

PHOTO: TODD COOPER

BEST OF EUGENE

BEST DRAG QUEEN

1. Facisha Farce
2. Monique La Faye
3. Karess Ann Slaughter

BEST LIVE MUSIC VENUE

1. **Hi-Fi Lounge/Music Hall** 44 E. 7th Ave. 541-636-3292. HifimusicHall.com.
2. **Cuthbert Amphitheater** 2300 Leo Harris Pkwy. 541-762-8099. TheCuthbert.com.
3. **WOW Hall** 291 W. 8th Ave. 541-687-2746. Wowhall.org.

WORST THING ABOUT EUGENE WEEKLY

1. Nothing
2. Weed ads
3. It only comes out once a week

Nothing is the worst about *Eugene Weekly*? You guys are so sweet! We love you too.

BEST THING ABOUT EUGENE WEEKLY

1. Calendar of events/music listings
2. It's free
3. Best Of Eugene

BEST SINGER-SONGWRITER

1. **(Tie) Endr Won** endrwon.bandcamp.com.
1. **(Tie) Halie Loren** halieloren.com.
2. **Calysta Cheyenne of Fortune's Folly** fortunefollyband.com.
3. **Bettreena Jaeger** bettyandtheboy.com.

THE SINGER

Halie Loren might be Eugene's hardest working person in show business. She spends long stretches of time on the road, touring the world with her pop-jazz combo, so news of tying for first in *EW*'s Best of Eugene Best Singer-Songwriter category came as somewhat of a surprise. "I'm really honored," she tells me over the phone. "I've been gone since late August — touring, and out of the country most of the time."

But whether it's playing jazz in Japan or performing around town with folk-pop outfit Halie and The Moon or popular acoustic-dance mainstays The Sugar Beets, Loren never forgets Eugene is her home. "I'm thrilled to still be here, to still be local, to be able to live in this community and be able to share my music with the very people I started my career playing for."

Loren says all her projects provide outlets for her voice and style in different ways. And after a successful Kickstarter campaign, Loren is in the studio working on an album of all original material. She calls her new stuff a step in a different direction that reflects the breadth of her musical influences. "Which not only includes jazz," she explains, "which I'm known for, but also folk and soul and blues. Even a bit of world music." And she says a lot of her new material is very vocally oriented. "It's really quite different from anything else I've ever done," Loren adds.

But no matter what project she's working on, she says her music always starts with a melody. "The words fall into place based on what the melody is speaking to me," Loren explains. "I have to integrate lyric and melody together." But nothing makes her heart happier than to have the support of local fans. "I'm just so overwhelmed to have been chosen," she says. — *Will Kennedy*