

The audience at **Eliza Blue's** upcoming performance can expect to sit quietly and experience a range of emotions falling on the melancholy end of the spectrum. Blue is a straight-ahead singer/songwriter, a woman and her guitar featuring few thrills but possessing a stark intensity that can make her songs almost uncomfortably intimate experiences.

Fans of Maddy Prior and Margot Timmins will immediately warm to her hushed, milky vocals and the simplicity of the arrangements on her 2005 EP *One Year*, which evoke comparisons to Leonard Cohen, Neil Young and Gillian Welch. While not a gimmicky artist or one likely to get audiences out of their seats, Eliza Blue is a performer capable of mesmerizing listeners with a set of heartbreaking, grown-up lullabies.

Eliza Blue bases her musical career out of the chilly city of Minneapolis, and there is an unaffected streak of icy honesty that runs through her lyrics. "I never earned you but I made you pay/ I couldn't hold you

but I asked you to stay" she laments in "Turnstile," one of those rare breakup songs that accepts rather than projects culpability. Be it her Midwest sensibilities or a personal penchant for bare bones poetry, Blue is a lyrical crafter worth experiencing if you have the emotional energy to spend.

Eliza Blue performs 7 pm Wednesday, June 7 at Cozmic Pizza. \$5.

– *Adrienne van der Valk*

I wouldn't lie,

The Liars' new release *Drum's Not Dead* is some weird shit. It's great in a way I can't define except to just say that it's weird. Listen yourself and you'll say it's weird, too. You might also call it abstract, ambitious, cinematic

The band – Angus Andrew, Aaron Hemphill and Julian Gross – relocated from New York to Berlin in search of new physical and emotional landscapes. On *Drums*, their third album, that change shows. The band found inspiration in two fictional characters, Drum and Mount Heart Attack.



The Glasses

Drum manifests with two drum kits and ritualistic pounding beats. Drum is the life-affirming creative force, the yin. Mount Heart Attack responds to Drum, the equal and opposite reaction, the manifestation of self-doubt, the yang.

Throughout this album there's an otherworldly feel. Drum's tracks are at times insect-like in their repetitive nature, with the insistent drumbeat echoing the same lyric spoken over and over. Mount Heart Attack's music is human and warm, at times beautiful in a haunting way. Despite

the fact that track four, "Drum Gets A Glimpse," is calmed by peaceful cricket chirps at the end, it still seems more suited to an alien colony than an earthly summer night.

from so few reference points, the CD plays out like numerous little time bombs set to go off at random intervals, keeping you constantly alert and aware. This is one album I look forward to exploring further, and I think seeing this performed live would be extremely cool. The CD also comes with a DVD of 36 short films, three

per track. Some are backstage vignettes, some animated and some pull the viewer through an epic visual journey, not surprising since Andrew formed the band as a multimedia experiment in art school.

The Liars play with The Apes and The Rabbits 9 pm Wednesday, June 7 at WOW Hall. \$8 adv./\$10 dos. – *Vanessa Salvia*

When the world is so full of hyphenated musical genres that answering the question "So, what kind of music do you like?" causes you to lose your breath, something is wrong. It's almost quaint to hear something so straightforward as **The Glasses**.

Led by a true geek (he wears low-cut Converse with argyle socks and works in a library) from Seattle, this trio is pop, simple pop. You don't really buy that hefty pronouncement, do you?

The truth is, The Glasses play literate indie-power-chamber-pop with a Brit-psych twist, but they do it so well that they deserve a gimmick to get people to their show. You agree that pop is an easier label, don't you? Mostly, it is sufficient; the rhythm is more important than the melody, and the lyrics, though cute and smart, could very well be variations on "da dee da da."

The Glasses play songs from their new release *modern day ichabod crane* 9 pm Wednesday, June 7 at Luckey's. \$3-\$5.

– *Jef Stout*

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