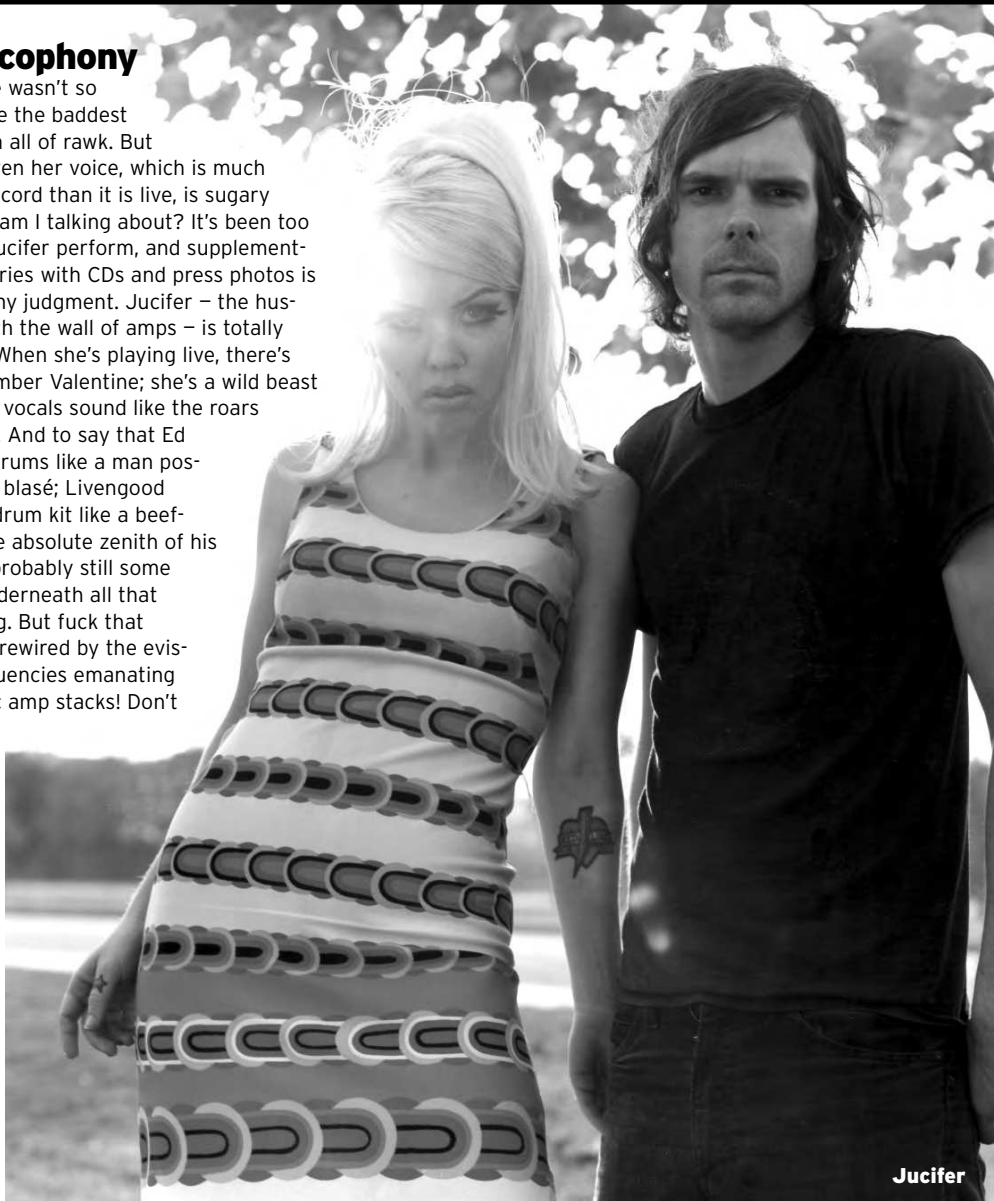


Absolute Cacophony

If Amber Valentine wasn't so cute, **Jucifer** would be the baddest (as in bad ass) band in all of rawk. But she's adorable, and even her voice, which is much more prominent on record than it is live, is sugary sweet. But wait, what am I talking about? It's been too long since I've seen Jucifer perform, and supplementing my concert memories with CDs and press photos is thoroughly clouding my judgment. Jucifer – the husband and wife duo with the wall of amps – is totally anomalous on stage. When she's playing live, there's nothing cute about Amber Valentine; she's a wild beast on the guitar, and her vocals sound like the roars of a pissed-off cougar. And to say that Ed Livengood plays the drums like a man possessed is just way too blasé; Livengood pounds his immense drum kit like a beef-cake meth-head at the absolute zenith of his high. I mean, there's probably still some melody and honey underneath all that riffage and pummeling. But fuck that noise; I want my guts rewired by the eviscerating low-end frequencies emanating from those monolithic amp stacks! Don't let me dissuade you from buying their latest record, *If Thine Enemy Hunger*. But to truly feel the Jucifer experience, I beseech you, see them live. Jucifer plays with On the First Day ... They Were Kittens and In the Name of God at 10 pm Friday, Feb. 23 at John Henry's. 21+ show. \$5.

– Steven Sawada



Jucifer

Wanderin' and Singin'

Ever hear Lucinda Williams, Slaid Cleaves or Greg Brown in concert? A bit of an odd assortment, yeah, but **Jeffrey Foucault** calls to mind these bluesy balladeers of place and love and loss. He produced his new album *Ghost Repeater* in Iowa City with the legendary blues guitar player Bo Ramsey (I'm from Iowa City, and that's not *exactly* what Ramsey's famous for there, but whatever), and the album shows the touches of Ramsey's dark prairie visions and dark prairie sounds. The title track kicks off a full range of narratives. From traditionally agonized tunes like "Train to Jackson" to the longing, dancing waltz of "Tall Grass in Old Virginny," Foucault, originally from Wisconsin, croons and charms the hearts of his listeners. The album has backing vocals from Foucault's brilliant wife, singer-songwriter Kris Delmhorst, who writes of *Ghost Repeater*, "Irish people like it, small children like it, famous people like it and there's an excellent chance that you will like it too." Jeffrey Foucault plays at 7 pm Saturday, Feb. 24 at Luna. \$10 adv., \$12 door. – Suzi Steffen



Jeffrey Foucault

Jug Blues

Geoff Muldaur's interest in blues started when his older brother became a fan of old-time jazz and forced him to listen to Jelly Roll Morton records. This led to country blues, and as a teenager Muldaur hitchhiked to Dallas with a broom so that he could obey Blind Lemon Jefferson's wish: "See That My Grave is Kept Clean." Attending Harvard, he fell in with a crowd of traditional music enthusiasts who revolved around the late Eric von Schmidt, and began playing guitar and singing in coffeehouses. His real break, though, came when he joined the Jim Kveskin Jug Band, lending his melodious bellow to the mix. Spying a beautiful fiddler in a rival band, the Even Dozen Jug Band, he told a friend "I'm going to marry that girl," and before long, he and Maria d'Amato were indeed married, and she joined the Kveskin crew. After that band fell apart, he and Maria made a couple of amazing albums for Warner Bros., and he became vocalist with Paul Butterfield's

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