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A passive-aggressive attack

Mothra may be laid-back about most things, but they're set on promoting female involvement in heavy music—even Godzilla doesn't stand a chance

Mothra

With A Javelin Reign, Better Living, Exit This Side and Snic
Saturday, 9 September at 8pm
Velvet Underground

AMANDA ASH
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Seeing a girl in an all-male, hardcore band isn't all that common. Neither is the well-known *Godzilla* monster, Mothra, for that matter. Luckily, though, metal-loving females and unruly beasts have finally come together to form a pleasant union, all through the medium of music.

For BC-based group Mothra, there's nothing odd about having a female screemo vocalist around, just as there's nothing weird about adopting a Japanese creature as your moniker. Worrying about little things like that isn't in the trio's mandate; instead, making music until someone stops them seems to be more down their path of thinking.

"[The moniker Mothra] is just something we thought sounded really cool," says vocalist and synth player Karla Miller. "We found other bands from Poland and Japan and stuff that had the same name, and we like it. Mothra is the moth beast that fights Godzilla—that fights for good.

"We haven't had any [copyright issues] at this point, but I guess we'll see what happens," Miller continues. "We haven't encountered any problems from Sony Pictures or whoever owns the rights to Godzilla. We get that question a lot, people asking if we've been in any lawsuits or anything, but we're like, 'Hmm, not yet.'

I guess we'll cross that bridge when we come to it."

Not about to sit back and take it easy, Mothra didn't waste any time putting out their first album—in fact, when the band recorded, they had been together for only two months. Gaining momentum and energy from being in the present, and not from dwelling on anything for too long, Mothra managed to fuel their musical passions, and by taking different approaches to their songwriting via complex time signatures and lengthy songs, they've separated themselves from the typical radio structure of bands like Alexisonfire.

"Judging from the turnout at shows, specifically all-ages shows, there are more and more girls coming out to see hardcore bands, which is awesome, and I think it would be really cool if they took it upon themselves to start bands that played heavy music."

KARLA MILLER

According to Miller, a University of Alberta graduate in Honors Psychology, growing up listening to

punk rock influenced her decision to be a part of the group, but it was only recently that she became more exposed to the heavier stuff, mainly thanks to her drummer husband Al. Still, though, it's not everyday that you encounter females doing something other than singing in a baby voice while strumming lightly on an acoustic guitar.

"I think it's rare, I guess, but there are a lot of girls that like heavier music," Miller says. "I haven't really come across many bands that are heavy and have girls in them, but we've played with a couple. I don't really think about it, to be honest; it doesn't really phase me. I don't think it has any limitations."

Holding back isn't Miller's strong point, but from her perspective, changing the field of music for women who are genuinely into hardcore music for the sake of music—not for the moshing or sense of rebelliousness—is something she hopes to accomplish with all of Mothra's shows, and, of course, with their record.

"I think, because it has that aggressive edge to it, it's almost natural that they wouldn't be into it," Miller says. "I've only come into it recently, because I've been exposed to it more, but it wasn't something that I was naturally into.

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