

Mipso makes music, beer for performance

BY GABE POLLAK
STAFF WRITER

Directions: soak three UNC-Chapel Hill students in bluegrass tradition. Boil Motown-influenced songwriting with the heat of college gigging. Cool, add fiddle and allow fanbase to ferment. Add two albums recorded and a successful tour through Asia, and you have Mipso.

On Oct. 26, at the Haw River Ballroom, Mipso shared tunes from the product of this homegrown fermentation process, "Dark Holler Pop," as well as Dark Holler Hop, a brew named after the album, for their release party.

Lines still spilling out the door into a freezing Saxapahaw, N.C. night, Mipso, made up of guitarist and singer Joseph Terrell, mandolinist Jacob Sharp and bassist Wood Robinson, played a wide variety of cuts, old and new, originals and covers.

Blending up-tempo sing-alongs, like album highlight "Get Out," featuring a scorching fiddle solo from guest Libby Rodenbough, with wistful slow-burners, Mipso revealed a confidence in craft befitting a band with such a carefully laid, foundational fanbase.

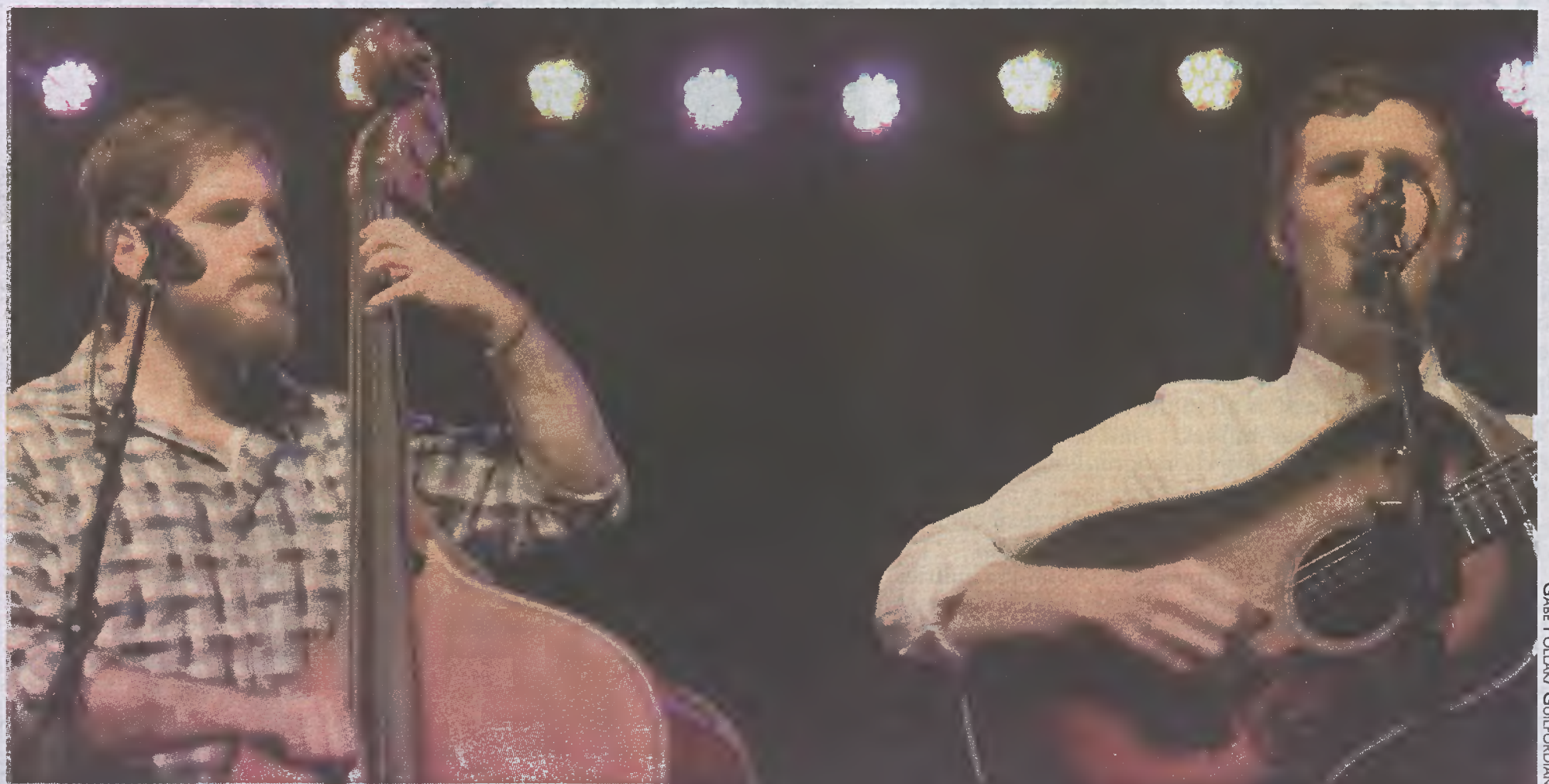
"This looks like a room full of friends," said Terrell from the stage.

Yet this friendly environment did not stop Mipso from playing their bluegrass arrangements tightly.

Mipso began the second song of the set, "A Couple Acres Greener," the first track on the album, with a dark, rhythmic mandolin intro.

"I've never been so hungry," sang Terrell. "Seems like 22 years I've been looking for a fight."

On "Lonely Town," another lyrically dissatisfied but harmonically uplifting song, Mipso engaged the whole audience.



Bassist Wood Robinson and guitarist and singer Joseph Terrell are part of Mipso, who celebrated the release of their new album on Oct. 26.

GABE POLLAK/GUILFORDIAN

"When I get out of this lonely town," sang Terrell with help from the crowd.

"When they sing 'Lonely Town,' a lot of people our age find truth in that song," said long-time fan Carson Cashwell.

Though Mipso certainly resonates with a youthful audience, the crowd was a mix of old, young and even babies napping in the arms of their grandparents.

Mipso brought out opener Josh Moore for a cover of Iris Dement's bittersweet "Our Town." Mipso first met Moore as the neighborhood barista.

"We knew him as our neighbor," said

Terrell. "Then he started coming over and playing music with us. Little did we know, he had the voice of an angel."

Mipso and Moore infused the cover with slightly more energy than on the original, still wanting to respect the song's tone, but edging it forward slightly.

Robinson nodded his head eagerly in utter agreement with the groove. Breaking into the chorus, Sharp bounced slightly off the ground like a shy punk-rock.

The set included many songs about Mipso's home state, including "Red Eye to Raleigh," and fan-favorite "Carolina Calling."

"It makes me proud to be from North Carolina," said Rachel Sun, another fan.

Sharp summed up the big night.

"Tonight represents the full-time Mipso sound," said Sharp in an interview with The Guilfordian after the show. "It was great that it started for fun, but I'm glad we decided to get serious."

Fans of Mipso would certainly agree: the brew tastes great and the show tasted even better.

Mipso plays the Carolina Theatre in downtown Greensboro on Friday, Nov. 8 at 7 p.m.

Comic Book City Con's first convention impresses

BY OLIVIA NEAL
STAFF WRITER

Holy fan convention, Batman!

Creators, cosplayers and comic book nerds collided at the very first Comic Book City Con last weekend, hosted by Acme Comics. Located in downtown Greensboro, N.C. at The Empire Room, the convention celebrated both Acme's 30th anniversary and the women of fandom.

CBCC featured a live performance from geek girl duo The Doubleclicks, as well as panels from special guests like Hope Larson, Mark Waid and Gregg Schigel.

Despite this being the convention's first year, Acme impressed many of the long-time fans.

"It's been really great, much better than I thought it would be for its first year," said attendee Joseph Harrington, dressed as Batman's infamous arch-nemesis, The Joker. "The cosplay contest was really competent, which is better than expected. I hope it

grows in the future and becomes a really big thing for the city."

Even the vendors found that the con exceeded expectations and loved the inclusive and friendly environment established by the people from Acme.

"It's been an incredible experience for me, as an author and as an artist," said adult fantasy novelist I.R. Harris. "It's an atmosphere where you not only feel welcome but you also feel like you can be an individual, and your most authentic self. I think that's a rare find in a lot of events, so I feel very honored to be here."

The con demonstrated the growth of the local comic scene in Greensboro, and provided an outlet for the geek subculture. Everyone needs to geek out from time to time, and Greensboro

is quickly becoming the perfect place to do it.

"With everything they've done in Greensboro, from Acme Comics, to Geeksboro, to the arcade, there's a real building of a very specific and encouraging community," said cartoonist, illustrator and writer Gregg

winners, most people cosplay for different reasons.

"If you really want to know why I do it, it's for the kids," said Kevin McKinnon, dressed in the trademark armor of Marvel's Thor.

The people from Acme also focused heavily on creating a female-friendly environment to show their respect for geek girls and their contributions to fandom. While girls in "geekdom" tend to receive a lot of hate, CBCC was all about inclusion and celebration of women in the

Angela and Aubrey Webber, Hope Larson, author of the graphic novel adaptation of A Wrinkle in Time, and graphic novelist Jackie Lewis. It was moderated by Susana Polo, writer for TheMarySue.com.

The panelists celebrated the women of geek culture and discussed everything from favorite female characters to the treatment of women in comic companies.

"There are people in the geek community who don't realize that girls don't do everything they do for men," said Angela Webber during the panel.

At the end of the panel, Larson gave advice to all young creators looking to get into the business.

"Value your own work," said Larson. "Your work is worth money and don't let anyone tell you otherwise."

Whether you prefer Marvel or DC, Original Series or Next Generation, David Tenant or Matt Smith, everyone can agree that this year's con was a success and that we hope to see more nerd celebrations in the future.

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I.R. Harris

Schigel. "I think this convention is a part of that."

Sunday's cosplay contest was one of the con's highlights. A lot of hard work and dedication went into all of the costumes. While Acme gave away prizes to the

subculture.

It was clear in everything, from the panels to the guest list to the vendors, that women were an important part of the con.

The panel "Geek Girl Rising" was hosted by Doubleclicks duo