



Hip Hop's Underground Comes Together

A long time ago, hip hop thrived exclusively on the streets, the underground, virtually invisible to anyone outside the Bronx. Public parks, Boys and Girls Clubs and all-ages dance halls embraced this outlaw culture, allowing an entire generation of kids to channel their creativity through this new style of music, dance and visual art.

Whatever state you think hip hop's in these days, you can't deny the continued strength of the underground movement. And thanks to coalitions between community arts centers such as the WOW Hall and local MCs, DJs and B-Boys, the underground, especially here in the Northwest, rages stronger than ever.

This Friday, the WOW Hall welcomes **Sandpeople, Genus Pro, The Phormula, Soundproof, Big Balou, Undermind** and **DJ D-Phi** for a night of local hip hop culture. With members that hail from Olympia, Eugene and points in between, the regional conglomeration of MCs and DJs known as Sandpeople hits the WOW Hall fresh off the release of their 2004 album *Points of View*. The group features Eugene MCs Ethic and Sapient. Also present will be local MCs Metric, Marv~Ellis, Elea'Zar and DJ C4 from Genus Pro, who are in the process of recording a new Genus Pro CD to follow-up their

hugely successful debut album *Grow*.

The Phormula, another Eugene hip hop group composed of MCs Philosophy, Examine and DJ Phonics, who recently released their debut album *Sound Proof*, will also perform. And we can't forget legendary, veteran MC Big Balou as well as conscious MCs Hanif, Fury and DJ Gen.Erik of SoundProof. This is an all-ages show and all local B-Boys and B-Girls are encouraged to attend.

Sandpeople, Genus Pro, The Phormula, Soundproof, Big Balou, Undermind and DJ D-Phi per-

form at 9:30 pm at the WOW Hall, Friday, May 27. \$5. —Steven Sawada

Raise Your Guinness

Even though **Amadan** is frequently compared to the Pogues, their pint-pounding, fists-in-the-air, slam-jigging energy of a St. Patty's Day crowd on the verge of explosion is closer to the Dropkick Murphys or Flogging Molly. They're also the best band to "Oi" and pennywhistle their way out of Corvallis in a long, long time.

With the release of *Hellbent 4 Victory*, their second album, they bust out song after song of catchy, thrashy, high-energy madness. Wear your steel-toed Docs to this show because live, they're gonna be rowdy.

How can you not love a bunch of guys from Oregon who recently opened a set

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pirouetting around one of their band members lying on the floor dressed up like a lion? Or who named their band the Gaelic word for fool or idiot? They've also got a

penchant for throwing pirate phrases into their songs and on-stage banter, which wins them a lot of love — "Johnny Cope/Green Groves of Erin" is an amped-up perversion of a traditional sailing tune. And they love Irish music.

In addition to some of the more traditional instruments you'd expect to find in an Irish band like pennywhistle (Jeremy Bauer) and fiddle (Naoyuki Ochiai), they also include didgeridoo and sheep sounds (Andy Gross), accordion (Ochiai again), spoons and monkey sounds. Eric Tonsfeldt on lead vocals and guitar, Mike Morrow on drums and Kevin Pardew on bass round out the crew.

Of all the shows happening this week, expect Amadan's gig at McShane's to be the one with the wildest crowd, the most insane dancing and ear-to-ear grins all around. Pints up.

Amadan plays at 9 pm at McShane's on Friday, 5/27. \$4. —Melissa Bearns

Not Just a College Band

They've only been together for a year, but **Ahimsa Theory** has already made its mark on the Northwest music scene. After a year of playing shows in Eugene, Ahimsa Theory released a self-titled debut album in January. Vocalist and guitarist Gabe Bledsoe, bassist Warren Baumann and drummer Spencer Emch describe their music as alternative rock, a style the album consistently reflects. But don't get too used to it, because Ahimsa Theory is already working on new material.

"We have new stuff that we've been writing that is completely different and upbeat," Bledsoe said. The name Ahimsa Theory was Bledsoe's idea. The term "ahimsa" is a Buddhist and Hindu doctrine of non-violence that prohibits harming any living being.

Bledsoe spent a month in India when he was 14 and he used the word "ahimsa" in the names of the "bad" high school bands he's been in. He chose to continue the

summer in hopes of attracting the attention of record labels. But it's going to be low-budget — they don't plan on spending more than \$3 a day on food.

Before they leave, Ahimsa Theory will play with Elic Morin, Strays and the Strenuus at 7 pm at South Salem High School on Friday, May 27 for \$3, and on Saturday, May 28 at 6 pm at the WOW Hall for \$5 with Cap Gun Suicide and the Rhythm Pimps. —Sara Brickner

Genreless

It's easy to slap a label on a lot of bands out there, but **Demimonde Slumber Party** isn't one of them. The band originated in San Francisco, but the members currently live in Eugene and recorded their latest album, *Green*, at drummer Kim Lindquist's father's home.

Nine tracks later, Demimonde Slumber Party has proven that it's easy to pack upward of four genres into a nine-track album. It's difficult to guess what DSP might sound like before listening to their record, and even then there isn't a predominant genre more narrow than "rock."

Green contains songs that range from '60s psychedelic rock to fast, angsty pop punk, with a folk ballad or two thrown in for good measure. And while their retro-style album cover deceptively features three skirted silhouettes with '50s hairdos playing instruments, DSP is not actually an all-girl band. Bassist Tim Romain, drummer Kim Lindquist and lead vocalist and guitarist Melissa Lubofsky make up the female-dominated trio. Demimonde Slumber Party play a cd release show for *Green* 10pm Friday, May 27 at Luckey's (\$3-\$5) and a free in-store at CD World at 3pm Saturday, May 28.

—Sara Brickner

From Pianos to Power Tools

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