



D.O.A. at WOW Hall Friday, April 16.

Political Punk

DOA still kicks; Mapfumo, Shipe sing around town.

If you know anything about punk music, you know the name **D.O.A.** The band, formed in 1978, has seen two generations of punk rockers become fruitful and multiply. Never mind they're from Vancouver, B.C. The impact D.O.A. made on American and European punk rock scenes is legendary, and lead singer Joey Keithley, aka Joey Shithead, is irrefutably identified with the band's punk pioneer status.

A typical day for singer, songwriter, musician, political activist, author, father and Sudden Death Records label owner Keithley starts early and ends late. Keithley taught himself to play drums by listening to Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger. As an adult, he ran for political office in Vancouver, most recently in 1996 and 2000 as a Green Party candidate for the Provincial Legislature, a post akin to state representative.

Now, Keithley's retired from his political career, believing he can do more with songs and words. "The idea of running was to get people to think about the issues and think about trying to preserve the earth for now and future generations," he says. "'People Power' is what I call it, trying to make a positive change in the world. Getting people to think, and act."

As of March, Arsenal Pulp Press has published Keithley's autobiography, *I, S***head: A Life In Punk*. "It arose out of a spoken word story. I set out to show people that you can go through all these tough times and come out ahead, being a better, more positive person," says Keithley.

His accessible writing style allows anyone to pick up the book and share in the experiences. "I tried to make it like we would be just sitting down and talking face to face and keep it interesting and moving and lively."

The book chronicles Keithley's youth and the mayhem of D.O.A.'s rise during the '80s, a time when punk bands were deadly serious about rebelling against the bloated carcass that rock had become during the '70s.

When the Ramones hit in 1977, D.O.A. was primed to take that raw energy and turn it into hardcore punk rock. In fact, it was D.O.A.'s definitive album, *Hardcore '81*, that coined the phrase and started a punk rock revolution. D.O.A. has since become the longest-running major punk band — thanks to their quarter-century career.

Keithley and D.O.A. toured hard, living the road-warrior lifestyle and setting themselves upon the unsuspecting folks of small town U.S.A. who, at least in the early days,

had never even heard of punk.

Sudden Death Records has recently released a D.O.A. best-of CD entitled *War and Peace*. Keithley and D.O.A., along with new bassist Damned Dan Yaremko (Econoline Crush, Bif Naked) will appear at WOW Hall on Friday, supported by locals **The Anxieties**, **The Shudders**, and punk veterans **The Detonators**.

It's been four years since **Thomas Mapfumo** decided to settle part-time here amongst the green hills and safety of Eugene. The Zimbabwean, who divides his time between Eugene and his native land, is revered among his people, the Shona, as a cultural and political hero.

Mapfumo was born in 1945 in the country then known as Rhodesia, which was moving inexorably toward civil war. As a youngster, Mapfumo moved from the rural countryside to the town of Mbare, where he was exposed to the resistance movement as well as popular American music of the time: R&B and soul. Music became Mapfumo's life, and he played in pop bands and worked as an itinerant singer.

As he matured, his lyrics began to take on the toil and trouble of his people and the black resistance. His lyrics and outspoken attitude polarized those around him: The country's brutal political leaders and the local cops were against him and the common people vehemently for him.

Mapfumo's Shona culture came under attack, and the guerillas took on the name *chimurenga*, meaning struggle. Mapfumo's music became known as *chimurenga* music, or protest music, and he incorporated the traditional instrument of Shona music, the mbira.

Zimbabwe state radio refused to play his *chimurenga* music, even as he and his band **The Blacks Unlimited** began touring internationally. In 2000, political unrest led to

threats against Mapfumo and his family. Fearing for their safety, Mapfumo quietly move his family here, where he continues to produce his songs of protest and hope. He returns to Zimbabwe at times to speak out, keeping the embers of hope lit within his people.

Mapfumo's music is liberating and uplifting, full of sunny melodies and hypnotic lyrics. The Lion of Zimbabwe roars Saturday night on the Cozmic Pizza stage.

On Thursday, April 29, Luna will host **John Shipe & the Scapegoats**, who have recently released an ambitious double CD called *Pollyanna Loves Cassandra*.

Shipe was front-man of Eugene's much-loved Renegade Saints. After they disbanded, Shipe went on to cultivate a successful solo career, releasing *Sudden and Merciless Joy* in 1999 and *A Stealthy Portion* in 2000. *Pollyanna Loves Cassandra* was two years in the making, a project that snowballed from a demo recording into a 31-song mission.

The CD shows Shipe to be a seasoned songwriter with a knack for connecting with his audience in personal ways yet not revealing so much of himself that the mystery is

lost. He and his bandmates are a versatile bunch, capable of tackling rock and pop, folk and blues with equal comfort.

Shipe on his own has always had a darker, moodier feel than The Saints, plus he's more able to take creative chances. Recorded by Shipe on guitars, voice and keyboards, Jerry-Groove Abelin on bass, Dyson on drums and Jessica Kennedy on keyboards, flute and voice, many friends also helped

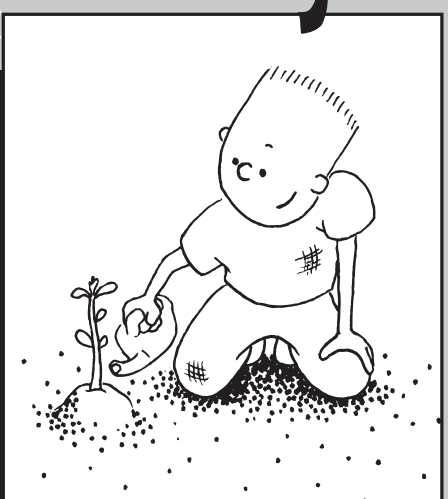
out: Ehren Ebbage and Elisabeth Babcock who recorded with Shipe on *A Stealthy Portion*, and Eleven Eyes trumpeter Tim McLaughlin, among others. McLaughlin has since joined the group as a full-time member. **EW**



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