



Hot Live

Finally. In 2006, **The Thermals** stopped in Eugene while touring for their taut, pointed album *The Body, the Blood, the Machine*, playing to a relatively small but disproportionately delighted WOW Hall crowd. They've not been back since, though those of us with a slight obsession have had plenty of opportunities to see the band in Portland. Two shows in one day at last fall's Musicfest NW couldn't dull my enthusiasm for seeing The Thermals play. It's not just that the band's literate, intense yet playful songs – not pop-punk, but part pop, part punk and all built to carry singer-guitarist Hutch Harris' distinctive yelp – are best listened to with the focus and immersion a concert setting can offer. The Thermals are the perfect live band: Harris, scowling and wiry, his lyrics full of contradictions and phrases that sum up ideas bigger than the three-minute songs seem able to contain; bassist Kathy Foster, bouncing slightly and smiling a strangely calm smile; and drummer Westin Glass, a hyperactive Muppet whose perpetual shit-eating grin and tendency to sing along, unmiked, adds an extra layer of infectiousness to songs already spiked with singalong choruses and dynamic shifts. *Personal Life*, the Thermals' 2010 release, opens with an impossibly wistful, crunchy guitar. "I'm Gonna Change Your Life" builds the promise of a relationship with lines that alternate hope and pain: "I'm gonna change your life / I'm gonna leave my mark / We can lie in the light / We can wander in the dark." Harris lines up possibility and bleakness, bitterness and love, in perfect pairs over the record's 10 tracks; you get "I Don't Believe You," forceful and defiant, and then "Only For You" a few songs later, and neither is as simple as the title suggests – which is par for the course where The Thermals are concerned. The Thermals, White Fang and The Blimp play at 9 pm Friday, Jan. 14, at the WOW Hall. \$12 adv., \$14 door. – *Molly Templeton*

MCDONALD
theatre MUSIC IS BETTER LIVE
 1010 Willamette Street • Downtown Eugene • mcdonaldtheatre.com

JANUARY 19
 DRS 7PM • SHW 8PM

Rebelution
 with IRATION AND ORGONE

amoslee
 live in concert
 with special guest
VUSI MAHLASELA

KESEY + TRUE WEST

SAT • JAN 22 DOORS 7PM SHOW 8PM

ANTHONY
B
 with
Medium Troy

KESEY

JANUARY 23 DOORS 7PM SHOW 8PM

Bellydance SUPERSTARS
 PRESENTS
Bombay Bellywood

AEG LIVE

FRI • JAN 28 DOORS 7PM SHOW 8PM

STSS
 with special guest **SAVOY**

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

KESEY

FRI • FEB 11 DOORS 7PM SHOW 8PM

Jameson's
TRIVIA
 FREE TO ENTER!
 FUN PRIZES!

MONDAYS AT 7PM

4PM - 2:30AM DAILY
 115 W. BROADWAY
 jamesons-bar.com

WINK + KINK

WWW.WINK-KINK.COM

Nancy's Eugene Weekly * TIX AVAIL. BY CALLING 1-800-992-TIXX. also avail. at TicketsWest SAFEWAY the EMU or online at mcdonaldtheatre.com music is better live