



Photo courtesy of Papadosio

Asheville-based electronic jam band played at a local venue, along with psychedelic pop act Sonmi.

Local band Papadosio headlines The Orange Peel

Emily Kendrick

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Local band Papadosio played their first headlining show at the Orange Peel last Saturday as a part of their Awake Inside tour.

"This is definitely a sign of their rise in the electronic music scene," said **Robb McAdams, social media administrator for The Orange Peel**. "They just played a show during the wintertime at Asheville Music Hall across town, and I believe it was a sold out show. I think they're trying to take the next step here, opening it up to even more fans this time."

Papadosio played their first show in April 2006. The band has since released several albums and toured in many parts of the United States, said **Anthony Thogmartin, singer of Papadosio**. He said the band is expanding the tour to cities along the West Coast, something they have not been able to do before now.

"The things that are really important to me are when our music can aid in some sort of transformation or healing process," Thogmartin said. "It's happened to me in my life. I've been in pretty dark places and music has kind of lifted me up and taken me out of that place."

All five members of Papadosio are origi-

nally from Ohio but now, like Sonmi, call Asheville their home base.

"I find myself being really inspired by the beauty of nature here and I think Asheville is essentially located between all the places we do really well in and it makes touring a little bit easier," Thogmartin said. "Touring is never easy but it makes it easier."

Both Papadosio and Sonmi merge live instruments with electronic sounds. Papadosio gathers diverse influences and produces unique and uncategorized music.

"We try to purposely defy being classified. We listen to everything from electronic music to bluegrass or anything that we're feeling at the time," Thogmartin said. "We try to incorporate every aspect into a coherent new combination style."

In addition to performing at many festivals, Papadosio hosts their own festival called Rootwire in Logan, Ohio. This will be the third year for the festival.

"Rootwire is four days on purpose because it's more like an experience. It's a lot of ceremonial-type stuff, and we bring in a lot of visionary artists," Thogmartin said. "We basically try to create an environment where people can share in what it is to make art, whatever that is. If it's music, if it's visual or if it's dance, we just try to inspire people and bring them to that place."

Sonmi accumulated quite a following

throughout their performances in the Asheville area. They have been included on festival lineups like Moogfest and Bele Chere.

"They're solid musicians and solid songwriters. We tend to find ourselves playing with bands that don't really write songs, they just kind of write jams, but Sonmi writes songs and they have movement in their songs and it moves us," Thogmartin said.

Improvements such as the incorporation of visual artistry into Papadosio's musical performances by Jason Takahashi help widen the audience's experience and grab their full attention, Thogmartin said.

"We call it the Awake Inside tour because we feel like that's what these people are purposely portraying; not being focused on the outside world but being focused on the work of the soul and it's a beautiful thing," Thogmartin said.

Natalie Henson, junior sociology student at UNC Asheville, said she was glad to see Papadosio getting recognition at The Orange Peel along with Sonmi.

"Sonmi did a great job opening for Papadosio, and I can't wait to see more of them in the future," Henson said. "I look forward to seeing Papadosio get more attention because their music is so beautiful, and I'd love to see more people exposed to them."

Local Events

Wednesday

SBTRKT

9 p.m.

\$20

The Orange Peel

Theatre UNCA:

"Tartuffe"

7:30 p.m.

\$5 students/\$10 public

Through March 31

Carol Belk Theatre

Friday

Naked Author Jam

7 p.m.

Free

Humanities Lecture Hall

The Mantras

9 p.m.

\$10

The Grey Eagle

Zeds Dead

9 p.m.

\$20

The Orange Peel

Saturday

**Kovacs and
The Polar Bear**

9 p.m.

\$10

The Grey Eagle

