

The Clackamas Print

Coffee anyone?

Erinn Lerten
Design Editor

Coffee is as natural to Portland as the rain. Among the plethora of coffee houses a few stand out above the rest. Whether it be their superior coffee or the ambiance of their atmospheres, these coffee shops offer something special.

Torrefazione Italia
838 NW 23rd Ave.
Portland, OR
1001 SW 5th Ave.
Portland, OR

Torrefazione Italia offers the most European-like coffee experience in town. Originating as an Italian coffee roasting operation in Seattle, the company's founder brought roasting methods from the Old Country to the States and named his blends after the Italian cities that inspired them. Many other coffee houses in the area including The Pied Cow (3244 SE Belmont St.) and Common Grounds (4321 SE Hawthorne) use Torrefazione's superior beans. Lattes and cappuccinos are uncommonly thick and rich due to a unique method of steaming the milk.

Biscotti, hard rolls, and raisin and fennel bread are available for snacking. In warmer weather, outdoor seating fills up quickly for smoking and people-watching in both well-trafficked locations.

Starbucks Coffee

If you still haven't seen the inside of any of the thousands of Starbucks on this planet, consider yourself one of three things: incredibly sheltered, incredibly exclusive, or incredibly frightened of espresso. Starbucks threw Seattle and the great Northwest into the spotlight of a culture built on tiny dried beans.

A few great things about Starbucks: it's always clean, the employees know some good jokes, and the pastries, cookies, and snacks are certifiably good. Plus, you can purchase coffee drinks on the spot as well as shop for beans (whole or ground), filters, coffee- and espresso-makers, mugs, and other paraphernalia.

Last and most important, whatever you're buying, whether it's the decaf grande non-fat mocha or a regular cup of coffee, the quality is consistent from Hawthorne to Hong

Kong.

Rimsky-Koraskoff House
707 SE 12th Ave.
Portland, OR

Since 1980, Portlanders have flocked to this unassuming Victorian that hides behind a mass of vegetation on a nondescript Southeast Portland street. There's no sign, so visitors feel like insiders when they find it. Inside, things look a little more businesslike. Signs instruct you to take a menu and find a table—not always an easy prospect, but frequent customers know not to linger too long unless business is slow.

Choose mocha fudge cake, an ice cream sundae or a slice of cheesecake to go with your cup of coffee—everything's good, but the food's not necessarily the attraction. It's conversation and quirky sophistication that lures Rimsky's regulars. Owner Goody Cable has achieved the perfect atmosphere—live classical music and sassy mischief—for post-event socialization.

Coffee Time
712 NW 21st Ave.
Portland, OR

Invariably, you'll get to know the person sitting next to you or run into someone you know during a visit to Coffee Time. After all, this is a coffee shop that thrives on two fundamental things: coffee and conversation. And while the coffee keeps you alert the intimate atmosphere demands fellowship.

Buzzing all day long and well into the night—on Allen coffee—gaggles of caffeine addicts can be spotted outside and inside the gates of this java paradise, with or without their dogs.

Every big city has to have one and Coffee Time is Portland's late night hipster hangout (open till 2:30 a.m.) But timing is everything, people arrive early and stay late. So be patient and keep jockeying for that great booth—this coffee house has some of the best seats in town.



ERINN LERTEN Clackamas Print

Many Portlanders flock to Coffee Time in Northwest for the nice atmosphere, good coffee, and late hours.

Cusack takes it to the 'Max'

Jen Kane
A&E Editor

"Max," starring John Cusack and Noah Taylor, is the unlikely story of Max Rothman (Cusack), a high-class art dealer, befriending a young Adolf Hitler (Taylor). I say it's an unlikely story because going into the movie I didn't think anybody could have been friends with Hitler.

Throughout the film, the viewer becomes acquainted with a young, awkward Hitler who just wants his art to be seen. He's shy and it takes most of his courage to simply go and talk to Rothman. The two seem to hit it off.

I felt like the two hours were just a chance for a big-shot movie producer to make a film where all of the preconceived notions people had about Hitler were splattered in front of us in an artistic way. The rumors of Hitler being completely pure, i.e. no meat, no drugs, no alcohol, no caffeine, are all shown as being true. One of the first things he says in the movie is, when offered a cigarette, "No thanks. They give you cancer of the lung."

The image that is portrayed of Hitler could be true, but is hard to believe. A horrible public speaker, he goes to bars and back alleys to

scream his political views at people, swearing and spitting all over the place. During his final speech in the movie the viewer gets a disturbing look at the anger-filled, Jew-hating Hitler.

So where does Rothman fit into all of this? The two meet one evening when Hitler helps deliver some champagne at Rothman's art show. Rothman sees the portfolio under Hitler's arm and asks to see it. He doesn't see anything he thoroughly enjoys, but recognizes a fire and passionate anger in Hitler. He then proceeds to take him under his wing and help him create great art, and maybe screw a cute girl or two in the process. The most ironic part of the friendship? Rothman is Jewish.

Cusack's role is extremely different than anything I've seen him in, but the poor guy just can't get away from himself. In everything he does, be it a record store owner or a hit man, he plays the same character. Don't get me wrong, I think Cusack is very talented and I'm a huge fan. But the monotone dialogue with a tiny bit of spark and passion is the same as in any Cusack film. It's the opposite of typecasting. He gets very different roles, but makes them seem like they're the same.

Altogether, I'm not sure how I feel about the movie. I stayed awake



INTERNET PHOTO

In "Max," Cusack plays an upper-class Jewish artist who befriends a young Hitler.

for the entire thing, but maybe this was because my chair was broken and I couldn't get comfortable. Yes, the movie was somewhat boring. The entire time I was just waiting for exciting things to take place, because with Hitler as one of the main characters I was expecting lots of drama. However, the film plodded along slowly until the very end.

"Max" also stars Molly Parker, Leelee Sobieski (don't worry, she has a small role) and Ulrich Thomsen. It is in theaters now. It ends its week-long run at Cinema 21 in Northwest Portland on Thursday.

CD of the Week
Artist: The Microphones | Album: Mount Eerie



LUKE MAHAN Clackamas Print

Robb Egan
&
Joel Gaynor

Opinion Editor/
Webmaster

With his first album since 2001's critically acclaimed "The Glow: Part II", Phil Elvrum (sole member of The Microphones) has brought forth yet another panoply of sounds and experiences destined to go almost entirely unappreciated.

Fans of The Microphones previous albums will recognize Elvrum's gentle vocals and driving instrumentals, and will be pleased with The Microphones sixth album, "Mount Eerie" (K Records).

Starting literally where "The Glow" left off, with a recording of Elvrum's beating heart, "Mount Eerie" is, quite simply, a masterpiece of expression, crammed chock full of metaphor but never overly sappy. It is storytelling as music.

Each of "Mount Eerie's" five titles is actually multiple songs, recorded chronologically on one tape as a single track, each song like a melodic puzzle piece to their respective tracks, which in turn are pieces of a whole that is indeed so much more than the sum of its parts.

The beauty of "Mount Eerie" is in its pseudo-simplicity. While somehow managing to appear effortless, this work is so complex and layered it demands to be listened to in its entirety. This is definitely not an album you want to approach casually, skipping from track to track to find a song to suit your mood. You could never sing along to it in the shower. Rather, it is best enjoyed in a comfortable setting where you can just sit and enjoy the music for what it is, or maybe let it play in the background as you relax, surf the web, and just generally slow down.

Sadly, while "Mount Eerie" may be virtually operatic in expression and brilliant in composition, it remains so entirely unlike most popular music that most casual listeners probably won't get it. Those hoping for the usual pop or indie-rock sound should seriously consider looking elsewhere.

"Mount Eerie" by The Microphones hit the shelves Jan. 21, and can be found in many respectable record stores, or online through K Records' official website at <http://www.krecords.com>.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, Jan. 30:
William Stafford Birthday Party
7 p.m.
Gregory Forum
Bring a poem to share!

Lunch and Learn:
"The Tales of Hoffman" opera
Noon - 1 p.m.
CC127

Friday, Jan. 31:
Date Auction Concoction
6 p.m. - Social Hour
7 p.m. - Auction
Gregory Forum

Monday, Feb. 3:
Will Hornyak - Storytelling
1 - 2 p.m.
P103

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