

music

staccato drumming, but Seims toned it down for All Smiles, since Fairchild strove to write simpler music, without all of Granddaddy's frills and accoutrements.

"Granddaddy was a very wide scope, really Technicolor band," Fairchild says. "I didn't want All Smiles to be that way quite yet. I wanted it to be more about simple songwriting."

All Smiles' album, called *Ten Readings of a Warning*, achieves this end. It's like standing outside when it's sprinkling rain; it takes a few minutes before you realize your hair is dripping. *Ten* comes on the same way – slowly and powerfully. And while Menomena's musical swells and dips command all of the listener's attention, *Ten's* contemplative, hopeful melodies retain the same cozy intimacy of the atmosphere in which it was recorded. Along with Janet Weiss (formerly of Sleater-Kinney) and Joe Plummer (of Modest Mouse), Fairchild recorded most of the album at his house on the same model eight-track Elliott Smith used to record *Either/Or*.

"It was only friends hanging out and making music together," Fairchild says. And Fairchild fans can expect more all-star collaborating – currently, he's working on another side project with Janet Weiss that he wants to call *Small Isles*. Watch for that, but in the meantime, see Menomena and All Smiles at 9 pm Wednesday, June 6 at the WOW Hall. \$10 adv., \$12 door. – Sara Brickner



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