



Deviating from the standard

The Grassroot Deviation don't want people to label them as some funky hick group from Boondocks, Nowhere, just because of their moniker. Instead, they'd prefer it if listeners would stereotype them as a "ballsy" live band

The Grassroot Deviation

With Kent McAlister and his band Friday, 15 September at 9pm Sidetrack Café

CARLA KAVINTA
Arts & Entertainment Writer

With the recent release of their first full-length eponymous album, this Alberta foursome—also known as The Grassroot Deviation—is more than ready to electrify the Edmonton stage yet again. Although the lengthy disc is evidence of the band's creative collaboration and dedication in the studio, vocalist and guitarist Brian Parker admits the essence of the band lies in performance.

"For about a year we were sort of semi-focused on the disc and for the month we were recording, we were entirely focused on the disc," Parker says. "But for the most part, we're always focused on playing live."

According to Parker, there's a clear discrepancy between recording a track and delivering it to an audience.

"We feel like our music comes across a bit better live," he continues. "I mean, all music does, to some extent, but we feel more comfortable in that setting. On the grand scheme of things, more of our energy is

devoted to that. There's a certain, shall I say, 'ballsiness' that [is] really hard to get recorded digitally."

That being said, he adds that after the in-studio experience, they could have done a few things a little differently. "Next time, if we were to go in, we would go in a little more straight at it, try to take a little less time, and try to capture a more raw feel."

Even so, judging by this past summer's energy-infused Western Canada tour, Parker only emphasizes the band's lust for their live acts, as the four University of Alberta students could be spotted playing venues in Banff, Nelson and, as he sarcastically added, other Canadian hot spots.

"We were showing up on, like, a Wednesday or even sometimes a Tuesday night, loading our gear into a bar hoping that some people would come," Parker says. "But, in general, I thought the tour was a success and that we grew as a band. I think we got relatively good feedback. I mean, as good as we could get with that sort of approach."

Guitarist Dan Smith of The Deviation also agrees that touring is an essential part of the entire experience.

"We tend to be sort of on a more improvisational side, or at least we

focus more on the live music side of things," Smith says.

Come Friday's show, though, audiences can expect a unique and spirited sound, filled with a blend of colorful genres including roots, rock and blues. In describing the sound of their new CD, Parker notes, "I'd think we're more at home in the roots or blues thing. But there's definitely a groove happening there."

Smith agrees. "Yeah, we're not like a lot of indie bands, or smaller bands who will say 'We're really eclectic, and we can't really describe it. It's kind of different than anything else.' I mean, we do have a bit of an eclectic feel, but I'd say we generally work on a blues and roots feel, and it branches out from there. At a show, you'll find a lot of different genres that circulate around that."

Evidently, Smith is fully aware of the dangers of being stereotyped in the music industry and is wary of being pigeonholed into a particular genre.

"You do get labelled sometimes. I guess that's not necessarily a bad thing—but it can be at times, because it sort of gives a connotation. It puts an idea in people's minds, whereas we'd rather have people come to the show and decide for themselves."

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Jacinda Barrett
Casey Affleck
Rachel Bilson
with Blythe Danner
and Tom Wilkinson
**The Last
Kiss**

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What's yours?

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and co-writer of "Crash"

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HAROLD RAMIS WITH BLYTHE DANNER AND TOM WILKINSON
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In Theatres September 15



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Essays must be **750 to 1,000 words** in length.

Essays should answer the question "**Is voting important?**" and explain why the author does or does not think this is the case.

Essays should be submitted to the Canada West Foundation **via email** by **December 1, 2006**.

Please provide your full name, address, phone number, and the name of your post-secondary institution at the beginning of your essay.

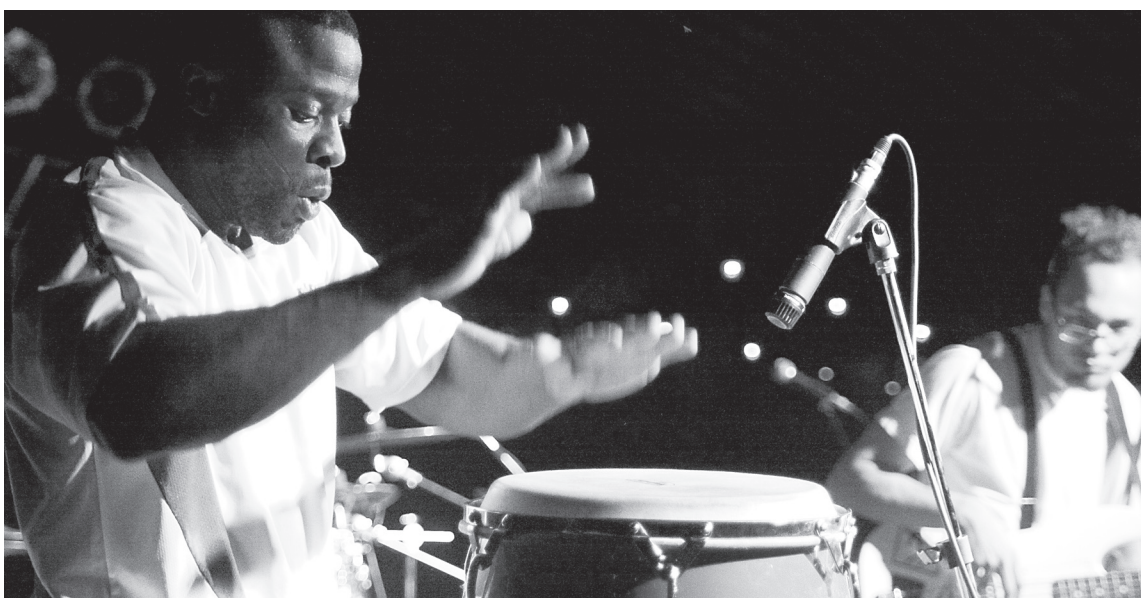
Please paste your essay into the body of the email message (attached files will not be accepted).

The best essays will be published in the Canada West Foundation's *Dialogues Magazine*.

Essays should be emailed to:
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NOTE: The winner will be required to show proof of age and post-secondary enrollment.

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PHIL HEAD

I WANNA BANG ON MY DRUMS ALL DAY Radio Vacana and Bedouin Soundclash were all play on Sunday night.