

BB BACK BEAT

MUSIC NEWS &
NOTES FROM
DOWN IN THE
WILLAMETTE
VALLEY

Zimbabwe's "afrocoustic" **Bongo Love** returns to Eugene June 27 at Cozmic. Since the last time the band brought the "Zim sound" to town, Bongo Love released a self-titled album and added a trap set drummer and a female vocalist to the sonic smorgasbord of djembe, mbira, marimba and "southern African guitar licks."

Local photo studio Digital Latte hosts "**Madness & Music**," a benefit for **Womenspace**, featuring performances by **Black Magdalene** and **Stariana** 7 pm Saturday, June 28, at Suite 2, 1000 S. Bertelsen Rd. Work will be on display by Tracy and Rob Sydor from their **Jaded Jane** project, which features disturbing yet beautiful photos inspired by victims of violence and sexual assault.

Attention Eugene-area bands and singer-songwriters! **EW's Next Big Thing** music contest closes for submissions Tuesday, July 1. Get your songs in now at nextbigthingeugene.com. Sixteen semi-finalists will be paired with film directors July 15 at Hop Valley Brewing Company to make a music video. Check out more details with this sweet video by **DJ Food Stamp** featuring **K.I. Design** and **Joe Hughes**, presented by the **Eugene Film Society** and the **UO Cinema Studies**, at wkly.ws/1s5.

AMERICANA HULLABALOO

Around the 35-second mark on "It Ain't Easy," track 14 on **Sassparilla's** recently released impressive double album *Pasajero/Hullabaloo*, something begins to sound very similar to a song cemented on classic rock's Mt. Rushmore.

"Sympathy for the Devil" was from the perspective of the devil, right? 'It Ain't Easy' is supposed to be from the perspective of God talking," songwriter Kevin Blackwell says. "And I wanted to use the 'woo woos' because I wanted to put that rhythm between the two songs — I wanted people to make that connection that it's kind of our 'Sympathy.'"

But Blackwell is quick to denounce any bold juxtaposition.

"Clearly it is not the masterpiece that is 'Sympathy for the Devil!' I am not saying that, but I did want to put a rhythm between the two songs."

The singer and leader of Portland's rumbling Americana band Sassparilla calls in to *EW* the day after the release of *Pasajero/Hullabaloo*, the band's sixth — and a double album at that.

"I got to do what I wanted with *Pasajero* and then I said I should write something for the people who like us," Blackwell says with a laugh. "So I wrote one record for myself and one record for everybody else."

He and the band frequently tour the West, but two spots in the Whiteaker neighborhood keep reeling them back in.

"I love Sam Bond's! It's one of the best venues on the West Coast," Blackwell says before turning his attention to grub. "Papa's Soul Food is where we go. We miss Papa; that guy was a force of nature and a super talented man. So we will honor him by going to his restaurant every time we're in town."

Sassparilla plays with **McDougall** 9:30 pm Friday, June 27, at Sam Bond's; \$7. — *Silas Valentino*



CIGARETTES

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