

Western Aerial, The Ditty Twisters (pictured), The Koozies and Brothers of Beat
9 pm, Saturday, 6/25
The Wetlands,
\$5.



Happy Birthday Evin!

Local promoter plans one hell of a birthday bash.

So you wanna know how to get the *Eugene Weekly* to write a whole story about your birthday party and put your name right up there in the headline, don't you? Book a bunch of really good bands at a cool club in town. Get us all the press material ahead of time and be a nice person. It also helps win the love if the one time we royally screwed up your show's listing, you were super nice about it.

But Evin Marshall is just super nice. You might know him as the bouncer for reggae or '80s nights at John Henry's — he seems to know just about *everyone* who walks through the door. Maybe you've seen him play with the Whopner County All Stars as their drummer. Or maybe he booked your band at McShane's or the Wetlands. When it comes to music in this town, he's become one of Eugene's local movers and shakers.

Evin moved to Eugene from Vida in 1981 and spent high school spinning hip hop with some of Eugene's most established DJs. "The first album I bought in 1985 was Run DMC," he said. "My whole crew, we were little suburban b-boys."

He'd been working as a bouncer for a couple years when John Henry's closed three years ago. Suddenly all those bands had nowhere to play. That's when Evin first started booking shows. "The last week John Henry's was open, I made sure I got every band's phone number," he said. "When I went to book my first show, I just called people from those bands. I got a lot of support right off the bat because they needed a place to play." Since then he's continued to pay the bills by bouncing four days a week and has been slowly building his booking business.

The birthday bash has become a regular thing even though Evin said he feels a little uncomfortable throwing a huge party for himself — 200-300 people show up every year. The line-up for Saturday's show, which includes Portland's Ditty Twisters and Western Aerial, and Eugene's Koozies and Brothers of Beat, reflects Evin's diverse musical tastes and his more recent penchant for alt country.

That's all because of a girl, the lead singer for the All Stars, Sarah, to be exact, aka Evin's sweetie of "three years and four months on June 17." See, only nice guys remember the

exact date of their first date with a lady. She loves country so he started listening to it too. "I was always like, I'm straight hip hop," he said. "And I gotta say, I love country now."

So a quick run down on the bands...

Western Aerial is pretty much straight up, awesomely classic rock 'n' roll. The **Ditty Twisters** are this insanely funny band fronted by three amazing women who can belt out a song like Bonnie Raitt and harmonize like the best of the Go Gos with a punk/hard rock overlay. They say their favorite description is "the Andrews Sisters meet Black Sabbath." And they've promised to play "Whole Lotta José," which includes the



Evin Marshall

lines, "He ain't exactly pretty/ He ain't exactly smart/ When you hung like that baby, you can do anything that you want." You know a guy didn't write the lyrics to that one.

The **Koozies** have a strong country influence along the lines of Reverend Horton Heat. In short, they're rowdy shit kickers who sing about horses and whiskey and stuff like that. Which leaves **Brothers of Beat**, a group that includes the *Eugene Weekly's* very own hip hop writer, Steven Sawada. The Brothers of Beat seamlessly blend the sounds of soul, r & b, rare groove, hip hop, house and reggae. They specialize in classic, hard-to-find tunes and bring together decades of DJing experience.

So get off your butt and out to this week's biggest party. And wish Evin a happy 28th birthday while you're at it. **EW**



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