

The Mooney Suzuki's mad, mod world

"I've said it before and I'll say it again — The Mooney Suzuki might as well be New York City's answer to The Go. Scaled-down, down-right rhythm & blues finally found the light of day. For the garage rock quartet that light is drenched in Electric Sweet.

The band's second effort, and first on Gammon Records, was recorded in August, 2001 with Detroit producer Jim Diamond (The White Stripes, The Go) at his



Stephanie Casola

Ghetto Recorders studio. Turns out the Moonies loved the Go's SubPop debut, *Whatcha Doin'*. According to singer Sammy James Jr., they practically begged to tour with the Detroit band. Then, the Moonies got an earful of *The White Stripes*.

"We thought 'Oh this is great stuff,' said James. 'They were all recorded by Jim.'"

After playing a show at Detroit's Magic Stick last year, The Mooney Suzuki was introduced to Diamond, thanks to mutual friend Ben Blackwell. The band had a chance to tour Ghetto Recorders studio.

"It was really cool," said James. "We were inspired to do something. We came back to do summer and ended up recording the whole album at his

Diamond said the approach in the studio was quite different on *Electric Sweet*.

"The Go record was recorded quickly but took forever to mix and edit," said Diamond, responding via e-mail during *The Dirtsongs West Coast Tour*. "The Mooney record didn't take that long at all, a few weekends. We initially tried mixing The Mooney Suzuki like The Go record, tons of old reverb, no drums, (it) just didn't sound right at all. I ended up mixing it like I felt it should be mixed."

Electric Sweet brings rock back to basics — covering subjects no more serious than girls and guitars. From the fury of its title track, to the trailing tale *The Broken Heart*, The Mooney Suzuki's latest earned

every drop of attention it's received.

"Working on the vocal for that *Broken Heart* ballad was really great," said Diamond. "We put a lot of quality time into that. And I think it shows."

Diamond heard parallels to *The Who* right away. "Sam came into town and we were joking about The Who-influenced songs. And I said, 'Man, you gotta have an acoustic guitar in there and tambourine. All those Who songs have acoustic and tambourine.'"

Their mania became "What would Daltrey do?"

James attributes much of the Moonies success to non-stop touring. Since he and guitarist Graham Tyler formed the band in 1997, live performance played a key role.

"We're definitely trying to take it to the next level," said James. "We're staying on the road as much as possible. It's always worked for us."

In the beginning, the band set out without support of The Hives and The White Stripes. The quartet played at "Mod Nights" in clubs on the East Coast. It led to more touring, real venues and eventually big-dollar tours with the likes of The Hives and The White Stripes.

"It's a different band in many ways," said James. "We try to



Mooney Suzuki

keep things the same. There are still elements of the show that were there from the beginning."

But new material calls for constant change. It's also garnered the band a Mike Commercial and recent appearance on the *Late Late Show* with Craig Kilborn.

Life for the musicians, though, has stayed the same.

"We're in a 12-passenger van," said James. "We're on tour. This is our exact life two years ago."

The Mooney Suzuki is looking forward to a stop in Detroit. And not just for its notorious rock audiences.

"We go to Detroit and the people that come after the show leaves us all empty shells," James said.

Catch The Mooney Suzuki live when they return with openers Sahara Hot Nights, 8 p.m., Wednesday Oct. 16, at The Shelter, below St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress in Detroit. Tickets \$8 for this all ages show. Call (248) 645-6666.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes a popular music column for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at scasola@home.com.net.

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

National Amusements Showcase Cinemas Shreveport Darbomb 1.8 Michigan & Telegraph 313-561-9419 Bargain Movies Daily All Shows 12:00-6:00 pm Continuous Show Daily Late Shows Fri. & Sat. NO DEVICES NO PASS	CITY BY THE SEA (R) 11L (PG-13) MY BIG FAT GREEN WEDDING (PG) SPY KIDS 2: THE ISLAND OF LOST DRAGONS (PG) SPY KIDS (PG) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	ON YOUR OWN WATC.COM CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	ETS TO (R) TRAPPED (PG) STEALING HARVARD (PG-13) ONE HOUR PHOTO (PG) ONE HOUR PHOTO (PG) SPY KIDS 2: THE ISLAND OF LOST DRAGONS (PG) MY BIG FAT GREEN WEDDING (PG) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	LAZERSHOP (PG-13) LIVE MIKE (PG) MEN IN BLACK 2 (PG-13) SPIDERMAN (PG-13) UNDISPUTED (R) X-FILES (PG-13) BARGAIN NIGHTS WEEKEND AND HOLIDAY EXCEPT FRI.	69 BALLISTIC: ECKEY VS SEVER (R) TRAPPED (R) THE TULLDO (PG-13) A LEGGED CLASSIC (PG-13) SWEET HOME ALABAMA (PG-13) SPY KIDS 2 (PG) SPY KIDS (PG) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES
Star Rochester Hills 200 Barclay Circle 853-2260 No one under 6 admitted for PG-13 & R rated films after 6 pm	Star Southfield 12, W. between Telegraph and W. between 24th & 26th 248-553-STAR No one under 6 admitted for PG-13 & R rated films after 6 pm	Birmingham 8 Upwards Birmingham 8 211 S. Woodward Downtown Birmingham 248-444-3478 No one under 6 admitted for PG-13 & R rated films after 6 pm	Main Art Theatre III 118 Main St 11 Mile Troy, MI 248-542-8100 call 777-8443 DISCOUNTED SHOWINGS TRUCKS AVAILABLE AT THE BOX OFFICE OR PHONE 748-542-8100 VISA AND MASTERCARD ACCEPTED	Chrysler Movie 16 The Best Seat in Town 25000 Chrysler Rd Warren, MI 810-558-8207	Adventures of Pluto Nash (PG-13) BLOWDOWN (PG) BLUE CROSS (PG-13) BOYNE IDENTITY (PG) COUNTRY BEARS (G) EIGHT LEGGED BEARS (PG-13) ENZOANG (PG-13) FIRE ARCADE (PG) JAWHANA MANOR (PG-13) MATEO (PG) MATEO REPEAT (PG-13) MIL TRIPS (PG-13) MUSIC (PG-13) SCOTT DOOD (PG) SMOKE (PG-13) STAR ROAD (PG-13) STAR ROAD (PG-13) UNDERCOVER BROTHERS (PG-13)
Star John 8 3135 John R. East 248-585-2070 No one under 6 admitted for PG-13 & R rated films after 6 pm	United Artists Theatre Bargain Movies Daily All Shows starting before 8:00 PM Same day advance tickets available NO - No 12R Lates accepted	MPR Theaters MIR Brighton Express Powers Downtown 8200 Michigan Drive located at Brighton Towne behind Home Depot Call (734) 884-1144 New 10 Screen Complex Cinema All Stadium Seating All Digital Sound	AMC Uptown 20 Haggerty 67 Ave 734-542-9999 CALL THEATRE FOR LISTINGS AND TIMES	Madison - Ann Arbor 422 W. Main Street 734-984-1000	Star John 8 3135 John R. East 248-585-2070 No one under 6 admitted for PG-13 & R rated films after 6 pm

Clinic checks up on Detroit



Clinic

If you're hoping for a sneak peek of Clinic behind the surgical masks, you might be disappointed. The band will be in full medical uniform Monday night when they return to Detroit's St. Andrews Hall.

The band packed the Shelter last winter — despite an electronic crowd looming on the above floor. This time the place belongs solely to these four low-fif Liverpudlians, whose latest effort *Walking With Thee*, was recently re-released by Universal Records.

Songs like *Mr. Moonlight*, *Come Into Our Room*, and *The Equilizer* slither along backed by Clinic's signature thumping drums, all the while coasting on singer Ade Blackburn's breathy vocals. Dare you not to dance — or at least bob your head.

There's much more to this quartet than a gimmick-laden image. If you like your Brit pop chilled with electronic piano and iced with subjects that would make Hitchcock quiver, don't miss the seething sounds of Clinic.

The band performs with openers South, The Standard 7 p.m., Monday, Oct. 14 at St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets \$15 for this all ages show. Call (248) 645-6666.

Ryan Adams unveils Demolition



Ryan Adams

Young. He shares a label with the legendary Willie Nelson — with whom he currently appears on GAP commercials. And these must-see songs prove once again, Ryan Adams is here to stay. Listen for yourself at www.losthighwayrecords.com.

Ryan Adams performs with openers Tegan & Sara 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 13, State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

Fresh from Farm Aid, Tegan & Sara, 21-year-old sisters from Vancouver, released their own sophomore effort, *If It Was You*, on Vapor Records in August. Get to the show early to experience a duo that can go from folk pop to bluegrass to punk rock without blinking.

Tickets \$23 for this all ages show. Call (248) 645-6666 or see www.ticketmaster.com.

Evening Showcase Series

FEATURING 5 HOT NIGHTS IN OAKLAND COUNTY!
SEASON TICKETS \$19.99 PER RATE
CALL 248-557-PLAY (7529)

In The Mood
October 24, 2002
An exciting 1940's musical revue

Vicki Lawrence
November 24, 2002
An Evening with Momma?

Jammin' w/ Pops
February 8, 2003
A perfect feel good musical

Shanghai Circus
February 23, 2003
Incredible acrobats-direct from Broadway

Three Men & a Tenor
April 5, 2003
Michigan's favorite musical tour

metrotimes

ALL SHOWS ARE PRESENTED AT THE HENNING CENTRE, SOUTHWIELD
Located at 15600 J.L. Hudson Dr. Next to Providence Hospital
FREE PARKING