

music

music report

BY KEVIN WIERZBICKI

LIGHTNING IN A BOTTLE

Yes, you can catch lightning in a bottle! The second annual "green, music and art festival" known as Lightning in a Bottle 2007 will be happening at the Live Oak Campground in Santa Barbara on the weekend of May 11 through 13.

The environmentally conscious event will be powered almost entirely by solar energy and biodiesel, while biodegradable plates will be used in the food vending area. The festival has even printed its flyers on "tree-free" material, and of course, the site will be saturated with recycling bins.

Lots of art installations, workshops and seminars will be available to festival-goers, and three stages will host the musical acts. Scheduled to appear are Bassnectar, Kid Beyond, Freq Nasty, Ooah and Edit from the Glitch Mob, Rara Avis, Helios Jive, Oscure, Mutatyor, Ganga Girl, David Starfire and around 30 other acts.

The 150-member stilt troupe called Stilt Circus will appear as well. Luce Dossier Vaudeville Cirque.

Three-day passes run from \$95 to \$130 with the price of single-day passes yet to be announced. Oh, and May 13 is Mother's Day, so either buy mom a ticket or remember to call her between acts! www.lightninginabottle.org

CUBBY ON DVD

It'll be Better Tomorrow is the name of the recently released documentary about the life of influential and controversial writer Hubert Selby, Jr. Selby took the nickname "Cubby" when he was a kid because people made fun of his real first name. That's just one of



Cubby

many things you'll learn about this quirky personality while viewing this film; another is why he used weird punctuation like a slash instead of an apostrophe in words like "It'll" (the slash key was easier for him to reach on his manual typewriter.)

Selby suffered from tuberculosis and drug addiction and had to endure two obscenity trials in the

'60s. He never went to college, yet he was a professor at USC for a time.

The documentary features lots of commentary from Selby himself and many luminaries including music critic Nick Tosches and musicians Lou Reed, Anthony Kiedis and Henry Rollins. The Smiths, although not represented in the film, paid homage to Selby with their *The Queen is Dead* album, titled after Selby's short story of the same name.

Last Exit to Brooklyn, the writer's most famous work, was made into a movie starring Ellen Burstyn. *It'll be Better Tomorrow* is done in "talking head" style, but is edited in such a way that it moves quickly like one of Selby's stories. Selby died in 2004.

GRANT-LEE STRANGELET

Grant-Lee Phillips has just released his fifth solo album through Zoe/Rounder Records. Titled *Strangelet*, the album was recorded mostly on a "homegrown" setup in Los Angeles, and Phillips gets a bit cryptic talking about the



Grant-Lee Phillips

sessions: "I've learned how to coax these things along, to leave it teetering on the edge, how to booby-trap my own work so there's bound to be an accident."

R.E.M. guitarist Peter Buck and session drummer Bill Rieflin (R.E.M., Ministry) guest on *Strangelet*, a work that Phillips says is very intimate. "There's a whole lot of fire in the new songs; there's plenty to ponder and it's probably the most inspired I've felt in a long while."

He's only booked a select few dates to play the material live, but Phillips says he's anxious to hit the road. "For me the stage has always been a place where the songs take on another life. There's no confinement, no clock and yet you've got one shot to say your piece — there's no take No. 2. These shows are gonna pack a wallop!"

Phillips's only area appearance will be at the Troubadour on April 27. ■

frequency | essential concerts

BY BRIEN OVERLY



Men, Women & Children

EIGHTEEN VISIONS

April 20 @ Chain Reaction

Just in case you haven't heard, this show along with the band's April 19 show in San Diego are supposedly the band's last two shows before the members go their separate ways and call it quits as a musical unit. Can we say massive bumout?

The band has taken its blows from critics and fans alike for its drastic stylistic changes from album to album over the years, but the Orange County hardcore scene natives have stood by every choice they've made, and surely there's a level of respect to be earned from that.

Not all of the band's fans have been gentle in their criticisms, but again, the band has respectfully stood its ground and taken its hits in stride. It continues to put on a damn good show, regardless of whether or not the performance was legitimately appreciated by its audience.

Granted, some fans of the band were none too happy about its jump to the mainstream scene, whether they considered it to have started with 2004's *Obsession* or last year's self-titled album. But in a scene where so many bands overcompensate for the sake of street cred, credit has to be given to Eighteen Visions for throwing caution to the wind and giving a big middle finger to anyone who had anything to say about it.

Opinionated as many may be about the group, for the most part they're consistently a rad bunch of

dudes. So it's only right that we show the guys some love on this last show of theirs, as they'd surely rock the hell out of you whether it was their final performance together or not.

MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN

April 22 @ Chain Reaction
April 23 @ The Troubadour

Though people seem to have lots of widely varying opinions on this band, one thing we can surely agree on these days is that Men, Women & Children is what Head Automatica



Lacuna Coil

used to be. By which I mean they're actually good.

One of the most fun live shows around, there's something so simplistically likeable about the band members because of the party at-

mosphere they create. And they never fail to back it up with intricately planned out instrumentation and skilled musicianship.

I mean, we all knew Daryl Palumbo had that wild streak of lovably flamboyant gay in him that it takes to convincingly front a band like Head Automatica, but who knew his former bandmate, and Men, Women & Children guitarist, Todd Weinstock had it in him, too?

LACUNA COIL

April 24 @ House of Blues Anaheim

As many of you may know, I seriously can't sing the praises of Lacuna Coil enough in Frequency. Like, not even kidding. I could talk about my love of them for days. And by them ... I mean frontwoman Cristina Scabbia.

A sultry, intelligent and charming foreign woman who could sing circles around most of today's pop stars and is still a massive badass! That, friends, is real metal, and Lacuna Coil is love.

Arguably one of the most visually engaging hard rock bands to ever grace an Ozzfest stage, the Italian metalheads find that ever elusive balance between traditional head-banging and dynamic emoting to please fans on both the harder and softer ends of their stylistic spectrum. Add in Scabbia's soaring vocals, balanced by co-frontman Andrea Ferro's guttural growling, and give them a more atmospheric setting than, y'know, San Bernardino, and you've got true magic on your hands.

If anyone is still unconvinced of

the hard-rockingness or is otherwise skeptical of female fronted metal bands, just go check some of the photo shoots on the band's MySpace page. I'm usually not one to get anywhere close to the realm of what could be considered objectification, but one look at the current default photo of Scabbia, and it's clear who the metal gods have bestowed their blessings upon.

And just so I don't lose any cred, artistic integrity, blah, blah, blah, emotional honesty, blah, blah, blah, you get the picture. ■

INTERNS

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