



PETER MURPHY

### King Bat

Hang on a sec while 14-year-old me squeals, “Peter Murphy is playing Eugene!” Murphy may not mean much to 14-year-olds these days, but there was a time when he was “King Bat” to a whole army of young goth-rockers. Most know him for his work with the British band Bauhaus, and bringing a dark cinematic quality to ‘70s and ‘80s punk rock with songs like “Bela Lugosi’s Dead.” Murphy’s Bowie-esque croon and the band’s creepy aesthetic inspired a music and fashion movement called “goth,” a style that still lives on in bands like Nine Inch Nails, My Chemical Romance and many more. This is what your weird older sister was listening to in her room while painting her face white and teasing her dyed-black hair.

After Bauhaus split, Murphy spent a lot of time trying to live-down his goth image, scoring a minor hit with the slightly more mainstream but far-from-sunny track “Cuts You Up.” His solo work is prolific and consistent, dabbling in acoustic and Eastern sounds, but never quite reaching the success of Bauhaus. After a few we-need-the-money Bauhaus reunions, Murphy returned in full form with the 2011 record *Ninth*. The opening track, “Velocity Bird,” is reminiscent of Iggy Pop. The song “I Spit Roses” is a romantic anthem, featuring Murphy chanting an over-the-top chorus that will have moody teens punching the air in their bedrooms.

So put on that dark eyeliner, dig out the old black trench coat and dance like you’re at a funeral. Peter Murphy is a vampire who most definitely doesn’t sparkle.

Peter Murphy plays with Ours 9 pm Saturday, Aug. 11, at WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th Ave.; \$25 adv., \$30 door. – William Kennedy

### Open Wide

As far as anatomy is concerned, the mouth allows us to breathe, eat, drink, kiss and sing.

**Magic Mouth**, Portland’s spunky, post-funk soul quartet, speaks to this versatility, preferring to bite first and make statements later.

“We started as a queer party band,” guitarist Peter Condra says. Condra and drummer Ana Margarita formed Magic Mouth in the spring of 2010. They started off performing original songs and Nina Simone covers. A year later Brendan Scott (bass) and Chanticleer Tru (vocals, keys) joined the duo, adding elements of indie-rock, dance-punk, pop and soul-gospel harmony. “It’s very un-ironic music now,” Condra says, “not trite indie rock.”

For Condra, the band’s recent success in Portland has been its ability to pick up a broader fan base. “When we started, we played mostly with rappers and drag acts,” he says. “The community we’re a part of is a constant party. Our live show reflects that and has brought in a lot of new faces this year.”

*Believer*, the first Magic Mouth EP, features all the tambourine-shaking, genre-breaking music you could ask for. With a second record to be released in September, a West Coast tour supporting the Corin Tucker Band and a slot at the Portland DIY dance-festival Superfest, Magic Mouth is ready to shed its sonic orthodontia in favor of fangs.

Magic Mouth plays with Sistafist 7 pm Tuesday, Aug. 14, at Wandering Goat, 268 Madison St.; \$5 sug. don. – Patrick Newson

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