



FREAKY BOOS UNITE TOUR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

for an official EP release and live introduction to everything This Mad Desire.

"We're releasing a digital EP with the instrumental versions of both 'Operators...' and 'Paris of Love' and some extra bonus tracks, which are pretty cool, too," says Kristjon. "We also hope to have a full-length vinyl release in the next six months. For the show, we're going to premiere both videos and do a full band concert with seven or eight musicians. At the show, everyone that was involved with either song is going to be there — we'll have actors, models, dancers, photographers — and this is going to be really fun. It'll be beyond anything that normally happens there — this will be a different night out to see what I'm about."

This Mad Desire performs on Thursday January 18 at This Ain't Hollywood with Conrad Sichler and DJ Puckerfunk. Doors are at 9pm and \$15 gets you in. Click on this-maddesire.net

FREAKY BOOS UNITE TOUR FINALE HAMILTON HOMECOMING SHOW

The underground art rock scene has never been more vibrant — for years I've applauded the likes of Tor Lukasik Foss who has handily tried to connect the physical art worlds with the more conventional music world — long before James North art crawls were a thing... these days the two worlds may collide regularly but how much cross pollination is there? How many arties check out the musos and vice versa. One Becky Katz has one foot firmly planted in both worlds making drastically stylistic pieces — something I learned when she was commissioned to do a special piece for Caribou's Polaris Music Prize win... but she makes music, too! And the kind of music that demands attention and commands retention. While a cute and bubbly personality, when Katz produces art —

visual or musical — she does it with gusto. When I heard that Katz had connected with HAVN and Haolin Monk co-founder Aaron Hutchison and Montreal Transplant Jackson Darby of Persons and NPNP had gone on an adventurous tour and were doing a hometown showcase in a novel venue — I had to know the details.

Katz has made HMN previously as part of the aggro-feminist experimental project Sourpussy who reportedly will be returning later this year with a box set of music and a documentary film. Please offers Katz's solo experimentation with cello and electronic improvisation.

"I was supposed to play a house show with a friend in November 2015 but they decided they wanted to play on their own and at first I was disappointed because I didn't have my own act but then I thought, 'why not?' I became Please that day," says Katz. "It's very much a solo Sourpussy kind of thing but slightly less confrontational.

"This tour started as an idea that fell

into the lap of the three of us," adds Katz. "Out of many other options, the Freaky Boos Unite Tour came to be. We planned the smartest tour ever travelling between Peterborough and Halliburton on a very cold January night that was blizzarding. We're on the last leg of the tour but it's been quite a time. I'd never been on tour. What makes me a freaky boo is not giving a freaky boo."

Eclectic, eccentric and experimental, the trio perform shows that can take any shape depending upon the individual's moods. Playing makeshift venues in the dearth of winter in Canada underscores the intent of these artists and musicians. The trio's hometown return is marked at another makeshift venue that Katz will decorate with music but one that she's already decorated with her art.

"The Grasshopper is this wonderful Portuguese restaurant located at 37 Barton Street East," says Katz. "They're so chill they let us do anything we want basically. I got a grant to do a mural and I had a hard time finding a space to do it but I was eating there one day and asked if they wanted a mural and they were happy to receive it. Since then we've become great friends."

Toronto born Jackson Darby went to Montreal to study music and art but four years ago decided that Hamilton would be more of a welcoming home to create the sights and sounds he wanted to do. With an album released from his electronic project Persons, Darby or Nick Persons created a solo project to allow for his own more experimental outings dubbed NPNP and officially releases his new cassette on HAVN records at this show.

"I was intrigued by what I was hearing about the underground experimental electronic scene in Hamilton so I came here and called Hamilton home four years ago," says Darby. "Freaky Boos was a way of uniting our unique approaches to making experimental music and putting it under one name. We're certainly not playing arenas — mostly DIY spaces with different communities of experimental musicians in different cities comparable to places like HAVN in Hamilton. We've been very wonderfully welcomed by these amazing artists who are doing tons of work for free and putting us on very generously. These aren't the biggest shows but they I feel they are important to have them nonetheless. Our homecoming show is equally as important. It should be one of our biggest shows of this tour because it's home base and that's our community."

"Persons isn't just me and is more of a collective musically," adds Darby. "This project allows me to do anything I want without any collective decisions. This allows me to experiment and go crazy on my own. From my perspective, there is a lot of experimental music that sheds a lot of light to what Hamilton is about comparable to cities of a similar size that the music doesn't get as much attention. The Hamilton scene is special and unique and starting to get

attention outside of Hamilton. Anyone who has an open mind and open ears, you'll be able to appreciate this music for sure."

"Anyone who is curious about what Freaky means to them should come out to this," says Katz. "Being a Freaky Boo means no rules need apply. It's quite liberating to do what you want to do. If you're interested in knowing whatever I want to do come out to the Little Grasshopper Cafe."

Freaky Boos Unite Tour Finale Hamilton Homecoming Show happens this Friday January 12 at the Little Grasshopper Cafe featuring Please, Hutchie, NPNP and DJ Billy. Doors are at 8pm and it's a \$10 or pay-what-you-can cover. Click on pleaseplease.bandcamp.com.

COOTES PARADISE DEBUT CD

Lily Sazz has long been making music since her days studying piano and harpsichord at McMaster University. She'd connect with Crowbar in the mid '80s and begin a long history in the local blues and roots scene. But while playing keyboards for a who's who in the national roots and blues scene — including being a major force behind Toronto Blues Society's Women's Blues Revue band since 1995, spending 10 years as musical director and even Rita Chiarelli's all female side project, Sweet Loretta, Sazz was looking to start a project with a different approach more so than a different direction than perhaps what she's already done.

"I had been part of Groove Corporation for ten years and it was a really great ride but it was a big machine that made it difficult to get anything done," says Sazz. "I really started to feel that I wasn't getting any younger but I wanted to take another kick at the can. I wanted to focus on a lot of original material and something more versatile stylistically. That's why I wanted to do a project like this where I could find other people with their own incredible talents to bring to the table in different styles and figure out what we were good at playing together. As it turned out, it's a blues, roots, folk, funk sound. I just wanted to play with nice people that are motivated and figure out what we are good at and let it turn out as it would and it turned out into something we might not have expected. We didn't want to be in a box before we started and just let this happen organically and it worked out really well."

"Our first gig was December two years ago at one of Sony Del Rio's Hamilton Hometown Christmas shows," adds Sazz. "He's an old friend and as soon as he heard I had started a new band he wanted to get us on the bill. We'd only been rehearsing for two months at that point but it's really come together over the last two years. Everyone is into song writing and with two singers, there is a wide style of things we can do."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

JANUARY 11 — 17, 2018 VIEW

COOTES PARADISE



PHOTO: TIFFANY THOMPSON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8


With Sue Leonard (vocals), Wayne Krawchuk (vocals, guitar), Amy Di Nino (drums), Ian Taylor (bass), Mark Volkov (flute, sax and violin) and Sazz (keyboards), Cootes Paradise offers some seriously good tunes played by veterans that know what they're doing. The debut CD from Cootes Paradise kicks off with barn burner Motown influenced track featuring Leonard and veers to a more laid back Jam band sound featuring Krawchuk and then roots, blues and otherwise all intermingles in between songs to provide a fun listen from start to finish. There is actually three vocalists in the band as one track even features Sazz on lead.

"Nick Blagona produced but we started with the bed tracks with Amy King at Grant Avenue and then moved to Nick's studio to work on the nuances and overdubs but we also did a session at QED media to record a choir on one of the tracks," says Sazz. "The track 'Wake Up' features voices from the Grand River Voices choir. The record goes all over the place within the confines of roots based music. Track 2, 'Lily's Pad' is a song Wayne wrote shortly after joining the band and it's named after where we rehearse at my home in Dundas. It's almost like a love song to what we're doing — a tribute to the music we're playing together as a group and the place we love that makes us feel great. It expresses the joy of this project.

"For our CD release party at the Corktown, doors are at 7pm and show starts at 8pm," adds Sazz. "We will be following the Bay City Music Hall's relocated Sunday afternoon blues matinee at the Corktown but that should be a good thing if you're up for a double header. We're excited about this show

to official introduce these songs but this will be a different show as well because we're inviting as many people from the choir that can attend to perform with us as well to help with the grand finale.

That'll pretty much pack the room right there but it looks like a good event for the middle of January. Every gig is fun for us because we just love playing together and this CD hopefully brings



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us more interesting opportunities. This isn't work — any musician knows if you're playing in a passion project — there's no feeling like playing music you love with people that you're so fond of — we're not trying to please a record label or club owner — we're playing for ourselves and it's pretty special. Of all the things I've done, I'm particularly proud of this project and I hope I can do this for the rest of my life." V

Cootes Paradise plays this Sunday January 14. Doors are at 7pm and tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Click on www.cootesparadiseband.ca



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