

GROWING UP IN PUBLIC

Warpaint's long, winding road to success

Four very talented women who communicate telepathically in a quadrilateral universe of their own peculiar making comprise Warpaint, an L.A.-based pop-drone-jam band with deep roots in Eugene. Like the intricate gears that tick-tock the hands of a clock, Warpaint creates the illusion of time's sound through the smooth grinding and purposeful revolution of individually meshing parts. Their songs – at once gauzy, aquatic, poetic, razor sharp and seductively dangerous – are the outcome of that human machinery working its way through contradiction and concession, thesis and antithesis. Warpaint makes music to dream on, fuck to, collapse upon, drift away with. They are theory brought to life, or reality put to sleep. A dream dreaming itself awake.

Warpaint is guitarist Emily Kokal, guitarist Theresa Wayman, bassist Jenny Lee Lindberg and drummer Stella Mozgawa. All four of them sing – beautifully, as though born to it like sisters. Kokal and Wayman, friends since they were 11 years old, grew up in Eugene; as Kokal joked at the band's March 17 WOW Hall show, "Fifty percent of Warpaint is from Eugene." So, in the tradition of uplift narratives, this is a story of local girl makes good, times two.

Because Warpaint is in that fizzy, heady first stage of an upward trajectory toward the constellation of Big Recognition, shooting off sparks that have landed burning on the cover of NME ("Best Live Band You'll See All Year"), in the pages of *Spin*, *Beat* and *Pitchfork*, and on BBC Radio's "Sound of 2011" most promising new artists playlist. The video for "Undertow," the first single off their new full-length, *The Fool*, has received 1.2 million-plus hits on YouTube, and the week of Nov. 13 the album reached No. 4 on Billboard's "Heatseekers" chart and No. 26 on the list of top-selling indie albums. In music reviews, critics are starting to use Warpaint as an adjective to describe what other bands sound like.

The Fool, released late last year on Rough Trade, is a spiked lullaby of an album – a hypnotic collection of guitar-driven songs that soar and dip on angelic harmonies, sometimes deconstructing into jarring tempo changes and martial beats, sometimes walking a serrated edge of sonic squelch before flying off into a gorgeous chromatic cloud of twining, twinning horizontal guitar lines. Warpaint's music is visceral, cinematic, oceanic, sepia-tinged. The lyrics are a house haunted by ghosts of love, of longing and repudiation.

The best Warpaint album, however, is the one they haven't made yet.

BY RICK LEVIN

PHOTO BY TRASK BEDORTHA



**Ordinary people.
Extraordinary gifts.**

 **Lane Blood
CENTER**

You have known us for 50 years
as Lane Memorial Blood Bank.
Today, we are
Lane Blood Center.
Same Mission. New Name.

Call 541-484-9111
to schedule your
life-saving donation.

2211 Willamette Street
www.laneblood.org



BURGER LOVERS

687-6424 | 1466 W 7th Avenue, Eugene | 11AM-9PM

**ALL BURGERS
\$5 includes
fries**

한 국음식
Korean Food - formerly Plaza Coffee Shop

**We Have the Best Food
for the Best Prices -
All Day, Every Day**