

music



INFANTREE

Valley Boys Go Big

It's unclear what **Infantree** used to record its music, but it sounds like an eight-track with a one-track mind. Confused? Yeah, I was too until I realized that making comparisons to other bands is more than doable but inherently pointless, because Infantree stands alone as a freak-pop group that totally rules.

Hailing from California's San Fernando Valley, Infantree is comprised of four dudes who exhibit influences ranging from pop to doo-wop, while making certain they hit everything in between. In a short period of time, the group has garnered a great deal of attention – I know if I'd made appearances on multiple television and radio spots, including *Conan* and *Bamm.tv*, I'd be fucking stoked. In fact, the deeper you look into Infantree the more apparent it becomes that the band is headed for big things. Most indie outfits would have difficulty being noticed even if they played loudly in the middle of a library – Infantree might just be the little indie group that could.

The band's only full-length, an LP called *Wouldwork*, is nothing short of awesome. It swings hard while simultaneously rocking your face and lacing indie-galore undertones into the cracks. And, when these guys hit the stage, they rock just as hard. As Conan O'Brien put it when they visited his show: "That was great. Hey, that was amazing."

Infantree and Tumbleweed Wanderers play 9 pm Wednesday, May 23, at Sam Bond's; \$1-\$5 door. – *Andy Valentine*



Metal and Moonscapes

The first time I went to a **Ninth Moon Black** concert it was 2009 and some crusty trainhopper-type tried to fight me for my sneakers. He was the doorman, and when I got past him into the raging house party, I found a legion of fans shoulder-to-shoulder in a dark basement, completely entranced by the gradual escalation of a dynamic and refined sound.

"We play post-rock psychedelic metal," says drummer Kasey Marcusky. "It is sort of introspective."

Though the idea of introspective metal music sounds oxymoronic, this is in fact what Ninth Moon Black has achieved. Founded in 2000, the band is a powerful mix of dark aesthetics, guitar thrashing and audio hypnosis. Not the type of hypnosis you'd encounter at a whomped-out dubstep show; it's more like the internal soundtrack of a slow-motion car crash – in a good way. No one gets hurt, but time is slowed down and thoughts become amplified.

Aside from the novelty of Marcusky, who is distinctively alone in her role as a female drummer in Eugene's almost entirely male-dominated metal scene, Ninth Moon Black is well-known for its visual accompaniments. The band often projects silent films or cut-ups of cult classics behind them as they play – creepy and meditative films, like E. Elias Merhige's *Begotten*.

The next phase of Ninth Moon is about to show itself, as the group prepares to release its third album, *Chronophage*. "The title and concept of the album was inspired by John C. Taylor's *Corpus Clock* and the Buddhist notion of Samsara," says Marcusky. The band is also going to project cut-up scenes from Fritz Lang's *Metropolis* at this upcoming gig.

Ninth Moon Black's album release show is 8 pm Saturday, May 19, at WOW Hall; \$5. – *Dante Zuñiga-West*

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