



THESE

GIRLS



ARE MADE

FOR

ROCKING

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IT'S A FRIDAY NIGHT IN EUGENE.

The bars aren't really your scene- you'd rather dance in peace than be hit on by some dude at Rennie's. You send off texts to everyone you know, trying to figure out the move for the night. Just as you're thinking that you might have to stay in, you get a text from your friend that saves the evening. There's a house show tonight.

From The Big Blue House, to The Lorax, to The Campbell Club, to The Dream Pad- the Eugene music scene is fueled by the house show experience.

Music lovers transform their living rooms, backyards, and basements into venues for local bands to perform at. House shows provide a creative space for aspiring musicians, and anyone who appreciates music, to come together and enjoy live music and art.

"Feeling the ground shake and having everybody get so enthusiastic when we're performing at a house show is really fun," said sophomore Molly Schwartz. "Seeing the joy that our music brings to people's faces is the best feeling ever...it's euphoric."

Molly Schwartz is the vocalist for the Eugene-based band No Clue. Molly attributes her love for music to her "musical theatre nerd" roots. She developed her personal sound when she was



MOLLY

very young and found inspiration in listening to bands like "The Smiths." At the age of 12, Molly found an old guitar lying around her house. She sat in her room for hours on end until she mastered the different chord progressions, and eventually taught herself music.

Molly met her guitarist Gabe Armatto during her freshman year whilst performing at an open mic night at the Campbell Club. From there, the two found their drummer Tucker Stclair and bassist Max Spiegel - and it all came together. No Clue's first official gig was a short three-song set at the "Hamstock" music festival on the Humpty Dumpty lawn outside Hamilton before making

their way into the house show scene.

While the music scene in Eugene is largely an accepting community for artists to come together and share their music, it has historically been male-dominated. When Molly first became involved in the scene, she felt that there weren't many musicians who were female for her to look up to.

"Something that really inspired me was going to my first Laundry show. Seeing Kiki shred up there in all her glory made me realize that I wanna do this. That it isn't just a boy's club. So, shout out to Kiki," said Schwartz.



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Kiki Paroissien-Arce has been big in the Eugene music scene for three years now as the vocalist and guitarist for the band Laundry. Coming from a musically-inclined family, Kiki has been surrounded by music for her entire life. Kiki was a member of the Music ARC during her freshman year at the UO. On her second day living in the dorms, before classes had even started, she decided to join a bunch of guys who were jamming downstairs in the Hamilton basement. They stayed up playing almost the entire night until it whittled down to the four of them: Kiki, Cal Fenner on bass, Riley Somers on guitar, and Nikolas Barber on drums. And thus, Laundry the band was born.

“I realized pretty quickly that to be taken seriously as a guitar player I had to be like really really good. That’s just sort of what I’ve learned from seeing how people react to girl musicians. I felt this whole extra weight of ‘not sucking’ on my shoulders cause I didn’t wanna let down my gender—which I know is stupid,” said Paroissien-Arce.

Both Molly and Kiki share similar experiences of being a musician who is female in the scene, such as the frequent assumption that as the one woman in their respective bands, that they must be the bass player. Notions such as these places an extra pressure to succeed as a musician and makes them feel like they have to work harder than male musicians in order to garner the same respect. Molly believes that implementing something as small as a change in language can help with equality in the music scene. Saying “musicians who happen to be female” as opposed to the general categorization of “female musicians” helps to avoid any air of tokenism, and places the focus on their craft. “I think I have slowly grown the confidence of a dude...at least when it comes to my music playing,” said Paroissien-Arce.



Most recently introduced to the scene is the all-girl band, Chipped Nail Polish. A live-music enthusiast, Jill Sullivan had always wanted to learn to play an instrument. The summer after her freshman year, she bought a ukulele on a whim and taught herself to play. She started by learning covers of her favorite songs and from there, the song-writing just came naturally. The experience of attending her first house show re-affirmed her decision that she'd made the right choice in coming to Oregon. The music, the moshing, and the creative environment became where she felt most comfortable. She vowed to herself that before she graduated- she was gonna play a house show.

The desire to start a "punk rock uke band" and call it Chipped Nail Polish was already in Jill's mind before she even bought a ukeleke. Though she had been recording on her own for a while, Chipped Nail Polish became an official band this February, with Jill on the ukulele and vocals, Grace Cardinale on guitar, Frankie Kerner on drums, and Allison Barr on bass.

"It all happened very sporadically but also very naturally, it's really just friends coming together and playing music for fun," said Sullivan.

However, this year especially, the music scene in Eugene is definitely on the rise in terms of expanding to include more women.

"It's already improved a lot since I was a freshman. There are a lot of new bands sprouting up that have more women, more women doing stuff behind the scenes, opening up their homes to put on shows, producing, taking photos, managing the bands; so like...we're coming. We're here," said UO senior Jill Sullivan.

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CAMILLE

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Another more recent band in the scene is Tastebuds. The faces of Tastebuds include Camille Day on vocals, Zane Smith on guitar, and Chris Tuffi on a second guitar. Camille began her career as a musician through intensive jazz choir in high school. While formative for her vocal career, jazz choir proved to be draining and caused Camille to take a step back from music for a while. Upon arriving at the UO however, she felt unsatisfied with not creating music, and decided that she wanted to start a band. Last year, Camille met her bandmates when they were looking for someone to sing vocals on a cover of a Strokes song. They ended up loving working together so much that they formed a band. Last fall, Camille threw her own house show before Tastebuds officially hit the scene this year at their first show at the Lorax. The band used a condenser mic, which is meant for recording, and it did not work well with the PA system. They had to stop playing in the middle of their set and fix everything.

CAMILLE

“I just remember feeling so supported—everything that could have gone wrong went wrong but everyone was still cheering their asses off and giving us love and support. That felt so good,” said Day.

CAMILLE

Camille believes that though the house show scene is incredible and inclusive, that there’s always room to improve in any community. She mentions the dichotomy which exists between the Friday bar culture and the house show scene in Eugene, and how the music can sometimes get lost in the college party atmosphere.

“If we could incorporate an all-ages designated sober space at house shows, I would be like ‘Yeah, we’re all about the music.’ I really want everyone to be able to hear my music, so I think it’s important to try to create a safe space for everyone,” said Day.

CAMILLE

The energy felt upon entering a house show is indescribable. Whether it’s your first time at a show, or you’ve been moshing there since freshman year, or your set is literally about to come on- there’s something for anyone to enjoy. Plus, the girls of the Eugene music scene are on the rise and are ready to tear it up.

CAMILLE