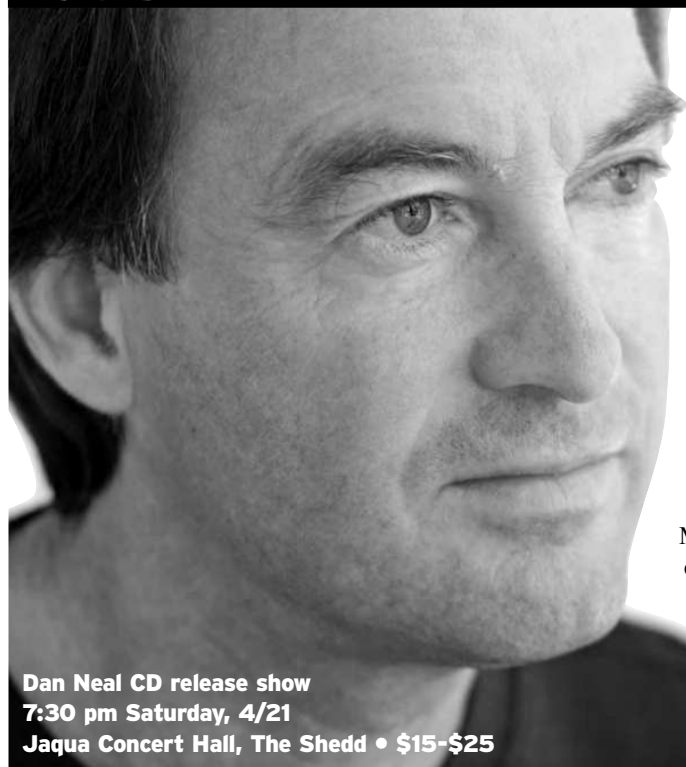




Rock With a Smirk

Dan Neal debuts second CD in Eugene

Dan Neal cuts a Jimmy Buffet-like figure: untucked shirt, rolled up sleeves, hair just a bit moppish. Plus there's that sunshine-y grin he's got. Musically, though, he's a bit more Jackson Browne than Jimmy. More rough around the edges, more punchy attitude, especially when he's writing

lines with Randy Newman-esque humor. *The Oregonian* described Neal's music as "rock with a smirk."

Neal just wrapped up production on his latest album. *Party of One*, with some of L.A.'s hottest session players and Lucinda Williams' backing band. He's good at bringing in talented players; his 2004 debut release, *When The Big Picture Fades*, also featured Williams' band, among others. Neal is officially releasing *Party of One* here, where he's played many times before at a variety of venues. That's no surprise since he grew up on the Oregon Coast. Music and performing were in his blood, you might say. His mother was the only female member of a touring big band, and his father was a star athlete inducted into the Chicago Sports Hall of Fame. Neal

chose music over sports, though, and by the time he was a teenager he had written a minor hit song and toured the West with his band. When his bandmates all headed south to L.A., Neal stayed in Eugene for college at the UO. He pursued a career in law, working with society's underrepresented as a public defender, and continued his passionate affair with music on the side.

His second full-length release, *Party of One* tackles the difficult sides of life, holding up life's ghoulies and ghosties and daring us to laugh them away. In "BiPolar Express," Neal tackles mental illness (his accomplished older brother Steve committed suicide) in such a way that we feel compassion and understanding yet are able to find a foothold of laughter through the song. Neal isn't afraid of politics either, questioning President Bush and his agenda in the song "Crawford." Neal's shows will make you laugh, cry and wonder why people take life so seriously. **EW**

Dan Neal CD release show
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