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Jerry Joseph and the Jackmormons
perform Tuesday at John Henry's.



music BY VANESSA SALVIA

Fresh Sounds

Voodoo Organist, Chantigs and the Jackmormons tour new releases.

Eugene's Downtown Lounge is host to two don't-want-to-miss shows this week. First, Los Angeles's **Voodoo Organist** takes the stage Saturday.

A.K.A. Scott Wexton, the Voodoo Organist sings and plays organ, bass pedals, theremin, drum machine, computer and various percussive instruments to create a campy, spooky, bluesy sound. Defining his "holy trinity of rock" to be Screaming Jay Hawkins, Nick Cave and Tom Waits, Wexton's solo act is infused with the swampy spirit of delta blues, phantasmagoric imagery and a retro kitsch-iness that has made his show a cult favorite. Wexton is in the midst of a national tour to support the release of his second CD, which he's dubbed *The Return of the Voodoo Organist*.

Visit Downtown Lounge Sunday night for the return of **The Chantigs**, a San Francisco-based pop band with a distinct '60s style. The Chantigs first caught my eye with their 1999 release *The Mission Faucet*, though they debuted with 1998's *Up With Chantigs*. Four Hats followed in 2001, and this year they released *My Door*. Part lushly layered psychedelic instrumentalism and part fuzzy vocal harmonies, the Chantigs have found an appealing niche for their catchy, melodic pop, which falls somewhere between The Beach Boys, Pink Floyd and The Beatles.

I recently caught up with The Jackmormons' Jerry Joseph to get the story on *Mouthful of Copper*, a 2-CD live release recorded over three nights in Butte, Mont. Joseph was holed up in a basement studio in Athens, Ga. (the same studio where 2002's *Conscious Contact* was recorded) writing songs for a future collaborative project with Widespread Panic bassist Dave Schools. (Joseph says he has no idea when that project will be finalized, but recording is slated to begin in January in the Bahamas.)

A live Jackmormons CD had been in the works for some time. "The Jackmormons have

always wanted to make a live CD. We have so many tapes and so much stuff that you can instantly access, we wanted to make a live one that we had some control of, like what versions we were using." The band self-produced *Mouthful of Copper*, which, aside from a handful of songs, is essentially a "new" CD.

Though The Jackmormons just released *Copper*, discussion of the next project has already begun. "We're going to be recording our next studio release next year. We're in the process of deciding what kind of record we want to make and I think we'd like to do something a little bit different," he says.

Joseph wouldn't elaborate on what "different" things they wanted to do, but he did say that recording rarely is an open-and shut process. "You know, you say you want to make a certain kind of record but for me, rarely is the recording process what you think it's going to be when you walk in. I've never been some kind of trance visionary like 'My record's going to sound exactly like this: This is where the trumpets come in and the angels start singing here and ...,' It tends to be a little more organic."

The songs on *Mouthful of Copper* were chosen by the other band members, bassist Junior Ruppel and drummer Brad Rosen. Joseph dodged the process. "I didn't have any part in it. Those guys spend a lot more time listening to us. For me it's kind of the last thing in the fucking world I want to do, listen to a tape of me!" he says, laughingly.

"Those guys are more interested in it. They picked a lot of stuff that had never been recorded. It's a pretty small handful of songs that have actually been on other records. Essentially, they probably took our next studio record and released it live."

As realization set in, he said, "Which means I have to write more songs!" We're looking forward to it. The Jackmormons will perform Tuesday at John Henry's in Eugene. **EW**

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