

VVLL: NOT REALLY INTO BAD TIMES

Violet Vector and the Lovely Lovelies is probably the most fun band in Chapel Hill.

Crafting quirky pop songs full of psychedelic influence, shakers, keyboards and handclaps, VVLL makes music that brings on a sugar rush and keeps the listener smiling.

Three of the band's five members sat down with Assistant Diversions Editor Jamie Williams before they rock Local 506 tonight with their rainbow-bright-and-paisley brand of pop-rock.

Diversions: So I've been listening to the songs on your Myspace page, and you guys just sound like you're having a lot of fun recording and playing with each other.

Amanda Brooks: Yeah, we aren't really into bad times.

Alex Maiolo: We genuinely love each other. There is no question about that.

I was telling Amanda the other day that I have never left a practice or a show pissed off or bummed out.

It's the best band I've ever been in. I'm just glad they asked me to join.

Dive: So, Thursday's show sounds like it will just be one big party then, right?

AM: Yeah, we're on at 10. It is a double bill with a DJ between sets.

We like playing first because you always get a soundcheck.

Karen Blanco: We also like playing first because when you finish you can relax and it's just party time.

Dive: So you're taking advantage of the new DJ booth at Local 506?

AB: We are. But there's no more cage!

We had a cage dancer twice. We're proud of that. I think that cage was made for this band.

AM: All the kids love the DJs these days. Back in my day, the DJ booth had an 8-track player.

KB: Yeah, and moustache wax, right?

AM: I think the story of how we started is pretty interesting. Karen, why don't you explain that?

KB: The story from my perspective is that I met Amanda at the beauty shop — at Moshi Moshi.

And she was this amazing, vibrant person who kept saying she wanted to form a band that incorporated pop, but also the '60s and psychedelia.

And it sounded so amazing, and I kept saying, "That's cool" and never told her I played the piano and didn't think I could make the transition into rock from classical music.

But she gave me a chance, and we started with a practice in the salon, right there on the floor with like a boombox and a crappy Casio keyboard.

It seemed to work out.

Dive: I don't know any other bands that started out in a hair salon.

AB: From there we had a bunch of different members, and then we found Alex, and now Karen takes her piano training and plays "Moby Dick" and makes it awesome and takes Jimmy Page's guitar solos and turns them into organ solos.

KB: I don't think I would go that far.

AM: It's funny how everything came together, but I get my hair cut where Karen works.

I came in and probably had something that had some sort of coded message on it — some sort of pop art target shirt or something — and she must have thought I'd be good.

AB: No, remember, I had a poster up that said, "band forming," and it said that I wanted it to be an all girl band.

AM: I know how hard it is to make your ideas happen.

You think you're going to start a band that is a combination of Yes and the Buzzcocks and that you're going to have an inflatable pig.

And then you realize you can't do any of that crap.

And what you find is that what really happens is almost always better.

I just hadn't done anything fun in a long time. So I just decided that I would throw it out there, you know, "If you need someone to play bass or guitar, call me."

And then I got the call — or the e-mail — and filled. But it was sup-



Violet Vector and the Lovely Lovelies bring a sweet brand of pop to the stage. With songs colorful enough to keep up with the group's wardrobe, the band is sure to have everyone at Local 506 smiling. 9 p.m. with Stephanie's Id.

posed to be just be me filling in for one show.

AB: And then we couldn't live without him. We were like, "You have to stay."

AM: Ultimately, I just decided that this band had to continue. It was too much fun not to, and we needed a drummer.

I ran into my friend Doug who I'd played with before, and he's into power-pop and grew up on The Who.

So I called him, and he was like, "I'll do it."

I went to his place and learned all the songs, and we were like, "We're going to go to this practice and we're going to blow them away. And this is not going to be temporary."

And so we showed up to practice and crossed our fingers and were like, "Did we get the job?" and they were like, "Yeah, you got the job."

Dive: So, Amanda, what happened to all girls?

AB: It just didn't work out. But we do have another girl, Kathleen, who plays glockenspiel, rainbow bells, maracas, tambourines.

Dive: So she gets to do all of the fun stuff?

AM: It's like she like brings out this doctor bag with all her tools. She always gets the crowd going. For sure.

AB: I mean, the all-girl thing didn't happen, but I decided it wasn't all that important. It's more important to like the people you play with.

STARSYSTEM

- ★ POOR
- ★★ FAIR
- ★★★ GOOD
- ★★★★ EXCELLENT
- ★★★★★ CLASSIC

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DIVERECOMMENDS

Album from the Vaults:

Bruce Springsteen - *Greetings From Asbury Park, NJ: The Boss'* debut from back when he was still just some punk kid — or the new Dylan, depending on who you asked — proves that there was, in fact, life before *Born to Run*.

Movie Rental Pick:

"Paris, Je T'aime." This overlooked film from 2007 is crafted with as much love for the City of Lights as for the art of cinema.

Something Random:

Buy your books: The used ones are rapidly disappearing from shelves, and Amazon's got everything on backorder. But you won't really need 'em until midterms, right?

Events:

TODAY

► Violet Vector and the Lovely Lovelies
Local 506 | VVLL reminds us that Phil Spector did as much for the Ronettes as the Ramones, with a pop style full of bubblegum attitude. 10 p.m. \$6.

► The Independents
Blend | S.C.'s Independents are as obsessed with The Misfits and B-Horror flicks as they are with crafting teen-idol punk-pop. 7:30 p.m. \$7.

FRIDAY

► Kerbloki
Local 506 | Kerbloki brings ill rhythms, guaranteed. 10 p.m. \$7.

SATURDAY

► The Pneurotics/Dry Heathens
Jack Sprat | Delightful pop from The Pneurotics with crusty indie rock from Dry Heathens. Imagine They Might Be Giants playing with The Replacements. 11 p.m.

► Maple Stave/Monsonia
Nightlight | Loud, intricately tangled rock 'n' roll from the Triangle's own Maple Stave and Monsonia. 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

► The Rosebuds
Cat's Cradle | Raleigh popsmiths bring the jams back to Carrboro with the wonderful Honored Guests. 9:30 p.m. \$10 in advance. \$12 at the door.

Movies in the Union:

► "Air Guitar Nation"
A documentary about the U.S. Air Guitar Championships, which, apparently, actually exist. Friday. 8 p.m.
► "A Raisin In The Sun" (1961)
An adaptation of the acclaimed Lorraine Hansberry play. Saturday. 8 p.m.

Contact the Diversions Editor at dive@unc.edu.

25% Off Sale

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919-216-0493 (pager) • or email Tiffany_Hambright@dentistry.unc.edu
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CAT'S CRADLE

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JANUARY	FEBRUARY
11 FR COSMIC CHARLIE (2 sets Grateful Dead!) \$10	Mickey Mills & Steel, more
12 SA MARK KOZELEK of Sun Kil Moon and Red House Painters w/ Josh Nowlan (Cities)**(\$15)	12 TU CITIZEN COPE** (\$20)
16 WE THE ROSEBUDS w/ Honored Guests and Lake Inferior** (\$10/\$12)	15 FR ABBEY ROAD LIVE!!
18 FR THE WAR (Formerly Starting Tuesday)	16 SA CARBON LEAF** (\$14/\$16)
19 SA "ROCK FOR ROE": OLD CEREMONY, COUNTRY KINGS, Old 86** (\$10/\$14)	18 MO JOE LALLY (Fugazi) w/ Edie Sedgwick
20 SU LIN JAPANESE DANCE PARTY (Proceeds Benefit the Inter-Faith Council)	26 TU DEAN & BRITTA, KEREN ANN** (\$15/\$18)
21 MO FLICKER	28 TH TOUBAB KREWEE** (\$12/\$14)
23 WE LOTUS w/ Telepath** (\$14/\$16)	29 FR JUNIOR BROWN** (\$16)
24 TH VIRGINIA COALITION** (\$10/\$12)	MARCH
25 FR Dirty30Thirty, Transportation (Fire Recovery Benefit)	3 MO WALKMEN** (\$12/\$14)
26 SA PERPETUAL GROOVE** (\$15)	6 TH MATT COSTA w/ Johnathan Rice** (\$10/\$12)
29 TU SUPER FURRY ANIMALS w/ Fiery Furnaces** (\$15)	7 FR CHATHAM COUNTY LINE w/ EVERYBODYFIELDS** (\$12/\$15)
30 WE COREY SMITH w/ Jool Rush** (\$15/\$18)	16 SU BOB MOULD** (\$15)
FEBRUARY	17 MO THE UNSEEN/ A WILHELM SCREAM** (\$10/\$12)
6 WE HIGH ON FIRE, A Life Once Lost, Saviours, Car Bomb** (\$12/\$15)	18 TU SONS AND DAUGHTERS** (\$10)
8 FR JAY CLIFFORD** (\$10/\$15)	APRIL
9 SA Bob Marley's Birthday Party w/	1 TU CARBOU** (\$10/\$12)
MAY	2 FR THE PRESSURE BOYS Reunion Show! ** (\$16/\$20)

WE ARE ALSO PRESENTING...

SHOWS @ Local 506 (Chapel Hill)

1/18 Drug Rug, Opening Flower Happy Bird and Embarassing Fruits (No cover)

1/23 SIX ORGANS OF ADMITTANCE w/ Boyzone

1/29 KEVIN DEVINE/ DAVE ELKINS (MAE)

2/6 MARAH

3/16 BLACK LIPS, Quinton, Gondolers

3/17 TILLY AND THE WALL** (\$12)

SHOWS @ Carolina Theatre (Durham)

1/12 THE DRESDEN DOLLS w/ Two Ton Boo**

1/25 WEEN (sold out)

3/22 TFI MERRITT (On Sale 1/14)

SHOW @ Disco Rodeo (Raleigh)

1/17 KILLSWITCH ENGAGE w/ Every Time I Die, Dlinger Escape Plan

SHOWS @ The ArtsCenter (Carrboro)

3/16 DAVID WILCOX** (\$20/\$23)

3/22 Greg Brown (\$28/\$30)

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