



The Motorpsychos: Pam Simmons, Rachel Cassidy, Tom Venturino and Amy Bianco.

## Motor running

Band cranks  
up punk-metal  
on new CD

By ED MASLEY

Post-Gazette Pop Music Critic

In 1965, the King of Szeaze, Russ Meyer, made a film called "Motor Psycho."

Pam Simmons, a local guitarist, has never seen it.

This is only odd because her band, the Motorpsychos, took their name from Meyer's film — which Simmons says, "I hear is really boring."

Still, she says, "I liked the name." She formed the band with fellow Go To Helen veteran, singer Rachel Cassidy, in February 2000, hooking up with bassist Amy Bianco later that same year. The Motorpsychos played its first show that October with original drummer Tom Venturino.

Tonight at Gooski's, it's doing a show to celebrate its first release — with Dennis Brown on drums — titled simply "Motorpsychos."

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### music PREVIEW

**MOTORPSYCHOS**

**WITH:** The Science Fiction Idols

**WHERE:** Gooski's, Polish Hill.

**WHEN:** 10 tonight.

**INFORMATION:** 412-681-1658.

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It's a heavy record.

Some would call it metal.

Others wouldn't.

"There are some songs that are purely punk and some songs that are purely metal," Simmons says. "And people that like metal hear the metal part and people that like punk hear the punk part. So whatever works."

It's definitely not about to be confused with Go to Helen.

"This is much punkier," Simmons says, "and much simpler, much faster, much more in your face."

Although she's proud of the "more cerebral" stuff she did with Go to Helen, Simmons says, "Now when I listen to it, it sounds slow to me. I think I changed a little bit. And my thing now is that I really enjoy playing live. I hate recording. I don't like practice particularly. I don't even like writing particularly. I like the rush of playing, the heightened intensity and the whole live thing, the whole fast thing, the whole headbanger, in-your-face thing. And that kind of music was conceived on more of an artistic level, I'd say."

Recorded at David Granati's studio in Ambridge, "Motorpsychos" also features classic horror art by Adam Geyer — rhymes with Meyer.

"He's a friend of Rachel's,"

Simmons says. "He did our logo and our banner that we hang up on the stages when we play. He's got a whole bunch of stuff on our

site. He's one of those unbelievable talents from the middle of nowhere living in a hick town with a population of four: He's from St. Mary's, home of Strub's Beer, somewhere near State College. That's where Rachel's from."

Although the band has only been together for a couple years and didn't have a record out until this weekend, the members have already done their share of road work, hanging Geyer's banner from stages in Detroit and Cleveland to the Continental Club in New York City, where Simmons recalls, "The soundman, he came up to me and said, 'Hey, I did sound for AC/DC, OK?' He was an arrogant f---er, but we sounded better than ever."

It hasn't taken long to get a CD out, but to Simmons, it seems like it's taken forever.

"It seems like my mother had a CD out before I did," she says. "I don't know if you've heard it. 'Nagging?' 'Nagging I and 'Nagging II.'" As for the Meyer film, she says, "It's on my list. I'm gonna watch it one of these days."

And chances are, she'll see it long before she's found a female drummer.

"That's my epitaph," she says. "Here lies Pam. She tried to find a female drummer. Honestly. But given the choice, I would much rather have a guy that's good than a female that's not. And I guess I was given that choice. It would be cooler marketing wise, I guess, to have a female. But I'd rather be good."