

BB BACK BEAT

MUSIC NEWS &
NOTES FROM
DOWN IN THE
WILLAMETTE
VALLEY

SKATING POLLY



November is here and Eugene's annual month-long **GRRRLZ ROCK** music and art festival is in full swing. Celebrating its 11th year, GRRRLZ ROCK creates a space for women, young and old, to get involved in music with its educational series at Ophelia's Place, gigs around town and workshops. Catch a festival highlight with alt-rock darling **Skating Polly** 7:45 pm Friday, Nov. 11, alongside local and regional bands **Which Way**, **Suite Clarity** and **Blood on the Banjo** at all-ages venue The Boreal; \$5 suggested donation. Kudos to GRRRLZ ROCK for bringing Skating Polly back to Eugene; the Tacoma-based riot grrrl duo is a great inspiration for fledgling musicians — sisters Peyton Bighorse and Kelli Mayo formed the band in Oklahoma City when they were 14 and 9 respectively. For the full lineup of grrrl-centric events this month, visit grrrlzrock.com or find the festival on Facebook.

Don't miss: Denver's indie-folk wall of sound that is **Paper Bird** when they perform with Boston's harmonious trio **The Ballroom Thieves** 9 pm Saturday, Nov. 12, at Hi-Fi Music Hall; mellow-romantic singer-songwriter Amos Lee at 8 pm Thursday, Nov. 17, at McDonald Theatre.



PAPER BIRD



Natalie Carol's voice is a crackling *force majeure*, harrowing but with hints of sunshine, as if Neko Case laid down roots in Laurel Canyon rather than rural Vermont. Carol fronts the soulful Los Angeles country-rock outfit **Valley Queen**, which will be performing 8:30 pm Friday, Nov. 11, at Cottage Grove's Axe & Fiddle for \$7 — a great chance to see this band on its way up. (For a double dose of women who rock, check out **Neko Case** the night before at McDonald Theatre.) Valley Queen has only been around since 2014, but its small oeuvre feels well oiled and confident. Try the 2016 single "In My Place" — full of sparkly guitar and cutting, winking lyrics, like when the Arkansas-born Carol sings of her new golden state as a place "Where no one ever dies or admits to growing older."

Yelawolf can't get enough of Eugene, and Eugene can't enough of that Southern hip-hop heartthrob. Wolfy hits WOW Hall 8 pm Wednesday, Nov. 16, with **Struggle Jennings** (grandson of Waylon) and **Jason "Jelly Roll" DeFord**; \$22 adv., \$25 door. In 2014, EW got cozy with Yelawolf and produced an intimate Q&A and photo session. Yelawolf described carving out his own niche as a white hip-hop artist: "I really need to do some shit that is damn-near impossible to imitate. And I knew what that was. It's just some shit that you gotta be from where I'm from to even get it in the first fuckin' place, you know what I mean?" Read the full interview at bit.ly/2fMUX7i.



PHOTO BY TODD COOPER