

Moxy Früvous: a band out of fashion

Moxy Früvous are famous for two things - that rather catchy song that got played to death on Much Music 'King Of Spain', and also for being the band that SNFU could beat up (another Brunswickan exclusive...). But after talking to them before their show in town on Saturday night, it seems that there is a lot more to the band. All four members had something to say, and that made it hard to distinguish who said what. So here are the collective thoughts of Moxy Früvous - maybe SNFU would have their work cut out for them too...

So what is the band up to at the moment?

We've just started a tour that is going to cover most of North America - all of Canada and some of the US. We've been in Atlantic Canada for the past couple of weeks, and the tour continues until mid December.

And how is the tour going?

It's going well. It's the first time that we have been out to most places with the new album. We're playing half new stuff, half old stuff and some satirical songs too.

You seem to be playing smaller venues this time.

Smaller licensed venues, so the crowds are a bit more... animated. The last tour was the theatre tour - almost all the gigs were in theatre venues which was a good experience, but it left us with a hollow feeling. There isn't any give and take when everyone is sitting in comfy seats. We even played in places where the people were told not to stand up. This is a lot more fun, with a lot less baggage. There is a lot more interaction with the audience and it lets a whole other side of the band to come out, a side that we missed.

And the new album Wood? What can you tell me about that?

Every single person that I have talked to has said that they like it. It might take a few listens, but they like it.

It sounds quite different from Bargainville - more mellow. Were you trying to do that?

We wanted to make an album of songs that could be listened to more than three times which some of the novelty songs can't. So we made Wood. But since then, the Geneva ruling on novelty songs has been revoked so you can listen to satirical songs more than three times, so now we can make a novelty album and vie for repeat listens. The B Album is coming out in the Spring, and that is all satire. We're getting back to what people think we are - the unwashed, the dull.

Were you getting fed up with being regarded as a novelty band?

Yes. Even if you did listen to Bargainville, only some songs were like that. There were slower songs, personal stuff. The new album wasn't a conscious reaction to the first - we very much made an album of songs that we felt like writing. This is what came out. We did what the four of us felt like doing, and ignored the pressures. It was nice to get that side out and treat it with respect.

So there are misconceptions about the band?

There are so many of them. People think that we are a vocal, folksy band, but that is only one part of what we do. We also play instruments...the kids like to rock. And that is what we are doing on this tour. The trappings of fame are not for



Moxy Früvous - ready to rumble and face all-comers in The Alley of Doom

Photo by Mark Bray

us. We gave away most of the money we made on the other tour - we now dress in rags and beat ourselves.

Do you get the feeling that some people just want that novelty stuff? People just shouting for 'King Of Spain'?

They were there last night.

And how do you deal with them?

We yell obscenities at them. It's not the majority of people, especially on this tour. It happened more in 1993 where we had a couple of videos that became big. It was great for large audiences, a new legion of young fans and for record sales but there was a feeling that it wasn't what the band was all about.

Moxy Früvous - a band out of fashion.

The fashion just now is just so specific and narrow. I honestly believe that five years from now we'll look back at the so-called alternative scene in the same way that we look back at, say, Culture Club. The whole scene is just so ripe for parody.

I'm sure if you put your mind to it, you could write the kind of song that could top the charts just to make the money.

That is very tempting. We've thought about it, but ultimately if we did that we could never take ourselves seriously afterwards. But it is very tempting. So, you're not the only band in town tonight - SNFU are also here, and last week in an interview they said that they could take you in a fight.

Any comments?

Yeah - we find them pretty intimidating...as intimidating as a flaming bag of shit! Despite the fact that we are folk pansies we'd still kick their asses. But we're not a fighting band - we would rather challenge them to a game of Coleco Table Hockey and see who the real men are.

Are there any other bands that you'd like to beat up?

Dave would really like to beat up the singer from Counting Crows. "Round here..." - thud.

Let's be a bit more specific - what about Canadian bands?

This is what got us into trouble - we used to be so nice about all the other bands. We should have come out with our claws. I'm tempted to say Hayden, but he's a nice guy. We grew up right beside him. But there is one band - Hemmingway Corner. Just for one song mind you, but we'd like to storm the

stage then. And the Rainbow Butt Monkeys as they just epitomize the whole cashing in on a scene thing. Moist can eat shit too. I realise that they are a hard working band, but their music just makes me want to run. Bass Is Base gave a friend a really hard time too. Gee, we're beginning to alienate everyone now. Honestly - we really are a peaceful band. We'll take any band who wants to fight at table hockey instead.

Your lyrics are quite complex too.

It's a reaction to having heard so many lyrics that use the same images and clichés again and again. It's a desire to get out of that and put some new words into music as language is bigger than that.

So you don't think much of music at the moment?

When any scene starts up, it is vibrant and new and tears down the old order and produces a bunch a great stuff. But then it becomes bloated and everyone catches on to the fashion.

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Absolute Zero, absolute metal

by Peter J. Cullen
Brunswickan Entertainment

"Parental Advisory: This band may cause your children to think" states the warning that adorns the album cover of Absolute Zero's debut CD, *Torn*. With their dark 'tell-it-like-it-really-is' lyrics, accompanied by their heavy metal mode of music, Absolute Zero descend on The Dock tonight and tomorrow to unleash their sound on the citizens of Fredericton.

The Toronto band attacks your stereo with their frantic guitar, crashing drums and vocals to sear your ears. Songs like 'Badge of Dishonour' and 'Wrecked' are extremely potent as lyricist/drummer Glenn Novak explores the darker side of humanity. "The reason why I write songs is because of things that frustrate me or bother me... Not necessarily to change someone's mind about something, but [to] get people thinking about things," Novak commented in a phone interview. "Badge of Dishonour" came from [the fact that] my father used to be a cab driver in Toronto... and he used to tell me stories about what the police were doing when there was nobody around and they thought nobody was watching them."

Although the six member group now has a video release on MuchMusic for their song 'S.E.D.', breakthrough success remains off in the distance. Without a major record label contract, Absolute Zero must financially support themselves. "We all work [other jobs]... Most things that we do, we pay for out of our own pockets," said Novak. But he finds the group's current level of popularity encouraging. "[S.E.D. is] mostly played on Power 30, but sometimes on All Request Weekends which can be a real positive sign," he commented.

With some material already penned for an upcoming album, Absolute Zero should have a lot to convey to its Fredericton audience. And of course they want to achieve what the album label warns: to make the crowd think.

upcoming events

Tuesday 31st October at The Dock - Junkhouse and the Barstool Prophets.

Wednesday 1st November at the Aitken Centre - Green Day and the Riverdales. For tickets, see the Classified section.

Friday 3rd November at the Pyramid Warehouse - The Real McKenzies, Catch 23 and Liquid Light.

Saturday 4th November at the Pyramid Warehouse - Punchbuggy and Chixdiggit.

Sunday 5th November at The Dock - 13 Engines.

Tuesday 7th November at The Dock - Sunfish and Glueleg.

Friday 10th November at The Dock - The Pursuit of Happiness.

Sunday 19th November at The Dock - The Indie Music Fest with headliners DOA (starts at 3pm until 2am!!!)