

# portugal.

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## REVIEW

**S**calpers gather outside The Orange Peel, selling fistfuls of tickets to hopeful fans. This is a usual sight for show nights, but comes with more urgency on Aug. 23. The final night of a sold-out two-show run, this would be Asheville's final chance to see Portugal. The Man on their Summer 2017 tour.

While the opening act plays, the crowd slowly inches closer to the stage, eagerly waiting for Portugal. The Man to come on stage. With the last note from the opener, the crowd surges forward, hoping to get as close as possible to the Alaskan rock quintet.

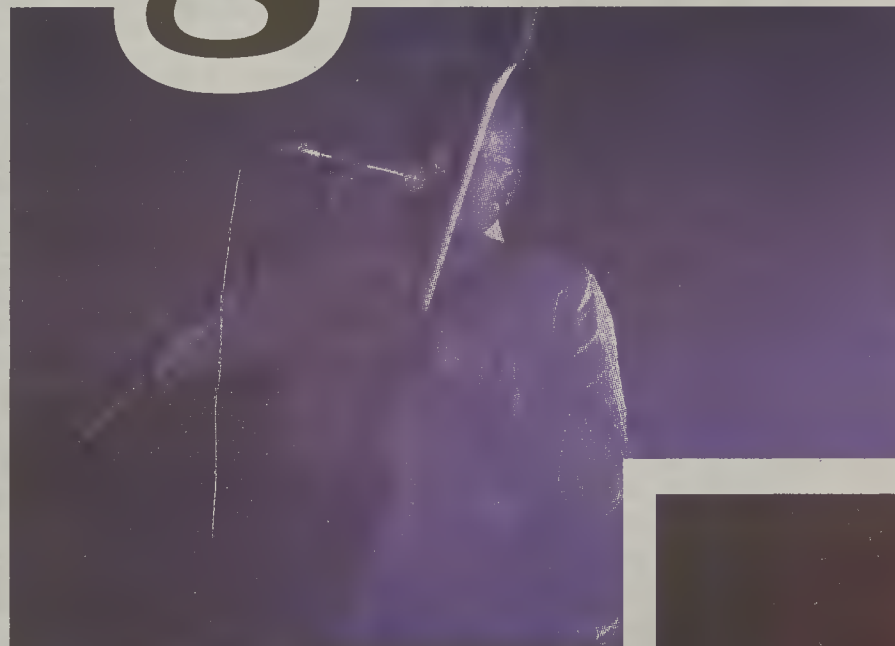
Stagehands move quickly, setting up the stage. The audience dances to a myriad of music, from Metallica to

Cyndi Lauper, waiting for their favorite band to grace the stage.

Finally, The Orange Peel stage lights go dark. Four men walk onto the stage while the fifth is pushed. As they take their places, a psychedelic backdrop erupts in color behind them. Several pairs of 3-D glasses are passed around the crowd as each audience member takes in the hallucinogenic effect the band already has on the crowd before they even begin to play.

Drummer Jason Sechrist counts down and all at once Portugal. The Man has arrived at The Orange Peel. The acid trip behind them is replaced by adult bodies sporting childlike facial features in a constantly changing rotation. These creepy figures are soon replaced by flashing geometric patterns. This constantly changing backdrop is as integral to their performance as their instruments.

While Sechrist and keyboardist and synthesizer Kyle



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O'Quin are confined to their spots by their instruments and guitarist Eric Howk by his wheelchair, vocalist and guitarist John Gourley and bassist Zachary Carothers move around the stage, often becoming part of the artistic backdrop themselves with the projection washing over them. Other times their larger-than-life shadows dance across the screen.

As the band moves seamlessly from the first song to the next, their backdrop fades to black and a message spills

across it: "We are Portugal. The Man. Just making sure you're at the right concert."

With this, the audience cheers and attempts to get even closer to the stage. Despite the wild-cheering audience in front of them, Portugal. The Man hardly seem fazed. Having not looked up or acknowledged

