



A Little of This, A Little of That

All right, I admit that I've lived in Eugene for too long never to have listened to the **Ingredients**. Based on the band's quirky photos, lyrics like "Well, the bears are driving trains and we'll try not to get in their way" and goofy website, my expectations had me anticipating something like They Might Be Giants. Sorry, guys, my expectations steered me in the wrong direction. You may be weird, but your music isn't.

Well, that's not true. The music is a little weird, which is why reviewers have a hard time classifying it. But weird is good, and enough people thought so to have voted Ingredients the Best Local Rock Band in *EW*'s 2006 Best of Eugene readers' poll. The band doesn't classify itself within the indie rock genre, but one can't help but draw comparisons to Modest Mouse, Ween or the Flaming Lips. The problem with even these comparisons is that they're covert. Ingredients' influences are hinted at in the tiniest moment of a melody, lyric or guitar riff. The Ingredients believe their music is eclectic, unique and accessible. True, very true, but it's not just the music; it's the personalities. Much of their popularity stems from the spectacle that is their live shows.

Jon Timm, Carey Phelps, Ian Finneran and Bryan Wollen have succeeded in creating a personality-based band that strives as hard to create good music as it does to reach its audience. Not so long ago, the Ingredients even made a movie about themselves, which showed at the Bijou to a packed house of fans, family and friends. In it, they wove together suspenseful narrative, comedy, music videos and self-deprecating humor. The same goes for their latest full-length album, *Bears Driving Trains*, which dabbles in eerie chord progressions and curious lyrics. — Amanda Burhop

Hello Kitty

They won the Local Cut — *Willamette Week*'s music blog — Band Name of the Week based on weirdness and inexplicability factor. But ask **On The First Day ... They Were Kittens** about the name, and they'll tell you it's from a picture of Jesus illuminating a kitten in a ball of light. Duh! Apparently their original name, USAfuk, didn't go over well with people post-9/11, so they changed it.

The band formed in July 2003 as a five-piece instrumental group. But when Jared Hill approached them about needing a vocalist, the members — although hesitant at first — agreed to let him sit in during a practice. The now six-piece band of noisemakers (Hill, Kendall Fox, Drew Anderson, Jamie Hartly, Mike Morrison and Jess McMinn) is a supergroup comprised of former members of other notable bands like Virtuous Pagans, Zero Theory and S.E.D.

Although the band has experienced many lineup changes over the years, one thing remains consistent: the music. "You can label us any way you see fit, as we have never really understood what exactly we play. It is loud, it is a form of rock, and sometimes it makes people zone out," states the group's MySpace page. Fair enough. OTFDTWK is hard to label. Sometimes they're instrumental; sometimes Hill screams his lungs raw. Sometimes it's ambient; other times there's heavy distortion and bass and unidentifiable keyboard noises. One of the best descriptions just might be "the thinking person's punk band."

A little bit Melvins, These Arms Are Snakes and Sonic Youth and a lot punk/metal, OTFDTWK has really done well for itself in Eugene. The band was voted Best Local Metal/Punk Band in *EW*'s 2006 Best of Eugene readers' poll and has two releases: *We Have Guns*, a 7" vinyl split with Lucika, and a debut full-length album, *Sickbird and the SARS Falcon*, which is 11 songs of what they call "heavy and spaced out punk metal." That's a little over an hour's worth of getting spacey, so get to it! — Amanda Burhop

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