

FUTURE ISLANDS: MAKE PEOPLE HAPPY

Future Islands is a dance rock band that combines influences as wide ranging as its members' current homes.

It is a band in between locations, making time between Greenville and Asheville as well as Baltimore.

The band cut their teeth on the Greenville scene, playing under the name Art Lord and the Self Portraits.

Diversions Assistant Editor Jamie Williams, who was a Greenville high school student during the height of the Art Lord era, talked to Future Islands' vocalist Sam Herring about the band's Greenville past, Baltimore future and the state of dance music.

Diversions: How long have you guys been playing as Future Islands? I know when I was in high school you were still Art Lord.

Sam Herring: We played our first Future Islands show in February 2006. So it's just shy of three years.

It's three of us from Art Lord, and we added a drummer and became Future Islands. There was a six month break between each band.

Dive: So, you're from Greenville?

SH: Crazy stuff.

Dive: I saw that you have a date in Greenville right before you come to Chapel Hill.

How often are you playing there these days?

SH: Umm, yeah. We're playing The Corner, which used to be the Red Rooster, and before that it was some horrible bar.

Greenville is pretty messed up right now. There aren't really any good music venues.

Outside of the underground scene, it's pretty bad.

Dive: I saw a show at the Spazzatorium over my fall break, and I know that some bands from here are playing there.

SH: It's a pretty great space. But we haven't played a downtown show in Greenville in a long time.

We're hoping that kids will come out. We're older, so we aren't in the scene and aren't making the scene in Greenville. We're hoping the young kids will check it out.

Dive: I remember Art Lord having a pretty big following.

SH: When we were first in Greenville we were playing Peasants, and that went well for us.

Dive: That's a dance club now, though.

SH: Yeah, it's a ridiculous club. Pretty much the music wasn't happening outside of house parties.

Then Peasants turned into a dance club, and since then it's just been house parties and DIY spaces.

Even though we aren't a Greenville band, we'll always be a Greenville band, you know?

Dive: As a dance band, how do you feel about the uptick in the popularity of dance music?

SH: We're down, because that's kind of our style. I don't know, man. It's about making people move, which creates community and makes people happy. We want to make people happy.

Dive: So you consider yourselves to be a dance band?

SH: We don't want to be considered just a dance band that doesn't say anything. It's very important to me that we say something. I'm not very much of a writer who tries to bring a message, but I do try to focus on emotion because that's important to me.

Dive: I think the disconnect I find with a lot of more House-style dance music is that I find it to be sort of emotionless.

SH: I totally agree. What's going on in the Baltimore scene is the future to me. What's happening is the noise musicians want to make pop songs. In that the pop isn't just happy, it adds layers and layers, and it has dirty sounds and scraping sounds, and it all comes together.

I get the feeling that Baltimore is this collection of noise pop. Dan (Deacon) calls it "future shock." We call it "first wave."

Dive: So you think you fit in that movement?

SH: We're happy dance music is taking off, but it worries you because all movements go up and then crash again. When we were in Art Lord we were playing dance music and people were weird about it. I think if Art Lord were around



PHOTO BY BRIE CASTELL

Future Islands is a dance rock band in flux. It certainly hasn't hurt the music, though. It will play Nightlight on Friday beginning at 9 p.m.

now it would totally blow people's minds.

It's the same way with Future Islands. We're doing well for ourselves, but Art Lord had the same kind of feeling as a lot of stuff that has gotten really popular. And we were scared then, like, did we miss it? Did it already pass? Is it gonna come again?

Maybe we should have waited a bit longer. We're into songs that aren't about writing songs that are strictly dance songs.

Dive: So, you're living in Baltimore now?

SH: My girlfriend and I have lived in Asheville for the past year, and I came up here for the tour and after tour I'm going to stay in Baltimore and find a job.

I have a place in Asheville to go and people to stay with in Baltimore, but the plan after the

tour is to be here. I've never lived in a big city, so it should be a big step.

Dive: It's definitely a big step from Greenville.

SH: It is weird that you can't get any sweet tea. That's made me a little sad.

Dive: So, aside from the move to Baltimore, what's next for Future Islands?

SH: We have a new album coming out in a couple months on Valiant Death, and we're really excited.

It'll be the first material released between Art Lord and Future Islands.

We're going to continue to tour and work hard to try and build up an audience.

Contact the Diversions Editor at dive@unc.edu.

'Diving Bell' excels in art of patience

BY CATHERINE WILLIAMS
STAFF WRITER

A devastating stroke leaves "Elle" editor Jean-Dominique Bauby completely paralyzed except for his left eye.

He can hear his doctors and see the hospital around him, but he has no way to communicate with his friends and family.

A very patient speech therapist teaches him to "speak" with his one eye, and with the help of an equally patient scribe, Bauby slowly and silently dictates his memoir, "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly."

The film adaptation of this true story is a beautiful combination of experimental film techniques and heartfelt honesty.

Bauby (Mathieu Amalric) describes his paralysis as the feeling of being stuck in an old-fashioned diving suit with nothing left to him but his memories and his imagination.

And director Julian Schnabel certainly captures that imagination, shooting most of the film from the perspective of Bauby's eye as the other characters shift in and out of the frame and focus.

Much of the film's life is taken from Bauby's imagination — he sometimes believes his heartbeat is the sound of a butterfly's wings and imagines himself floating through meadows just above the grass — and from his flashbacks to his life as an editor, a lover and a father.

The static nature and near hopelessness of the subject matter runs the risk of turning the

MOVIE REVIEW
THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY



film into a depressing and boring account of a bedridden man swiped from the prime of his life.

But colorful escapes from the white-walled hospital and solid performances by several supporting actors provide hope and release to an otherwise sad and silent story.

Bauby's therapist, his scribe and the mother of his children all bring emotion to the screen, and an excellent performance by Max von Sydow ("Minority Report," "The Exorcist") as Bauby's father illustrates simultaneously the heartbreak of their personal prisons and the richness of the life Bauby led before the stroke.

There might have been some missed opportunities to capture the complex vibrancy of the imagination and of memory, and sometimes the film feels as if it too is trapped inside the walls of the hospital.

But perhaps Schnabel has succeeded in avoiding the temptation to overly romanticize his subject.

Although "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" is on the surface disheartening and at times slow, its flashes of life and beauty pull it into the light as a picturesque and poignant film.

Contact the Diversions Editor at dive@unc.edu.

Carolina Sports Menu

THIS WEEK'S MENU

WRESTLING vs. Duke FEUD IN FETZER-SPECIAL LOCATION! THURSDAY, JAN. 17 AT 7:00PM

SPLASH INTO SPRING BREAK EARLY WITH THE UNC SWIMMING & DIVING TEAM SUNDAY, JAN. 20 AT 3:00 PM VS. ACC RIVAL VIRGINIA

**FREE PIZZA!
FREE UNC BACKPACKS!
CHANCE TO WIN A ROUNDTRIP TICKET ON CONTINENTAL AIRLINES!**

Sign up for the commuter meal plan today!
www.onecard.unc.edu

carolina DINING SERVICES

Players

Thursdays
College Night
Everything half off!

Must be 18 to hang out and 21 to drink

[<http://www.myspace.com/playerschapelhill>]
Always available for private parties - 929-0101

THE WAR

Starting Tuesday is now:

(Formerly STARTING TUESDAY) with Inside the Flame and 9PM Traffic

LIVE - ONE NIGHT ONLY!
FRIDAY, JAN 18, 2008
CAT'S CRADLE

Doors 7pm/Show 8:00pm \$8/\$10

www.myspace.com/thewarmusic

CRIMINAL/JUSTICE THE DEATH PENALTY EXAMINED presents...

Barry Scheck and Susan Estrich

Thursday, January 17 | 7:30 PM
Memorial Hall

A conversation examining the impact of the death penalty and our criminal justice system today

Moderated by John C. Boger, Dean and Wade Edwards
Distinguished Professor of Law at UNC

Free admission with ticket

Tickets available at the Memorial Hall Box Office on Cameron Avenue
(919) 843-3333

www.carolinacreativecampus.org

FOUR CORNERS

175 E. Franklin St. • 919-968-3809

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
\$6 Import Pitchers

TUESDAY
35¢ Wings
\$2.50 JAGER BOMBS
\$4 Miller Lite Pitchers

WEDNESDAY
35¢ Wings
\$3 • 34 oz. Miller Lite & Yuengling

THURSDAY
\$2 MILLER LITE BOTTLES
\$5 Moose Juice

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
\$2 Bud & Bud Light Bottles

N.F.L. SUNDAY
\$3 • 34 oz. DOMESTIC DRAFTS
\$5 • 34 oz. IMPORT DRAFTS

Serving food til 2:30 am every night

Specials subject to change on Carolina Home Game Days

FREE PLAY
on our 2 Beer Pong Tables!