



Organically Grown

Tre Hardson grows grassroots hip hop.

You might remember Tre Hardson back when he was called SlimKid, one-fourth of The Pharcyde, the group that brought you the early 1990s hits "Passin' Me By" and "Ya Mama." The group's jazzy loops and clever lyrics put them on the hip hop map, but Hardson left that group and moved onto new things, expanding and maturing his musical output into production and composition.

The result was the personal and spiritual album *Liberation*. "That was the type of mode I was in, like a deep spiritual quest," Hardson says. The music, performed live instead of produced by a DJ, matched the spirit of the lyrics. *Liberation* was mellow and soulful, bringing the music and the introspective lyrics together.

The sounds of Tre Hardson cross many musical boundaries. Hardson's style grabs on

to more than just the two turntables and a microphone standard of hip hop. He skillfully blends hip hop, soul and R&B instrumentals with vocal melodies and straightforward MCing. "It's getting out of the one-dimensionality of regular, standard hip hop and adding color to it," he says.

Hardson's next project, *SlimKid3's Café*, due out in 2006, has a lighter feel and is more about living life, having fun and trying not to

be preachy, Hardson says. "All I think about now is making happy music, just making good music."

His music and his methods are organic and grassroots, drawing from the local Los Angeles music scene and pulling in talent from the

music production classes he teaches. "Being able to make good albums, work with people I respect, that's all that matters to me anymore," he says.

EW

Tre Hardson with Fuqawi, Alliance, 3 Blind Mics and Undermind

9 pm, Wed., 12/14
WOW Hall 687-2746
\$8 adv/ \$10 door

Eugene's Musical Forecast: *Snow*

Curt Kirkwood releases solo CD.

The Meat Puppets remain one of the most influential bands of the past two decades despite being generally unheard by the popular critics. One of the unluckiest heroes to emerge from the fabled SST record label roster during the early 1980s, the band was fronted by guitarist/vocalist Curt Kirkwood, brother of bassist/vocalist Cris Kirkwood, and rounded out by drummer Derrick Bostrom.

They were all wickedly smart, a little screwed up from the Phoenix heat, and maybe they took too much acid sometimes, but that made them just like many of their fans. So their thrashy mix of country punk and weird psychedelic improvisations didn't seem out of place. And the fact that they put out a couple albums that were just so-so didn't chill anybody's enthusiasm for them.

The Meat Puppets toured non-stop for about 20 years. Then in 1993 some chap named Kurt "with a K" Cobain invited Curt "with a C" Kirkwood and his band to perform on the *In Utero* tour. Curt "with a C" also strummed with Cobain onstage for an acoustic performance of three Meat Puppets' songs for "MTV Unplugged." Soon Curt struck out on his own as lineup changes threatened the Meat Puppets' survival. (Cris Kirkwood, who has fought a long battle with drug use, was jailed last year for assault, so any Meat Puppets reunion seems unlikely, but Kirkwood's press says he "won't shut the door" on the idea.) Flash forward to now and Kirkwood is touring behind his solo debut, *Snow*.



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Just as Meat Puppets' songs traverse many varied soundscapes, *Snow* truly seems timeless and unbounded by genre limitations. Kirkwood gallops through pop, shuffles through country waltzes, time-warps through folk/jazz jams and throws in great guitar work throughout the almost entirely acoustic album. His insightful lyrics again take center stage, reflecting the profound, the personal and the peculiar. Kirkwood's vocal arrangements are less rock-oriented and more singer/songwriter style, giving his unpretentious voice more intimate impact. "Movin' On" shines with a back porch country feel, almost like a traditional Appalachian tune. "Box of Limes" is easily the weirdest tune on the CD and one of the most rockin'. He croons about "toothpick babies made of wax," roses, moonbeams and boxes of limes. I don't get it lyrically, but I don't have to interpret his skewed psychology to appreciate his songcrafting skill. — *Vanessa Salvia*

Curt Kirkwood, Dan Jones

9:30 pm, Sat., 12/10
Sam Bond's • 461-6603
\$8 door

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