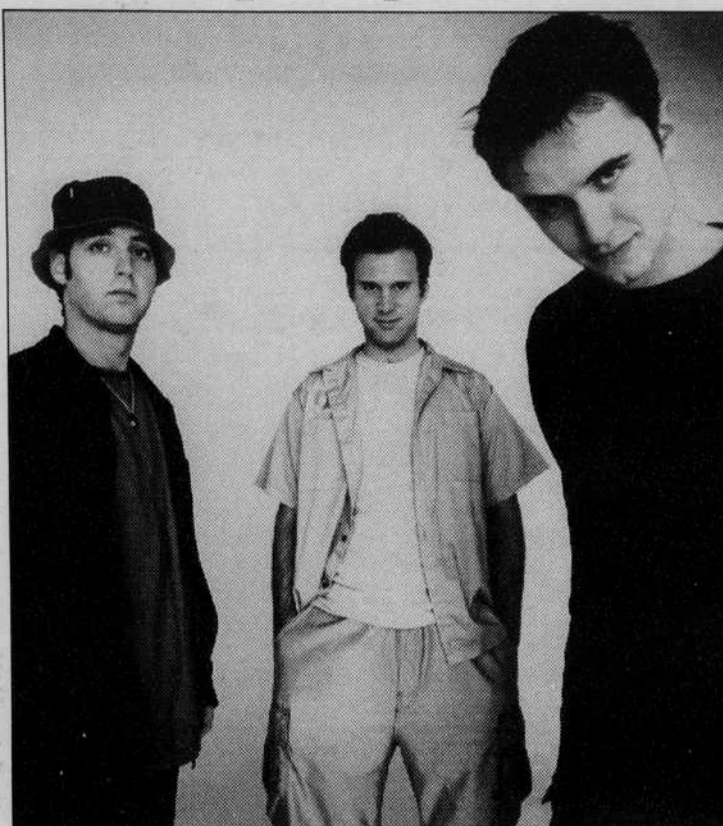
"Darren listens to contemporary music, R & B; he's interested in the chart world," said Shields. "I listen to jazz funk ... Frank Zappa. I really like Ween. The three of us like music that is so different that you would never think that we could be in a band and make music together."

The Canadian group was featured in Village Voice and Spin Magazine — recognition that rarely comes to live jam bands.

In the August 2000 issue of Spin, DJ Logic called the New Deal "the Kraftwerk of the new millennium."

On the New Deal's EP "Guelph on Can," complex bass riffs weave beneath twangy, fluid keyboard melodies and catchy beats.

The New Deal will be playing in Eugene on Tuesday at Taylor's Bar and Grill on East 13th Avenue, across the street from the University of Oregon Bookstore.



Courtesy
The New Deal (Dan Kurtz, Darren Shearer and Jamie Shields) hail from Toronto, Canada. The trio uses a bass, keys and drums to create new beats the old-fashioned way.

Jagger journeys into film producing with 'Enigma'

By David Germain
The Associated Press

PARK CITY, Utah — Mick Jagger, independent filmmaker, sounds like any other producer at the Sundance Film Festival when he talks about the obstacles to capturing his story on celluloid.

There are the problems of raising the cash, securing the film rights, lining up suitable talent to direct and act.

"I wanted to spend five years of my life producing one independent movie," Jagger jokes when asked why he tried his hand at making films with the spy thriller "Enigma," which premiered Monday night at Sundance.

"We had to spend lots of time getting the script right and raising the money, everything else that goes with making a film," the Rolling Stones singer said in an interview before the premiere.

"Enigma" stars Dougray Scott, Kate Winslet, Jeremy Northam and Saffron Burrows in a tale of romantic intrigue set among British code-breakers trying to unravel German U-boat ciphers during World War II.

Directed by Michael Apted ("The World Is Not Enough"), the movie is a thinking man's cousin to last year's "U-571." It's based on the novel by Robert Harris, with a screenplay by Tom Stoppard ("Shakespeare in Love").

This is the first finished movie by Jagged Films, the company Jagger and his producing partner, Victoria Pearman, formed in the mid-1990s. "Saturday Night Live" producer Lorne Michaels joined them on "Enigma" and worked with Jagger to secure the rights to the book.

While the project began as a studio film, the producers said they realized they needed to produce it independently to keep it true to its roots. Unlike "U-571," which made American sailors the heroes of Allied efforts to crack the U-boat codes, "Enigma" sticks to historical facts, with the British leading the deciphering effort.

"This was not an easy sell," said Jagger, who has acted in such movies as "Freejack." "It's an English movie without American actors

and actresses. It's a difficult subject, and it's a relatively difficult ride."

Despite his and Michaels' fame, Jagger said "Enigma" came into Sundance much like any other independently financed film, with the producers hoping they could land a distribution deal.

"I figure that in a way, Sundance is sort of changing," Jagger said.

"It's not only unknown filmmakers anymore who bring films up here. Ours has got big-name people in it, but it's still an independent movie."

Jagger's company plans to produce a romantic drama about author-poet Dylan Thomas and his wife, as well as a film Jagger co-wrote with Martin Scorsese about

two music-business partners whose careers span the 1960s to the present.

The singer also said he plans to act in his film company's movies. He co-stars with Andy Garcia in "Elysian Fields," due out this year.

"Enigma" entered Sundance as one of the hottest films available for acquisition. Jagger and Michaels

said they were confident they would leave the festival with a distribution deal.

"We think obviously we're going to have a buyer, but it's interesting to see who in the movie industry thinks this is an interesting film and who says, 'Oh, we can't deal with it,'" Jagger said. "This is an intellectual film."

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