



## Out of Their Gourds?

Crazy twangy zydeco fun

**T**here is something funny about The Gourds. Not to be confused with the produce of Freeman Rowe, the intense gourd fanatic who sets up shop at the Eugene Saturday Market every year (that's an altogether different kind of funny). No, The Gourds on topic are a tough-to-peg accordion, keys and strings thing from Austin, Texas.

Familiar to fans of *Austin City Limits* and NPR, The Gourds tangle fur, fun and fandango into a unique style of catchy pop-top front porch zydeco. With reminiscent inklings of Bad Livers, Charlie Daniels, Buckwheat Zydeco, Neil Young and a likely twist of Uncle Tupelo (The Gourds' multi-instrumentalist Max Johnson is formally of Uncle Tupelo and Wilco), The Gourds' approach to music induces way more joy than their bulbous namesake. Unless you're Freeman Rowe.

The Gourds' music is unapologetically more old timey and zydeco influenced than Tejano or Norteño but with the rocking chair insistence of Texan string/accordion/washboard twang. Still, each song comes out sounding different than every other.

As the website attests, pinning down The Gourds' sound isn't easy:

*There is just absolutely no way to categorize this music, these songs, without tearing up the English language. ... They are quilters in the true sense of the word. Scraps, fragments, leftovers, images strung together in a continuous scrabble of sheets draped over old wood like charm. This is first and foremost a music of joy. From there it's anybody's guess what the friggin' hell it is.*

**The Gourds**  
7:30 pm Saturday, 4/7  
Jaqua Concert Hall,  
The Shedd • \$20-\$28

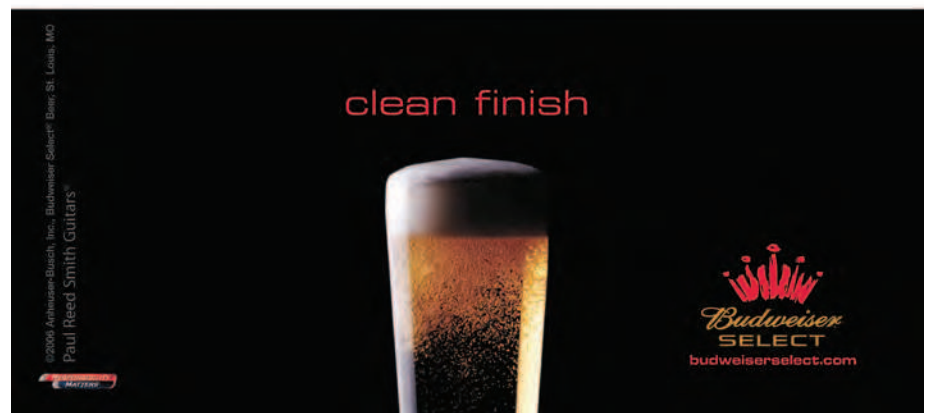
Lyrically, The Gourds' songs combine everyday dark humor, death, drinking, collections, Cat Woman, farts and even bizarre experiences in Oregon hotels. Songs range from a Hammond B-3 infused Saturday morning cartoon soundtrack ("Pick and Roll") to the universally unfortunate living situation in "My New Roommate."

"My new roommate's quiet he keeps to himself / Been in the can for hours and I can't smell a thing / Why did you spill a box of wine in my bathtub? / C'mon let's get you to the ER let's get you sewn up."

Someone please notify Freeman Rowe. **ew**



**bold taste**



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