

EUGENE profiles

THE FAST COMPUTERS



Default

MEMBERS: Hanif (mic), Furious (mic), Camilo Depaulo (bass), Jason Bradley (drums), Thierry Renoux (keyboard), Taylor Grube (mic), Miles (trumpet)

GENRE: Hip hop

RHYMING SINCE: 2004

"The reason we're even called Default is because we take jazz/funk musicians and rock musicians from different bands and mix and match the members to make improvisational hip hop music ... we're a default band," says Hanif.

The group has developed a core band, but still mixes and matches with other local musicians. It's a hip hop group but it incorporates other genres. "A lot of times it's people that have never played with each other before ... very improvisational," says Hanif.

Catch their act July 12 at John Henry's. The group plays there every other Tuesday at 10 pm, no cover. — Ursula Evans-Heritage

Diane Rios

MEMBERS: Diane Rios (guitar, vocals)

GENRE: Quiet indie rock

SINGING SINCE: 2005

As experienced musicians in Eugene go, few are more professional than Diane Rios. Rios played guitar in Oswald-Five-O, a band who formed in 1988, and in 1993 hit the road for a three-week cross-country tour with the Spinanes and Some Velvet Sidewalk. Oswald had two full-length records, several singles and songs on numerous compilations.

Real life intervened in the dreams of rock stardom, but Rios

never lost the love of music.

She later formed a long-distance band called The Love Supreme with friends from Olympia and Seattle. That group had a song on the Olympia compilation *Property Is Theft*. In 2003 Rios formed The Better Angels with friends from Salem and Eugene. After releasing one CD, that band fizzled.

Now she's content to use new technology to record her own songs, without a band, at a friend's home recording studio. "Bands are just too hard to keep together, what with families and jobs and the good things in life," said Rios. "As it happens, I am the most conveniently available musician I know, so I am the one playing most of the instruments."

Rios shines on catchy, intelligently-crafted quietly rocking tunes about tough decisions, tragedies and dealing with life's uncertainties. Also an accomplished artist, Rios is at work finishing a halfway-done CD, which will be available through her website, www.dianerios.com — Vanessa Salvia

The Fast Computers

MEMBERS: Peter Dean (vocals, electric piano, synthesizers, guitar), Jennifer Fox (vocals, drums, percussion)

GENRE: Rock

QUICK AND SNAPPY SINCE: 2003

"Can it start with the word 'awesome'?" asked Peter Dean when I told him I'd be writing a profile of his band. Pianist and vocalist Dean and drummer Jennifer Fox are local rock group The Fast Computers.

Fox and Dean started playing together in New Orleans before moving on to Chicago and later Eugene. The group has gone through various line-ups, but Fox and Dean remain the group's core, says Dean.

The songs on The Fast Computers' demo album are reminiscent of other indie rock bands that are oh-so-cool among college students. "We are the future of rock and roll," says Dean with a laugh. "Just kidding. That's horrible."

Dean has been playing piano since he was 7 and at the time, like any 7-year-old with the heart of a rock star, he "thought piano sucked and wanted to play guitar." Since then, he's reconciled with the instrument and

even grown to love it.

"I don't have any delusions of grandeur," says Dean. "But," he adds, "If I ever hear music that I think is great then I should be the one to make it. Does that sound egotistical enough?" — Ursula Evans-Heritage

The Glorious Bride

MEMBERS: Brian Hall (guitar, keyboard, vocals), Kyle Ambert (bass), Bryson Nist (drums)

GENRE: File under Likes Death Cab, Radiohead and Modest Mouse

STYLE AND ÜBER COOL SINCE: 2005

While it might ruffle a few feathers to say so, Eugene has a shortage of actual indie rock bands. We've got punk, alt.-country and plenty of singer/songwriters, but the guitar/keyboard-based, highly melodic and hopefully catchy indie category, while it does have a few stars, is a little bare. So it's especially pleasant to stumble across a new and promising band in town, as I did a few weeks ago when The Glorious Bride played at Luckey's with Armored Frog and Portland's Climber.

While the band still seemed a little tentative onstage, musically they were right on: Pretty, intricate songs led by Hall's voice, which sounds somewhat like that of a young Doug Martsch in a slightly lower register. "The first thing a lot of people hear is U2, and yes, I am a U2 fan," Hall wrote in an email. But the band's influences cover the indie spectrum, from the shoegazer noise of My Bloody Valentine to the quiet, intimate Kings of Convenience. "As a songwriter, I get ideas from anything I listen to, including some of the jazz I've been studying at the University. So really, we're a hodgepodge of ideas and sounds drawn collectively from everywhere," Hall wrote.

The band is currently working on a full-length concept album, *The American Wars*, which Hall hopes to structure like a short symphony. A five- to seven-song EP should be available by the fall and in the meantime, the band's upcoming shows are definitely recommended. Check www.myspace.com/thegloriousbride for a schedule. — Molly Templeton

THE GLORIOUS BRIDE



John Shipe & the Blue Rebekahs

MEMBERS: John Shipe (guitars, vocals), Tim McLaughlin (trumpet), J.D. Sean Peterson (bass), Chris Chatto (keyboards), Scott Headrick (drums), Ehren Ebbage (permanent special guest on guitars, vocals)

GENRE: Folk/rock

HOWLING AT THE MOON SINCE: The '80s

"Since you broke my heart, I found the cure for cancer ... I won the Nobel Peace Prize ... I unified the world religions," sings John Shipe in the song "Better Off Without You," from the group's 2003 release *Pollyanna Loves Cassandra*. Anyone with a heinous ex or two will enjoy this song, which I have authoritatively deemed the greatest break-up song ever.

Shipe got his first guitar at age 17 and formed his



DEFAULT