

# Floater comes home to play acoustic set

The Eugene-band returns to WOW Hall on Friday to play a set inspired by life and each other

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PULSE REPORTER

Rock group Floater will return to its old stomping grounds this weekend.

The band, which consists of lead singer and bassist Robert Wynia, drummer Peter Cornett, and guitarist Dave Amador, will perform an acoustic show at the WOW Hall on Friday.

"The history we have (at the WOW Hall) is long and intense, and it's hard not to associate Eugene almost entirely with playing at the WOW Hall," Wynia wrote in an e-mail. "Many highs and lows have happened within those hallowed walls."

The members of Floater met in the early '90s when they started playing

together at garage parties and at the University.

Wynia explained the group's beginnings: "I put up some posters at local haunts saying that I was looking for people to play some songs."

Floater released its first album in 1994, and now has eight albums in its catalogue. In 1998, the band moved to Portland, where the members currently reside.

"We just had so much more going on up here (in Portland). We were mixing our records here, and we hung out with a number of musicians in this area," Wynia said.

Floater will be playing two sets of acoustic music — its first all-acoustic show in Eugene in more than a year.

Wynia describes the acoustic shows as "much more low key, in some ways more intimate and personal and a lot less exhausting" than the electric shows.

The band started performing

acoustic shows after a manager's encouragement. "She would overhear us playing songs acoustically and she kept saying, 'You guys have gotta record that,' and finally we just put our energy into the acoustic music for a while," Wynia said.

Fans have displayed positive reactions to the shows.

"(Fans reacted) much better than we expected — very alarmingly well," Wynia said.

The band is finding new artistic inspirations as it grows. Once influenced by other bands and sounds, members of Floater are now trying to find inspiration within themselves.

"We're primarily influenced by life itself, and we've found a mechanism for using each other to produce music that we all enjoy and are fulfilled by," Wynia said.

The band is playing with loud, fierce energy because of its focus on playing acoustically, Wynia said.

Meanwhile, the band is

brainstorming and writing for its next electric record, set to come out in spring 2006.

"We just can't sit together in a room and not start writing material," Wynia said.

Tickets for the upcoming acoustic show are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Ticket outlets include CD World at 3215 W. 11th, House of Records at 258 E. 13th Ave., Taco Loco at 900 W. Seventh Ave., the University ticket office on campus and the WOW Hall, all in Eugene.

Doors for the show open at 8 p.m., and the show starts at 9 p.m. on Friday.

The WOW Hall is located at 291 W. Eighth Ave. and is open for all ages. Ages 6 to 11 are half price at the door when accompanied by a parent, ages 5 and under get in free. Those interested can call the WOW Hall at (541) 687-2746.

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## Thrift: Stores offer costume bargains

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customers are looking for," manager Mary Kolego said.

Staffers only buy back what's in style. They look for what people are wearing on the street, what's sold at the mall and what is featured on television and in magazines.

Kolego said designer denim and velvet are currently selling well. What else is in? "Good, yummy fall colors: rich brown, burgundy, yellows," she said.

Most who sell clothes to the store are just looking to clean out their closet.

"We buy directly from the public. The majority of our merchandise comes from the public," said Kolego.

The Buffalo Exchange started in 1974 in Arizona, and has expanded to 11 states, with three stores in the Willamette Valley.

The Eugene location offers a fresh selection. "Even for me, every day I come in here there's a certain level of excitement. That's definitely not something you're going to find at the mall. We have new stuff everyday," said Kolego, who has worked at the store since its opening in 1999.

The store has clothes for reasonable prices — Kolego estimates the average price range for clothes is \$10 to \$25.

"The initial sticker shock is gone and people can get fashionable items for a reasonable price," she said.

The store has plenty of accessories including belts, shoes, jewelry, scarves, backpacks and hats, along with a huge variety of clothing articles.

"We have some of everything. We have the brands that you can find at the mall, but we have that fun and unexpected item you can't find anywhere else," Kolego said.

Many of these unexpected items can be found on the Halloween rack. "We just got in a killer tutu," Kolego said.

The Buffalo Exchange has a rack full of themed outfits including '70s, Little Red Riding Hood, farmer, French maid, cheerleader, prom king and queen and many more.

Value Village, at 555 W. Centennial

Blvd. in Springfield, is another good spot to find Halloween outfits for a modest price. Although Value Village has a wide selection of outfits and clothing items, finding fashionable pieces is hit-or-miss. Most used items start at \$1 while new items start at \$15. The selection provides an opportunity to mix and match.

The warehouse store has a wide array of Halloween accessories including masks.

Other thrift stores in the Eugene area that offer more adventure and surprise include Goodwill stores.

The thrift store operates three Eugene-Springfield Goodwill stores, including one at 15 Coburg Road in Eugene. The local stores are at 1015 River Road, 855 Seneca Road and 102 30th St. in Springfield.

Those searching for an inexpensive alternative may want to check out The Salvation Army at 2065 W. 7th Ave. in Eugene or St. Vincent De Paul, with locations throughout Eugene.

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