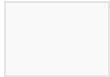




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Local Scene: Motorpsychos ride again

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By Scott Mervis / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Motorpsychos promise that the band's latest album, "Sheppard's File," "will grip the back of your neck and force you through damp city alleys." They might as well "... and bang your head against the wall."

The female-fronted metal band, which formed in 2000 with influences ranging from L7 to Pantera, seem to get heavier with each record, despite being down one member.

Abby Krizner, now of Fist Fight in the Parking Lot, left after the release of 2009's "Coming of Rage," leaving Motorpsychos as the power trio of Pamela Simmons (guitar, vocals), Amy Bianco (bass, vocals) and Mike Brown (drums).

"After the three of us being together for almost 10 years, we were like a family and it was more like inviting someone into your family than into your band," Ms. Simmons says. "We auditioned several really talented people but we were playing shows as a trio within a week of [Abby] quitting and we found that the more we played together -- just the three of us -- the better it felt and the tighter we sounded."

"Sheppard's File" is a high-adrenalin ride with thick, sludgy guitars, manic drumming and vocals that roar out of the speakers like beasts from hell.

"About four songs on 'Coming of Rage' were pretty heavy and we just continued to write that

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way," the singer says, adding that "for the first time in the band's career, some of the songs were created during the recording process."

The Sheppard referred to in the title is Jack Sheppard, the infamous British criminal from the early 1700s who was imprisoned several times for robbery and burglary.

"Each time (except the last) he managed to escape from jail," Ms. Simmons says. "All of these songs are about things that we'd like to get away from, to say goodbye to, to escape from. After one successful escape attempt Jack Sheppard's files were discovered in his cell. That's what the cover photo is about, too, that little escape hatch that symbolizes a freedom from oppressive situations. Deep, huh?"

The CD release show is at 10 p.m. Saturday at the 31st Street Pub, Strip, with Rogue Signals and Solarburn. 412-391-8334.

Scott Mervis: smervis@post-gazette.com or 412-263-2576.

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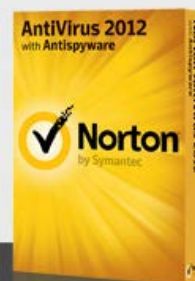
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