



music BY MOLLY TEMPLETON

The Fair, Dark Life

Neko Case's fantastic worlds

Fairy fairy tales, enigmatic but affecting lyrics from highways and late nights, songs that rarely crack the three-minute mark: Welcome to *Fox Confessor Brings the Flood*, the eerie, gorgeous new album from Neko Case.

Case has been steadily building a following for nearly a decade, since her 1997 solo debut *The Virginian*, a mix of traditionals, covers and original songs. These days, Case records mostly originals, her voice, guitar and occasional piano backed by an exceptional array of musicians, including Kelly Hogan,

stairwell), using traditional instrumentation while eschewing ordinary song structure. Here and there a line repeats, but for the most part Case's character sketches and encapsulated feelings are brief and imaginative, offering just enough to mull over. "He sang nursery rhymes to paralyze / the wolves that eddy out the corner of his eyes," Case sings on the haunting "Dirty Knife." First-person lines that sound confessional mix with cryptic phrases, blurring and layering the meanings.

Lyrics aside, the truth is,

Neko Case
Sonny Smith
8 pm, Thursday, 6/29
WOW Hall,
\$15 adv./\$18 dos.

earthy or soaring
depending on the song

The Sadies (who co-wrote a few *Fox Confessor* tunes) and members of Calexico and Giant Sand. (Case also gets her pop kicks as a member of the New Pornographers though she skipped their most recent tour to prepare for her own.)

Fox Confessor builds on the smart songwriting, catchy, unpredictable melodies and image-heavy lyrical tendencies that put Case's third album, *Blacklisted*, on quite a few best-of-2002 lists. The songs veer through country, folk, rock and gospel ("John Saw That Number," the echoing introduction of which was recorded in a tavern

Case could sing just about anything and make multiple listens worthwhile. Earthy or soaring depending on the song (or even the individual line), her voice is entrancing, rich with feeling, so clear it seems effortless. The juxtaposition of Case's bell-like tones with her haunting imagery and concise songwriting makes *Fox Confessor* unforgettable. The pared-down songs leave you wanting more while wondering exactly what it is you're desiring. The voice, yes. That much is easy. But the flooded fields and cloudy skies of Neko Case's timeless ballads can be as uncanny as they are beautiful.

EW

TABOO
The Hottest Club in Eugene

Wednesday, July 5
PACIFIC COAST CAGE FIGHTS

WWW.PCCAGEFIGHTS.COM

Monday, July 10
Junior Reid
and the
Reggae Angels 

Tuesday, July 11
2 Buddhists Present:
Official Widespread Panic
After Party with
Flowmotion & Big Island Shindig
and A Psychedelic lightshow by Cobalt

Thursday, July 27

Cross Canadian Ragweed

TABOO
Tickets available @ Taboo, TicketsWest
CD World, House of records,
or charge by phone 338-8787.
Brought to you by Jaguar Productions
& Rockstar Energy Drink
23 W. 6th (across from the Hult)
338-8787 • www.tabooeugene.com

CAFE LAFAYETTE
New Orleans Cuisine



19TH YEAR AT THE Oregon Country Fair

Home of the
Mardi Gras (Chicken Creole)
"Party on a Bun"

400 ABBEY ROAD
OREGON COUNTRY FAIR


Tasty Thai Kitchen

NOW SERVING! THAI SLUSHIES
with tropical fruit

NOW DELIVERING

LUNCH SPECIAL!
Famous Original Thai Wrap
starting at \$3.50

WEEKEND SPECIAL!
Honey Roasted Duck

Fruit Smoothies

Vegetarian & Vegan Options

Beer on Tap & Wine Available

Bubble Tea

11AM-9:30PM DAILY
80 E. 29th & Willamette
302-6444

THE LANDMARK 
An Ocean view from every table
111 Hwy 101 in YACHTS • 541-547-5459
www.landmark-yachats.com

Live at the Coast


FRI, JUNE 30, 9PM - The Jake Blair Band
Sizzling' blues guitar from a young man on his way up
SAT, JULY 1, 9PM - Jerry & the Stagehogs
The golden tones of Jerry Zybach backed by the bluest hogs around
SUN, JULY 2, 8PM - The Bluerunners
From Lafayette, Louisiana, a blend of zydeco and Cajun swamp boogie
TUE, JULY 4, 1PM - Southern Cross
Covers the Beatles, Steely Dan, Steve Miller, Doobie Brothers, Paul Simon, Jethro Tull and many more
TUE, JULY 4, 9PM - Hookah Stew
John Michael Young can play them all - and does: funk, blues and rock.

Fresh Fish/Italian - Authentic Oregon since 1911

NOW SERVING CHEF JEVON'S

BAYOU BAR-B-QUE




BREAKFAST ALL DAY LONG
EXPANDED BRUNCH MENU
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
NEW KITCHEN HOURS:
11:30AM-2AM EVERYDAY

THE SPOT FOR
\$2.25 PBR's
FREE POOL HOURS:
TUES. - SAT. UNTIL-10PM
SUN. & MON. ALL DAY/ALL NIGHT

OYSTER SHOOTERS
EVERY FRIDAY

683-3154 • 99 W. BROADWAY • EUGENE