

An interview with Moxy Frúvous

BY TIM COVERT

Moxy Frúvous played two grooving sets last weekend at the Grawood. I had a chance to chat with Dave Matheson (The King of Spain) on Thursday.

Tim: How has the reception to the new album (ed. note: *Wood*, released in July) been so far, since it's a bit of a change from the first one?

Dave: People change. The reception has been great for the album, a lot of people are really digging it. A lot of the critics who didn't like Bargainville actually are freaking over this one, and some of the critics who are in love with Bargainville are kind of going "Hey, what happened to my funny, uppity, silly band?"

Tim: Is it fair to assume that after a while those who are expecting the fun Moxy Frúvous will let the difference go and just enjoy the songs?

Dave: Yeah, that's sort of the hope. A painters paintings don't all look the same, they go through changes. We're all in a very fast-food oriented world right now. People want their commodity...now...the same...and I think we all feel that it's fairly unhealthy and it's much more sensible to absolutely forget about repeating yourself.

Tim: How did you guys get to know each other?

Dave: Well, we all went to the same high school in Thornhill. Mike and I had a bar duo, and Jean and Murray were in a band (Tall New Buildings), and then Mike and Jean wrote a bunch of high school musicals together. At

one point we got together when they were in University and I was teaching music for a living, and said, "Let's get in a band...not like what we've been in already. We could out on the street and have fun." So we did that and a couple of CBC producer types kept seeing us and soon we were being commissioned to write songs for the CBC driving show called "Later the Same Day" in Toronto.

Tim: Do you miss busking?

Dave: No. We did it quite a lot there. It's also hard on the voice, it takes a lot of energy, you have to get out and grab people.

Tim: Did the guys from the CBC give you the contacts to do Bargainville (ed: MF's first album)?

Dave: No, there was no sense of contacts. We decided to put some of that money away and make an independant tape because we were getting such good response from our songs (ed: The songs from the tape formed the core of Bargainville). So we went into the studio and made the tape, pressed a thousand of them, they started to sell really well, and in fact it went on to sell 50 000 or something that year. So, that's what made the record companies go, oh, ding! We could make some money with these guys.

Tim: When did you start to say, "Wow, we could make it at this. This is our big thing"?

Dave: I guess kinda when we decided to quit our day jobs and get in the van and go on the road. This was in the late days of supporting the tape. It kind of



Moxy Frúvous at the Birdland

dawned upon us that well yeah, we could write music and sing songs for a living.

Tim: Have you changed your roles in the band?

Dave: Well, we've expanded.

I mean, as I said, we'd all played in various bands and different instruments and stuff like that growing up. So we had all this instrumental ability, that we weren't really about shining

into letting it go on Bargainville so much, because our calling card was our voical thing. So on this latest one we played a lot more.

Tim: When you're talking about the difference between Bargainville and Wood, a more serious album, do you find that you can still make fun music and get the message across? Is that what you're aiming for, a nice blend of the two?

Dave: You know, I don't know if we're really aiming for something as much as trying to please ourselves. See there's people who come up and go, "Oh I love song x," and people will come up in the same five minute period and go, "I fucking hate song x." And so you gotta at one point throw up your hands and say, the final arbiter has to be me here.

Tim: What's in the future for Moxy Frúvous, in the next couple of months, do this tour pretty much up until Christmas. In January we may head back to the States, in February we would likely go to the UK because we've been over there a whole bunch and there's a bunch of fans over there, too. And then March and April we'll probably be in the studio again making the third album.

THE TENACIOUS TEN CKDU 97.5 FM

TC	LC	WO	CC	ARTIST	TITLE	LABEL
1	3	5	◆	Trike*	EP	Campfire
2	1	5	◆	Horseshoes and ...	A Thousand Thousand Ways	Cinnamon Toast
3	4	3	◆	Wooden Stars	Self-Titled	Lunamoth
4	2	4		Superchunk	Here's Where the Strings Come In	Merge
5	13	2	◆	Rosebuddy	OverMachoGrande	RightWide
6	6	4	◆	Parade	Frustration	Plan 11
7	-	NE		Pizzicato Five	Unzippeed EP	Matador
8	-	NE		Sonic Youth	Washing Machine	Geffen
9	21	3	◆	Wave	Self-Titled	Plan 11
10	37	2		Various Artists	Macro Dub Infection Vol.1	Virgin

*: Local Artist TC: This Chart RE: Re-Entry
 CC: Canadian Artist LC: Last Chart NE: New Entry

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