

Faunts ready to flaunt their dreamy stuff

Despite a few unfortunate tour glitches, the synth-rock quartet is still happy to show off their latest album to a hometown crowd



Faunts CD release party

With Vail Halen, Illfit Outfit, and Field and Stream
Friday, 22 September at 9pm
Starlite Room

PAUL BLINOV
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Luck is a fickle mistress. She's one that's difficult to gain favour from, and for Edmonton's own dream-like four-piece the Faunts, they've learned this lesson all too well. While on the verge of planning a string of shows that could've seen their music reach new critical heights, the group encountered a bit of misfortune that ultimately set them back a couple of steps.

"We had this really fantastic tour booked all throughout the eastern United States, and then there was a glitch in our paperwork," drummer Paul Arunsch sighs. "We were going to do it properly, with work visas and whatnot, but just a couple days before we were meant to leave, we found out we weren't going to get the visas, and the whole tour was cancelled. It was a real pain."

One can only imagine how crushing it would be to have such a tour cancelled at the last moment, especially for a local act that has so much going for them. The Faunts—whose current lineup consists of Arunsch and brothers Steven, Tim and Rob Batke—have been spreading their comfortable, yet dark, music around Edmonton for half a decade, and during that

time, the boys have taken some atypical career turns: they released their debut album *High Expectations/Low Results* before they started doing any live shows, and, more notably, they've spent time scoring soundtracks to local films, an opportunity that has allowed the Faunts to yield a brand-new EP, entitled *M4*.

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PAUL ARUNSCH

"It was inspired by a lot of the music we wrote for a show put on a little while ago by FAVA (Film and Video Association)," Arunsch says. "We were given some short films from local filmmakers and we were meant to score them. In that process, we came up with a bunch of musical ideas, and we thought it was a waste to just not do anything with them. So, we converted them into songs, more Faunts-style with vocals and more structure, and

now we have a Faunts album."

The EP's release will be independent, despite the band's contract with Friendly Fire Records. The American label re-released *High Expectations/Low Results* last year, and will handle their next full-length release, which, according to Arunsch, should come about sooner than a rescheduled US tour.

"Our plans for the near future are to focus on [touring] western Canada, and then wait until next summer to do a substantial tour," Arunsch explains. "In the meantime, we're going to look at trying to release our full-length."

With plans to finally hit the road, an album spawned from scoring films (only their second release in six years) and a number of local gigs, too, it all adds up to a fairly impressive track record. How much time can the band possibly be allotting to new material? Plenty, according to Arunsch.

"We're generally always in the studio," he says, "and it just seems like, by the time we want to release something, we take a collection of songs we feel relate to each other, and maybe tweak them."

"We have a lot recorded," Arunsch continues. "Unfortunately, a lot of our ideas are a little outdated, as far as we're concerned. I get the feeling that by the time we actually release some of those ideas, we'll have to go back and redo them, to keep them a little more cutting edge and updated. A lot of Faunts music is a work in progress."



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