



Release the Beast

U.S. prepares for ALO attack — Eugene's next.

First off, Animal Liberation Orchestra (ALO) is *not* a group of radical activists with some thinly veiled political agenda. It is a group of four ridiculously talented musicians devoted to liberating the animal in all of us ... dig? And what manner of animal are we talking about, you ask? Well, don't expect anything fierce to emerge like raging rhinos, shrieking mandrills or whatever else thrives on power chords and angst. ALO's funky folk grooves are more likely to conjure your inner ... um ... dolphin, or something.

**ALO
w/ Taarka**
8 pm, Fri, 10/21
WOW Hall,
\$10 adv/\$12 dos

bluegrass, folk, jazz," says ALO drummer Dave Brogan. "I call our music suburban funk jam rock. Suburban in the sense of bringing a schoolwork ethic to the music. We study and learn whatever is available to us."

This studious approach is evident in the band's hyper-clean compositions and the slick-yet-authentic production value of their newest album, *Fly Between Falls*. Whereas 2002's *Time Expander* focused more on ALO's discoesque, dance floor sensibilities, this album has Jack Johnson's influence all over it. Johnson even lends vocals to the crowd favorite,

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The band just signed onto Jack Johnson's label, Brushfire Records, after touring with the surfer-turned-crooner this past summer. This is no surprise, as the two acts have much in common: They all went to college together at UC Santa Barbara back in the day. And apparently, they also attended the same folk-rock revival class, where Jack Johnson and ALO lead singer Zach Gill practiced laying down hypnotically soothing vocals over a bedrock of punchy, roiling jazz-funk ala John Scofield.

"We try to be aware of roots traditions, in

"Girl, I Wanna Lay You Down."

ALO will swing through Eugene during a national tour in support of the new album. "We hope that if you come to our show, as a listener you'll be moved both physically and emotionally," says Brogan. "That's our goal, as it should be the goal of any rock band."

A philosophy like that, coupled with flailing, Keller Williams-style instrumentation, crisp song structure and inventive, meaningful lyrics is the recipe for longevity. All ALO has to do now is hold onto their heads during the ride to the top and keep certain beasts at bay. **EW**



Local Flavor of the Week

10/21

FreakFest, film and performance with the Cirkus Pandemonium Troupe, 10:30pm, and screening of *Freaky Circus Guy*, 11:30pm, tonight, tomorrow and Oct. 23, Bijou Art Cinemas.

10/22

Eugene Poetry Slam season kickoff. The Flamingo, 164 W. Broadway.

Check EW's calendar for more details.



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