

The Eyes Have It

After a year of transition, Eleven Eyes hits a jazzy stride

It all started as a senior recital. Five years ago, music major Tim McLaughlin wrote a half hour composition to fulfill a requirement for his graduation from the UO School of Music. He assembled a band of musicians he had met while gigging around town as a horn player and the rest, as they say, is history.

"Luna had just opened," McLaughlin remembers when asked about the band's early days. "Adam [Bernstein, of Adam's Place] asked if I had a bigger, funkier band that could play there. We got a gig at the Eugene Celebration the same year."

Never a demure little jazz ensemble, Eleven Eyes has been building its "bigger, funkier" sound ever since, incorporating electronic loops, samples and extended instrumental improvisation into their popular live shows. Their latest project, a live CD ideally to be released this winter, will include tracks captured at their upcoming five year anniversary party at the WOW Hall.

"We're using a show we did at Jimmy Mak's in Portland. We want to represent something from Eugene and from Portland, which are both hometowns for us," McLaughlin says.

Eleven Eyes' lineup has shifted in the half-decade since its inception. Not only have band members come and gone, but they've switched up instruments and traded around primary responsibility for the electronic elements of their music. Longtime collaborator MC Monk Metz is appearing with the band more often and will lend his vocal stylings at the anniversary show. Sam Berrett is the most recent addition to the band.

"Sam's our new drummer," McLaughlin says with enthusiasm. "He's got a great feel for the music, a natural insight for the con-



Eleven Eyes 5th anniversary show
9 pm Saturday, June 9
WOW Hall • \$7 adv., \$8 door

cept we're going for. He's really responsive to working with drum loops."

After taking some time to regroup, Eleven Eyes is back on the road, playing all over the West Coast and planning to break farther afield. According to McLaughlin, their goals include working outside the U.S.

"We want to do more extended tours to the East Coast and we'd like to get to Europe," he says. "We have a sense that people over there would have a great appreciation for what we are doing. We're feeling really strong about where we are right now. This is, arguably, the best the group has ever sounded."

McLaughlin says the band is feeling "refreshed vigor" for making music together, constantly experimenting with new sounds and pushing the borders of what Eleven Eyes has done in the past.

"I like starting with a riff," he explains. "Starting from that and building more texture around it, going back and forth from the instrument to the computer. It's never a set thing — that's the beauty of it. You just have to listen for it when it calls, whether it comes from a saxophone or from inside your head."

EW

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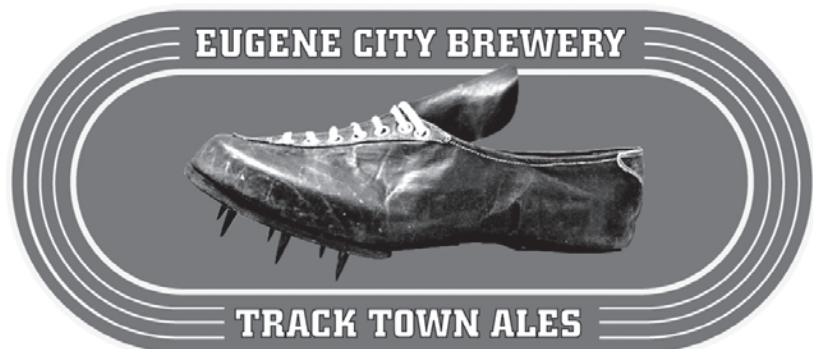
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2nd Annual
TRACK TOWN WEEK
★ Sunday June 10th – Saturday 16th! ★

Sunday: Brew Bus Valet pick-ups/drop-offs for Post Pre Party & Brewery Olympics

Schedule: 11:30 AM – Prefontaine Brew Bus leaves the Pub, drops off at Race, 3:30 PM – Prefontaine Brew Bus leaves the Race, drops off at Pub

5:00 PM – Open House & Brewery Tours
6:00 PM – Post Prefontaine Party with Brewery Olympics
6:30 PM – Prefontaine Movie Screening, 7:00 PM – Raffle Drawing

Monday: Patio Grand Opening & Pig Roast

Schedule: 5:00 PM – Open House & Brewery Tours, 6:00 PM – Patio Grand Opening, 7:00 PM – Raffle Drawing

Tuesday: Track Town 100 Meter Ale Bottle Debut

Schedule: 5:00 PM – Open House & Brewery Tours, 6:00 PM – Track Town 100 Meter Ale Bottle Debut, 7:00 PM – Live Bottling Demonstration, 7:30 PM – 2007 Awards Presentation, 8:30 PM – Raffle Drawing

Wednesday: Rogue Spirits Summer Drinks Debut

Schedule: 5:00 PM – Open House & Brewery Tours, 6:00 PM – Rogue Spirits Summer Drinks Debut, 6:30 PM – Special Rogue Nation Movie Screening, 7:00 PM – Bingo!, 7:30 PM – Raffle Drawing

Thursday: UofO Graduation Celebration

Schedule: 5:00 PM – Open House & Brewery Tours, 6:00 PM – UofO Graduation Celebration, 7:00 PM – Raffle Drawing

Friday: Mr. Bill's Anniversary

Schedule: 5:00 PM – Open House & Brewery Tours, 6:00 PM – Mr. Bill's Anniversary & Trophy Presentation, 8:00 PM – Mr. Bill's Travelling Trivia Anniversary Show

Saturday: Dog Wash

Schedule: 1:00 PM – Dog Wash to Benefit the Greenhill Humane Society

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