

Breakout Band Alert

Being a relatively young band, both in terms of age and vintage, might seem like a disadvantage in the saturated world of indie rock. But the members of barely-year-old quintet **Delaney** knew they were meant to make music together from the beginning, and they didn't let their tender ages stop them from jumping right into a recording career. Crafted from various links to bass player Bobby Seus, the group jelled before they even met in person. Seus had previously played genre-bending music with guitarist Lee Barbara, drummer Mike Freneau, keyboardist Mike Maimone and guitarist Matt Marnocha. After graduating from college, he summoned them to combine talents, testing their musical chemistry first from a distance, electronically. The resulting efforts were so successful that far-away members of Delaney packed their knapsacks and moved to Medford in the spring of 2006, relocating to Portland last September.

Now touring in support of its self-titled debut album, Delaney is finding its niche as a favorite on the campus rock scene. With self-identified influences like Coldplay, Weezer and Fountains of Wayne, the band's dedication to the pop end of the music spectrum is evident. But the interplay of three songwriters and three vocalists also means that Delaney's sound doesn't stick around in one category for too long. Tracks like "On the Go" open a hushed, unassuming window into the softer side of a band

that likes to rock but wouldn't mind backing up your afternoon fantasies as well. Lyrically, they can make a love song out of a trip to the arcade ("I spent an hour on the claw machine / I saved my ticket to buy you a ring").



There is a special type of enthusiasm infused into the live shows of bands riding high atop the first big wave of their careers. It's almost a sure bet Delaney's upcoming Eugene show will have that feel-good vibe. Delaney plays at 10 pm Friday, April 6 at Luckey's. 21+ show. \$3-\$5. — *Adrienne van der Valk*

Can Michael Stipe Be Far Behind?

Wait, wait ... is Peter Buck *really* coming to Eugene? All you children of the 1980s (and I don't mean those *born* then;

minor god, a joker whose Monkees-like delivery mixes humorous tones with more serious lyrics. (At least, that's what online sources tell me.) Hitchcock, who's been floating vaguely in the recesses of my mind since he opened for R.E.M. on tour in 1989, surfaces on his hilarious and historically fabulous Web biography not only as a founding member of the punk/New Wave Soft Boys but as a movie actor in the sadly awful 2004 remake of *The Manchurian Candidate* (plus, thankfully, so much more: Remember Robyn Hitchcock and the Egyptians?).

I don't have the album on my hot little computer yet, but Salon.com's free Audiofile download on Monday, April 2 is Hitchcock's "Olé! Tarantula," a trippy, poppy, Beatles-ish blend of surreality and sensual imagery. I listen again and again. I think, and this is only a thought, that the song's about sex. "Look at his fingers caressing the keys / If he don't please you, well, you just can't be pleased." Mmmm hmmm. And that's only the title song of the album released last October. iTunes, here I come. Venus 3, to give the superish group its due, consists not only of Buck but also Bill Rieflin, formerly of Ministry and now the drummer for R.E.M., and Young Fresh Fellows frontman Scott McCaughey, who, yes, *also* works with R.E.M. How can these musical godlings be playing at tiny Sam Bond's? Is this an April Fool's joke? Nope. It's true. Woot! Robyn Hitchcock and Venus 3 play Sam Bond's on (Easter) Sunday, April 8 at 8 p.m. \$14. — *Suzi Steffen*

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