

Arts and Entertainment

Blindside presents:

"About a Burning Fire": Brings loyal fans new sound



Photo courtesy of Blindside Lindskog.

Brian Maiers
Special to the Pilot

There are some bands that are able to reinvent themselves with every album that they put out—the Swedish group Blindside is one those bands.

After being tucked under the Christian/ Underground scene for a number of years, gaining a loyal fan base, and releasing two critically acclaimed indy records they busted out in the mainstream scene with "Silence." This is quite an accomplishment for a hardcore group for a country that's most know musical contribution is disco super group ABBA.

Blindsides' latest offering "About a Burning Fire" is somewhat of a departure from the consistent straight-forward rock of "Silence" without completely doing away with the formula.

"About a Burning Fire" includes twelve tracks of surprises and is carried by the soothing whisper to chaotic scream approach of lead vocalist Christian

One of the biggest curve balls that Blindside throws is "Shekina." The song opens with a didgeridoo and folk yodeling, which, is followed by verses in Swedish and a string section.

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"About a Burning Fire" - ****1/2

"All of Us" is the first single and is a melodic song about the virtue of Christian humility. Of course, the disc is not without Blindsides trademark hard-edged rock. "Hooray, It's LA" is fast paced anthem that features Billy Corgan of "Smashing Pumpkins" and "Zwan" fame adding an extra guitar. "Where the Sun Never Dies" is sure to be a live favorite, while also pushing creative envelope by fading out into a techno drum loop. The

albums chaotic title track "About a Burning Fire" will bring longtime fans back to Blindside's earlier album "A Thought Crushed my Mind."

Experimentation is a dangerous gamble many times for rock groups. There is a huge risk of alienating long time fans and failing to gain new ones, or simply being labeled a "sell-out." Throwing away old formulas in favor for trying something new can lead to failure (like the Garth Brooks/ Chris Gains fiasco.) or catapulting a band to mega band status (U2 - Achtung Baby).

Blindsides experimentation is a success because they merge daring creativity while still keeping the foundation it had built itself on. That foundation is hard rock with a unique vocal approach. At the end of the day, it is a testament to a maturing band that is able defy genre and gain the freedom to write music that they want to.

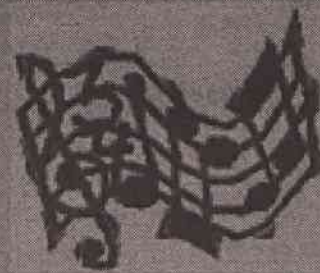
Tracks form Blindsides' "About a Burning Fire" can be heard on "The Midnight Underground" Tuesday and Thursday nights from 11pm-1am only 88.3 "Radio for the people."

Brian Maiers is the host of "The Definitive Rock Show" on 88.3 the WEBB, which can be heard on Tuesday nights from 9-11 p.m. He does not suggest that you do anything illegal as a result of this review. For more information about 88.3 go to www.wgwg.org

Spring Concert Calendar

March 23	8 p.m. Blanton	Faculty Recital GWU String Trio
March 26	8 p.m. OMG	Concert and Dance, GWU Jazz Ensemble
March 30	8 p.m. Blanton	Faculty/ Guest Artist Recital, Samantha Staton, Soprano Dr. Robert Williams, UNCF
April 1	8 p.m. Blanton	Faculty Recital, Nan Francis,
April 6	8 p.m. Blanton	Faculty/ Guest Artist Recital Without Borders
April 8	8 p.m. Blanton	Sophomore Qualifying Recital Anita Burnette, Piano Justin Harper, Guitar
April 13	8 p.m. Blanton	Junior Qualifying Recital Katie O'Neill, Soprano John Hallis, Baritone
April 16	7:30 p.m. Dover	GWU Choral Union
April 20	8 p.m. Dover	GWU Symphonic Band
April 22	8 p.m. Blanton	Senior Recital Lindsey Warner, Soprano
April 23	3 p.m. OMG	Senior Art Exhibit/ Distinguished Artist Concert, James Olin
April 26	8 p.m. Dover	GWU Orchestra

For more information, contact the Fine Arts department.



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