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'Rage' has Motorpsychos experimenting more

By **Rege Behe**

TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Wednesday, January 28, 2009



They get hot a lot when they play, the Motorpsychos do. Even in the middle of winter.

So Saturday, when the band releases its new CD, "Coming of Rage," at the 31st Street Pub in the Strip District, don't be surprised if they ask for the air conditioning to be turned on, no matter how cold it is outside.

Not that they expect any relief; no one really likes a blast of arctic air when the temperatures are arctic outside.

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[The Motorpsychos](#)

Justin Merriman/Tribune-Review

Motorpsychos

What: CD release party

With: Broadzilla, Mojo Filter

When: 10 p.m. Saturday

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They'll just make do.

"We structure the set so it has as much energy as possible," says singer and guitarist Abby Krizner. "There are short breaks for drinking and drying off, and then you're ready to go. You'd better be ready to go."

Founded by guitarist and singer Pam Simmons in 2000, the Motorpsychos have proven to be one of the more durable and enduring bands in the Pittsburgh area -- not to mention one of the loudest and most frenetic. The easy label is metal, but Krizner, Simmons, bassist and vocalist Amy Bianco, and drummer Dennis Brown are arguably one of the region's more musically accomplished outfits. The music is loud, but it's also incredibly complex and intricate.

"I definitely think metal requires you to have more technique," Krizner says. "This isn't to knock anything else, but if you play punk, you can slam on the guitar -- it's all about attitude. Metal requires you to practice for a couple of hours and sit there and figure out how you're going to stay in line."

The Motorpsychos also are a band in the truest sense. Because Bianco, Krizner and Simmons share vocal duties, there's no focal point, no one dominating the live shows as there was when the band had a sole lead singer.

"It's a lot more fun now," Brown says. "It's a lot more evolved, more structured. There's a lot more creativity with three people doing it versus one person telling you how it's going to be."

"Coming of Rage" might surprise those who view metal as white noise. Drawing from influences as diverse as L-Seven, Metallica, Pantera and the Misfits, it's the first Motorpsychos album where the members felt comfortable experimenting with

Where: 31st Street Pub, Strip District

Details: 412-391-8334

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varying textures and tunings.

"We've learned to get really comfortable taking risks, because we're really comfortable with each other," Krizner says. "We don't have anything to lose anymore."

In 2005, the Motorpsychos were national finalists in the Zippo Hot Tour Competition. They'd love to follow up on that success and gain a following outside of Pittsburgh.

But Simmons says the band long ago met her initial expectations when they played the 31st Street Pub for the first time, wrote good songs she could be proud of and released an album.

"All of that happened," Simmons says, "and after that, everything was cream. After that, I sat back and said, 'Let's watch where this goes.' We've achieved lots of other stuff since then that feels really good.

"It's better this way; there's no 'We have to do this, we have to achieve that.' It's better to just do your best, to sit back and see where it goes. It keeps going, and it's really fun."

Rege Behe can be reached at rbehe@tribweb.com or 412-320-7990.

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