

ARTS & FEATURES

Section Editor: Phillip Wyatt
pwyatt@unca.edu



Photo by Megan Authement

Of Montreal's Kevin Barnes, with his face covered in glitter, sings at The Grey Eagle on Oct. 12.

Of Montreal brings psychedelic grooves to The Grey Eagle

CONCERT REVIEW

PHILLIP WYATT
A&F Editor
pwyatt@unca.edu

Experimental pop veterans of Montreal returned to Asheville Oct. 12 at The Grey Eagle for a theatrical performance featuring outrageous fashions, dazzling displays of visual art and psychedelic rock grooves, creating a majestic soiree of oddities only lead singer Kevin Barnes can coordinate.

Hailing from Athens, Georgia, the group has produced a myriad of eclectic electronic sounds since 1996. Of Montreal continues its streak of spawning

genre-bending work with their 14th album *Innocence Reaches* on Polyvinyl Records.

Heavily influenced by contemporary electronic dance music, the entire album was written and recorded during an extended stay in Paris where Barnes sought inspiration, according to a press release.

The members arrived on stage adorning black hooded cloaks, walking through a cloud of fog and black light in front of a background of five red pentagrams. Barnes' cloak was stitched with neon green light-up trim, smoke spilling from underneath his hood, creating an illusion of a faceless grim reaper arriving to snatch the souls of the wicked and damned.

The band shed their mysterious, dark cloaks before opening the show with a rendition of "it's different for girls," the lead single off *Innocence Reaches*.

"It's different for girls, they don't spit on the streets, they don't piss on the seat, they don't have to size up every person they meet," Barnes sang, sporting red stockings and a short, white sheer dress and blond bob wig.

The rest of the band wore white onesies, allowing trippy geometric and floral patterns to project onto their jumpsuits.

Pop art projections illuminated the band as two girls wearing unsettling female masks, often featured in horror films and bank heists, launched confetti onto the audience.

Of Montreal revisited their 2008 effort *Skeletal Lamping* with the track "Gallery Piece," as the girls stepped onto the stage wearing over-sized skull masks, eventually gyrating to the song, inspiring the entire audience to take note and join the disco dance party.

After performing "Wraith Pinned to the Mist" off 2005's *The Sunlandic Twins*, the group revisited their current album with the track "a sport and a pastime."

Throughout the evening, the band performed mash-ups of their tracks to fit in as much material as possible from their eclectic repertoire, delighting viewers with new material and fan-favorites.

Barnes performed a seductive strip-