

Soulful Truckers

The term “three-axe attack” is only scary when it isn’t referring to music. Southern rock band **Drive-By Truckers** specializes in this attack (a term that describes the arrangement of three guitars alongside bass and drums) and is scheduled to roll into Eugene for a show at the McDonald Theatre.

Formed in 1996 by childhood friends Patterson Hood and Mike Cooley, DBT has suffered through the rock band cliché of a revolving-door list of musicians, recorded a Southern rock opera (the aptly named *Southern Rock Opera*, an album that uses the rise and fall of Lynyrd Skynyrd as a means of analyzing the cultural deterioration of the South during the 1970s), and earned a reputation for witty, hard-rocking tunes.

The Truckers are on tour to promote an 11th studio album. *Go-Go Boots* relies on the strengths of songwriters Hood, Cooley and former bassist Shonna Tucker to create dark, narrative-driven pieces surging with a special blend of country and soul.

As Hood writes on the DBT website: “It’s the album where we finally fully embrace the music of our original hometown area of Muscle Shoals, exploring the waters of country/soul and that mystical intersection between two dominant poles of our shared musical heritage.”

In addition to its heavier emphasis on country roots, the album features two covers – a rarity in DBT’s large and diverse catalog. Both tunes were originated by fellow Muscle Shoals artist Eddie Hinton and mesh beautifully.

As for the show, long-time Truckers fans are used to the changing lineup though Tucker’s spark is sure to be missed. Matt Patton (bassist for the Alabama-based rock group the Dexateens) will be filling in and slapping along in what’s sure to be a soulful and engaging evening.

Drive-By Truckers play 8 pm Sunday, March 18, at the McDonald Theatre; \$20 adv., \$25 door.

– Jackie Varriano



In His Father’s Footsteps

It is sacrilege to talk about Afrobeat without mentioning Fela Kuti, the Nigerian father of the genre who used the thick mix of jazz, funk and rock as a musical platform to combat the military dictatorship in his native country. Volumes could be written about Kuti’s effect on the political climate of his homeland – he formed his own political party, was banned from entering Ghana, his studio was destroyed by the Nigerian military, he was jailed, severely beaten and it’s said that his mother was killed (flung from a window) in retaliation for his scathing attacks on the Nigerian government.

Simply put, Kuti was a revolutionary who went all the way, using music as a catalyst for civil rights and justice. Fela Kuti died in 1997 from complications due to AIDS. But his legacy lives on in the music of his son, **Seun Anikulapo Kuti**.

Picking up where his father left off but with his own brand of distinguished, provocative flare, Seun is heading up **Egypt 80** (formerly known as Africa 70, and first fronted by his father) and embarking upon a massive 30-date tour. As lead vocalist and saxophonist, Seun will be looking to make his own mark on his artistic patrimony. In a sense, he has already done this, given the wide success of *From Africa with Fury: Rise*, released in June of 2011 – but in sticking with the tradition of his father, a lion of the stage, Seun is in the process of cementing his prowess as a performer. The significance of this is historic in a Marley-esque way, and arguably just as outstanding.

Seun Anikulapo Kuti and Egypt 80 play 8 pm Sunday, March 18, at WOW Hall; \$18 adv., \$20 door.

– Dante Zuñiga-West

Complex Relations

Robert Schwartzman (pictured right) not only played Anne Hathaway’s best friend’s little brother in *Princess Diaries*, but he’s also got a damn cool music career going. He founded Rooney in 2003 and has worked with the group until recently. Now he’s touring solo with Brian Bell (Weezer) and lighting up the stage with his own brand of dance-pop-electronica that has some serious mothafunkin’ groove power behind it.

Brian Bell is the guitarist of Weezer. His new project, **The Relationship**, is mellow, balladic and beautiful. It’s pretty much not what one would expect considering the nerdy brilliance that Weezer once emanated, but it’s this music that’s establishing Bell as a genius songwriter. Without the shadow of Rivers Cuomo, it’ll be interesting to see what Bell is able to come up with live.

Both guys cut their teeth in the music world with successful touring groups, and now that they’ve flown the coop – at least temporarily – it’s time to either watch them soar or see them nose dive into a lake of fiery criticism. My money’s on the former, especially where Bell is concerned. In the meantime, why not check out the *Princess Diaries* kid and Weezer’s guitarist at WOW Hall on St. Patrick’s Day?

Robert Schwartzman and The Relationship play 9 pm Saturday, March 17, at WOW Hall; \$8 adv., \$10 door.

– Andy Valentine



TRESPASS! \$5

WITH **JARROD KAPLAN**
(TRILLIAN GREEN, HANUMAN, TAARIKA)

MY FATHER’S GHOST

COZMIC PIZZA

03/22/12

SPECIAL GUEST **ELIZABETH VANDEL** 8PM

MYFATHERSGHOST.COM

WHISKEY RIVER RANCH PRESENTS

THE HANK SHREVE

BLUES SHOWCASE

TONIGHT **LINDA DUFFY** MAR 22 **HENRY COOPER**

EVERY THURSDAY FROM 8PM TIL MIDNIGHT • 4740 MAIN STREET, SPRINGFIELD

Whiskey River Ranch weekly