

Dirt City Beat (Jul12-Jul25)

Thursday, 12 July 2007

Portland Return

It seemed like we couldn't keep The Prids out of Albuquerque a few years back, as the Portland band performed locally every nine months or so. And though their touring schedule has calmed down a bit of late, they haven't forgotten the Dirt City, one of bassist Mistina Keith's and guitarist David Frederickson's favorite tour stops due to the warm reception they receive each time they take to an ABQ stage. Soaring and grand, The Prids meld post new-wave and dark-wave into symphonic splendor that is never short of stunning. 9p., Tue., Jul. 17. Burt's Tiki Lounge, 313 Gold SW, 247.2848. No cover.

Hopeful Return

After successful local folk-jam duo Naomi split in the late 1990s, Jason Daniello kept a high profile with new projects, while his partner, the uniquely gifted songwriter Ben Hathorne, formed his much-missed guitar-backed outfit the Hopefuls. Soon after, Hathorne dropped out of sight.

Thankfully, die-hard fans of Hathorne's velvet vocals and striking lyrics can find him in a rare solo slot on July 19 at Launchpad, opening for the mysterious Orbitman with Funk Shui — prog-funk as influenced by the Dead, Zeppelin, and Hall & Oates (you heard right). 9p., Thu., Jul. 19. Launchpad, 618 Central SW, 764.8887. \$5.

Traveling Ladies' Cello Society

Alternative rock usually means strings, as in jangling guitars and melodic bass. Rasputina is nothing less than a true alternative featuring the cello, never an instrument associated with rock unless one counts the Beatles' "Eleanor Rigby";

Led by cellist Melora Cregaer, the trio braves ethereal new worlds of classically informed compositions that don't fit within the hoary traditions of chamber music. Topics include the tragedy of industrial revolution factory fires, the mystique of antique high-heel red doll shoes, and most horrifying of all, pop icons like Kate Moss. The group also pulls rabbits out of gothic hats with inventive covers of jazz standards, Pat Benatar songs and '60s folkie Melanie.

Backed by second chair cellist Sarah Bowman and drummer Jonathon TeBeest, Creager will take the stage at the El Rey Theatre on July 25 with a batch of new songs of infidels, yellowcake radium, and climate abnormalities. Supporting act, Brooklyn's My Brightest Diamond, bridges the divide between Rasputina, Tori Amos, and Kate Bush. Tickets are \$14 to \$18.

El Rey Theatre, 620 Central SW, 242.2343.

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