

BY AMY LIGHTY
PULSE EDITOR

Born in L.A., Bred in Ireland



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JONAH SCHROGIN AND CHRIS TODD

While many consider Los Angeles the "entertainment capital of the world," the city of angels is bursting at the seams with musicians just trying to make a name for themselves. Indie singer/songwriters can find difficulties in such a task, as more and more processed "musicians" are created by image consultants and businessmen. For those unwilling to compromise themselves, getting out of Los Angeles might just be the best solution. It most definitely was for Cynthia Catania and Annmarie Cullen, who make up, for the most part, the creative and fun-loving band Saucy Monkey. The band will be playing tonight at Cozmic Pizza, located at 199 W. Eighth Ave. in downtown Eugene.

Saucy Monkey initially formed in Los Angeles. But when Cullen went home to her native Ireland for a visit with an early release of their debut album "Celebrity Trash," it wasn't long before the DJs were spinning the record and Saucy Monkey was becoming a household name.

"We started in Los Angeles, but the first success with radio and press happened for us in the major cities (in Ireland) like Dublin and Cork and West Cork, Galway and Limerick," said Catania in a phone interview. "We had an early copy of the record and when Annmarie

was home on holiday, she dropped a CD off to one of the premier DJs out there and he really responded to the music. So we started to get some love out in that part of the world and we played there half a dozen times over the next few years."

Many Americans are just now getting their first taste of Saucy Monkey after the release of the group's second album "Turbulence," which is now available in stores as well as on iTunes and their Web site, www.saucy-monkey.com. While these two rocking gals already have a great relationship with the Irish, they're trying to develop the same kind of love back here in the United States, where record companies are trying to get the attention of Saucy Monkey.

"I think it's just basically that the fact that we were so well received in Ireland, it made companies out here more interested in what we were doing because we have a good Web presence and we have a lot of good press. We were sorta like 'critics' darlings' out there (in Ireland)," Catania said.

But it isn't as if finding success in the United States has come easy for this duo. In 1999, Catania created her own indie record label, oliveoil records, to help independent artists keep their music alive. But oliveoil records was also a

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Today

Juliette & The Licks
John Henry's
8 p.m., \$12.50 advance
tickets through
TicketsWest

Friday

Gus Russell
LaVelle Wine Bar and
Bistro at 5th Street
Market. 5:30 p.m., free

Saturday

Laura Kemp Trio,
Americanna at Sam
Bond's Garage
9 p.m., \$7



TOP 5 GROSSING MOVIES

- 1: "Chicken Little" \$32M
- 2: "Zathura" \$14M
- 3: "Derailed" \$12.8M
- 4: "Get Rich or Die Tryin'" \$12.5M
- 5: "Jarhead" \$12.3M



TOP 5 FICTION AT UO BOOKSTORE

- 1: "The Kite Runner"
-Khaled Hosseini
- 2: "Wicked: The Life and
Times of the Wicked
Witch of the West"
-Gregory Maguire
- 3: "The Plot Against
America"
-Phillip Roth
- 4: "The Shadow of the
Wind"
-Carlos Ruiz Zafon
- 5: "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time"
-Mark Haddon



TOP 5 ITUNES DOWNLOADS

- 1: "My Humps"
-Black Eyed Peas
- 2: "Run It!"
-Chris Brown, remix
featuring Juelz
Santana
- 3: "Hung Up" (Radio
Edit)
-Madonna
- 4: "Gold Digger"
-Kanye West featuring
Jamie Foxx
- 5: "Jesus Walks"
-Kanye West

In my opinion



ANDREW MCCOLLUM
ADROIT

Sexist portrayal of women mars games

On Tuesday an alliance of campus organizations protested AXE's "Mojo Master," a game in which players try to score dates with scads of scantily clad virtual women. It's about time someone criticized a part of gaming that is often overshadowed by the violence debate.

Many have said that media objectify women, but in video games this objectification is most apparent. Most games focus on male protagonists, while women have played a second-class role since gaming's earliest days.

When gamers beat 1986's "Metroid," an interstellar shooter for the Nintendo Entertainment System, they found a twist ending that nobody expected: Samus Aran, the game's masked hero, wasn't a man. Samus was one of the earliest examples of a strong female protagonist, but this achievement was marred by the infamous "Justin

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Franz Ferdinand, "You Could Have It So Much Better": "When I woke up tonight I said, 'I'm going to make somebody love me,'" declares Franz Ferdinand frontman Alex Kapranos on the band's new album, "You Could Have It So Much Better." If the pop hooks and catchy "doot-do-doots" found on the first single, "Do You Want To," are any indication, Kapranos and company will have no problem with the love factor. The Scottish quartet gives a second-dose of its '80s post-punk style that left listeners yearning for more after its self-titled album was released in 2004. Once again, the band's dance-rock beat inspires listeners to shake it up on the dance floor or bounce to the music through headphones.

With two more tracks than the debut album, the record lets the band expand beyond its usual dance-rock tendencies, with songs like "Eleanor Put Your Boots On," a piano ballad about Eleanor Friedberger, singer for Fiery Furnaces and the girlfriend of Kapranos. The song, clearly inspired by a band that Kapranos listened to as a young teen — the Beatles — demonstrates that Franz Ferdinand is capable of producing more than a pop-heavy song. Kapranos isn't a lyrical genius, but his words tend to explore dark themes with upbeat music. The best example is Kapranos singing, "I'm a heathen and evil, like you," with a buoyant beat behind him. The lyrics often seem to be proving he's better than someone else ("I am complete, invincible"). The Killers, maybe? Nah. After all, Franz Ferdinand opened the door for such bands, leading the so-called New Wave Revival. And if Franz Ferdinand keeps putting out albums with new wrinkles of innovation that leave listeners with the inclination that it couldn't get much better, the door could be open a long time.

— Trevor Davis



INSIDE PULSE



Aerodrone



Comics



The Matrix: Path of Neo