

music



Not Grizzled nor Grisly

Between the name and the sound – like one of their punktastic Fat Wreck Chords labelmates run through a Sam Bond’s filter (or maybe the other way around?) – I half expected the nine members of **Old Man Markley** to be a bunch of prematurely grizzled old punks who’d set their grown-up sights on a more bluegrass-tinged existence. But no. Well, sort of. OMM calls itself “an amalgam of LA’s finest punk bands and seasoned bluegrass musicians,” a description which fairly effectively suggests the infectious power of OMM’s rollicking, harmony-rich first single, “For Better For Worse.” The three-year-old band’s debut album isn’t due out in January, making “For Better For Worse” a charming tease. At just under three minutes, the tune does a shockingly precise job of combining rambunctious, runaway percussion with a cheerily frantic fiddle and a singalong chorus that ends, “She’s an angel / I’m just a man / I’ll always love her / Until I can’t stand.” The song’s B-side is a Screaming Weasel cover, “The Science of Myth,” a thoughtful narrative about fact and faith; both tracks benefit from crisp production and the gruff edges of singer Johnny’s (no last name) voice. These guys and gals will be sharing stages with the likes of NOFX and the Bouncing Souls later in the year, but they’re also a perfect fit for Cottage Grove’s cozy Axe & Fiddle. Catch them with Scott McDougall at 8:30 pm Friday, Oct. 22, at the Axe & Fiddle. 21+. \$5. – *Molly Templeton*

Bleary Be Damned

Coming off a two-week stretch that included The Flaming Lips, EOTO and Umphrey’s McGee might leave some Eugene concertgoers bleary eyed, but for the truly dedicated there’s more. **Ultraviolet Hippopotamus**, aside from having an absolutely ridiculous name, are a six-piece prog-rock, jam infused, rootsy batch of goodness hailing from Grand Rapids, Mich. If you were at Summercamp this year, you had the chance to hear them right after an EOTO set. They’ve played at other festivals such as 10,000 Lakes and are making their way into the upper echelons of the Midwest jam circuit.

Beyond just knowing how to jingle jangle an uppity ditty, these Michiganders pull from a hefty size bag of original jams that range from near reggae sounding riddims to funky bluegrass. Not to pigeonhole, but UV Hippo is most reminiscent of earlier Umphrey’s jams like “Hurt Bird Bath,” more Zappa-like than classic Americana jam, and capable of lengthy, improvised jams that sustain crowd energy. Already claimed as “anthems” among their Midwest following, songs like “North Coast” show their varied influences. Some have a bluegrass twang; others, like “Lay Off the Cream Soda,” an amalgam of funk.

Even though for the most part these guys are still in the “opening” act band stage, you best believe they can hold their own playing a two-hour show. On their first West Coast tour UV Hippo is looking to melt some faces off in Eugene. Ultraviolet Hippopotamus plays at 10 pm Friday, Oct. 22, at Luckey’s. 21+. \$5. – *Andrew Hitz*



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