

STREET SCENE

Sloan kicks off the 12th annual TasteFest in Detroit



STEPHANIE A. CASOLA

"I'd take Britney over Limp Bizkit any day," he admits candidly, calling from his Toronto home.

Lucky for us Sloan falls somewhere far from the mass-produced sugar-pop hysteria and it's flipside - rage-infested rap-rock. Yes folks, there still exists a land where an indie break-out band from Halifax, Nova Scotia, can rock out in peace.

That place can't be detected on today's radio airwaves, but that doesn't really bother Ferguson much. He isn't about to chase a music trend he says is bound to fade away. "If you just stick to your own way, you're gonna be safe," he said. "We have to stick with what we do best."

With five albums under their belt and roll belts Sloan is

set to perform 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 30 as the first headlining act for the 12th annual Comerica Michigan TasteFest. Fresh from a European tour, the band seems hardly able to take a breath. In a short 18 months, Sloan released three full-length albums.

Rather than rushing out yet another, Ferguson and his cohorts, Chris Murphy, Patrick Pentland and Andrew Scott are taking time and making every song count. They don't expect to release new material until May 2007. But there's plenty out there to tide hungry fans over.

Songs off of Sloan's most recent effort, the alternately rock and dreamy-pop *Between the Bridges*, will be a highlight of the TasteFest performance. Ferguson said the band is always happy to return to the Detroit area. "We play Detroit and Pontiac all the time," he said. "We're always happy to play Michigan. The crowds are quite big in Detroit because it's so close to the Canadian border. It always feels just like playing a Canadian show."

For TasteFest, Sloan will likely gather "bits and pieces" from their past recordings as well as a healthy dose of newer tunes from *Between the Bridges*, an album Ferguson refers to as the band's

most "democratic" so far. Each band member contributed three songs. Since everyone writes the material, Sloan's methods have been criticized as creating a sort of compilation effect. But Ferguson considers it to have a variety of styles. Who doesn't like to mix it up every now and then?

With a concept-like feel that traces a band from its humble beginning through the phases of relationships and life on the road, the album's gems include *The Marquee* and *The Moon and Friendship*.

Already working on new material with longtime engineer and affectionately-dubbed unofficial fifth member, Brendan McGuire, Sloan is working to make a more cohesive effort next time around. And they've got a few tricks up their sleeves.

"We tried to link songs musically," said Ferguson. "The last chord of one song will be the first chord of the next song." The band also experiments with using a melody in one song and mimicking it instrumentally on another track. There's no telling what's to come.

Sloan fans gets your taste buds ready, it's about time for another heaping helping of Sloan. And



BRIAN BROWN

Just like home: Sloan says Detroit audiences are just as welcoming as the band's Canadian fans. Come prove them right as Halifax's pride rocks opening night of TasteFest in Detroit's New Center Area. Sloan (left to right) is Andrew Scott, Chris Murphy, Patrick Pentland and Jay Ferguson.

just think, it's the appetizer to kick off five full days of free music in the motor city.

Don't miss Sloan, 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 30, Malibu Rum Loud and Clear Music Stage,

which will be situated north of West Grand Boulevard and east of Third Street in Detroit's New Center area. For more information, call (248) 373-9522 or check the Web at www.tastefest.org.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about popular music for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (734) 953-2130 or e-mail at scasola@oe.com. To send a fax, dial (734) 691-7279.

THE SOUNDS OF TASTEFEST

Follow your ears to the beats of rock, jazz, blues and funk at this year's Comerica Michigan TasteFest. For star quality seek out the Malibu Rum Loud and Clear Stage located in the Fisher Building parking lot, just north of West Grand Boulevard. For the best in smoking local jazz turn down Cass Avenue and West Grand Boulevard for the Wellness Plan Jazz Showcase. To check out the best local bands offering everything from ska to mod and electronic music, hit the Prince Pasta Stage at New Center Park, across from the Fisher Building.

Friday, June 30
Malibu Rum Loud and Clear Stage
7:30 p.m. Sloan

Wellness Plan Jazz Showcase
4:30 p.m. Marvin Jones Trio
7 and 8:30 p.m. Johnny Rodriguez and the Fiery Latin Jazz

Prince Pasta Stage
5:30 p.m. Funktelligence
8 p.m. Gangster Fun



Face:
Courtney, Mike Smith, Steve Finneno and Mike B. play local rock Monday at the 12th annual TasteFest.

Saturday, July 1
Malibu Rum Loud and Clear Stage
3 p.m. Sonia Dada
7 p.m. 38 Special

Wellness Plan Jazz Showcase
Noon Sisters in Jazz
2 p.m. Ursula Walker and Buddy Budson
4:30 p.m. Dave McMurray
7 and 8:30 p.m. David Myles and Mylestones

Prince Pasta Stage
3 p.m. Immunity

5:30 p.m. The Numbers
8 p.m. DJ Shortround

Sunday, July 2
Malibu Rum Loud and Clear Stage
3 p.m. Boomful of Blues
7 p.m. Norman Brown

Wellness Plan Jazz Showcase
Noon Vincent York's Jr. New York Force
2 p.m. Ange Smith with The Charles Boles Quartet
4:30 p.m. Paul Abler
7 and 8:30 p.m. Modern Tribe

Prince Pasta Stage
Noon Stunning Amazon
3 p.m. The Brothers Groove
5:30 p.m. The Volcanos

Monday, July 3
Malibu Rum Loud and Clear Stage
3 p.m. Boozoo Chavis and the Magic Sounds
7 p.m. Isaac Hayes

Wellness Plan Jazz Showcase
Noon Loba
2 p.m. Schunk - Star-Dryden
4:30 p.m. Robert Lowe
7 and 8:30 p.m. Kimmie Horn Show

Prince Pasta Stage
Noon Starlight Drifters
3 p.m. Face
5:30 p.m. Civilians
8 p.m. DJ Cisco

Tuesday, July 4
Malibu Rum Loud and Clear Stage
2 p.m. Polyester
5 p.m. Taj Mahal and the Phantom Blues Band

Wellness Plan Jazz Showcase
1 p.m. Rich K. and Brazil

3:30 p.m. Straight Ahead
6 p.m. Tim Bowman
12:30 p.m. Blackman and Arnold
3 p.m. Bon Temps Roule
5:30 p.m. The Reverbenm

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CANTON 6	MJR SOUTHGATE 20	NOVI TOWN CENTER 8
RENAISSANCE 4	SHOWCASE 20	SHOWCASE DEARBORN
SHOWCASE 10	SHOWCASE 10	SHOWCASE WESTLAND
STAR FAIRLANE	STAR GRANT AT 15 MILE	STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING
STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS
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SHOWCASE 10	SHOWCASE 10	SHOWCASE DEARBORN
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