

Walkin' with Memphis

Stars' Torquil Campbell discusses leading a life between two musical projects

Memphis

With Panurge and Storyboard
Saturday, 5 November at 8pm
Starlite Room

PAUL BLINOV
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Torquil Campbell is living a double life in the Canadian music scene. Known mostly for co-fronting the indie-pop act Stars, Campbell has recently been dedicating his time to singing for Memphis, another musical project between him and long-time friend Chris Dumont.

Right now, however, he's getting over the double pneumonia which has forced Memphis to cancel some tour dates in Halifax, ultimately halting promotion of their new album, *A Little Place in the Wilderness*. Promising to be "right as rain" by the time he gets to Edmonton, Campbell will still have to take it easy on this trek through Canada.

"Obviously, on this tour, my focus is going to be staying healthy, which is unusual," Campbell laughs, his voice still sounding a bit fragile over the phone. "Most of the time, I've toured by means of just ruining my body, but I think [this tour will] hold a lot of new experiences for me."

The blueprints for Memphis were laid years ago, when a group of friends—including Campbell, Dumont and, notably, Metric's James Shaw—were making music together in the '90s. They eventually split, with Campbell pursuing Stars, Dumont working a carousel in New York and Shaw co-founding Metric. But Campbell and Dumont stayed in touch, later meeting up again in Vancouver, where they eventually recorded and released Memphis' debut album, *I Dreamed We Fell Apart*, in 2004.

"[Chris would] come out [To Vancouver] to escape the heat of New York and just visit me," Campbell explains. "The songwriting was always a part of our hanging out, so it ended up being a summer project much of the time."

Despite being the better known of the duo, Campbell makes it clear that Dumont is largely responsible for Memphis.

"I write the lyrics and sing the



melodies, but the music and the sound of the album is very much his album and his ideas," Campbell says.

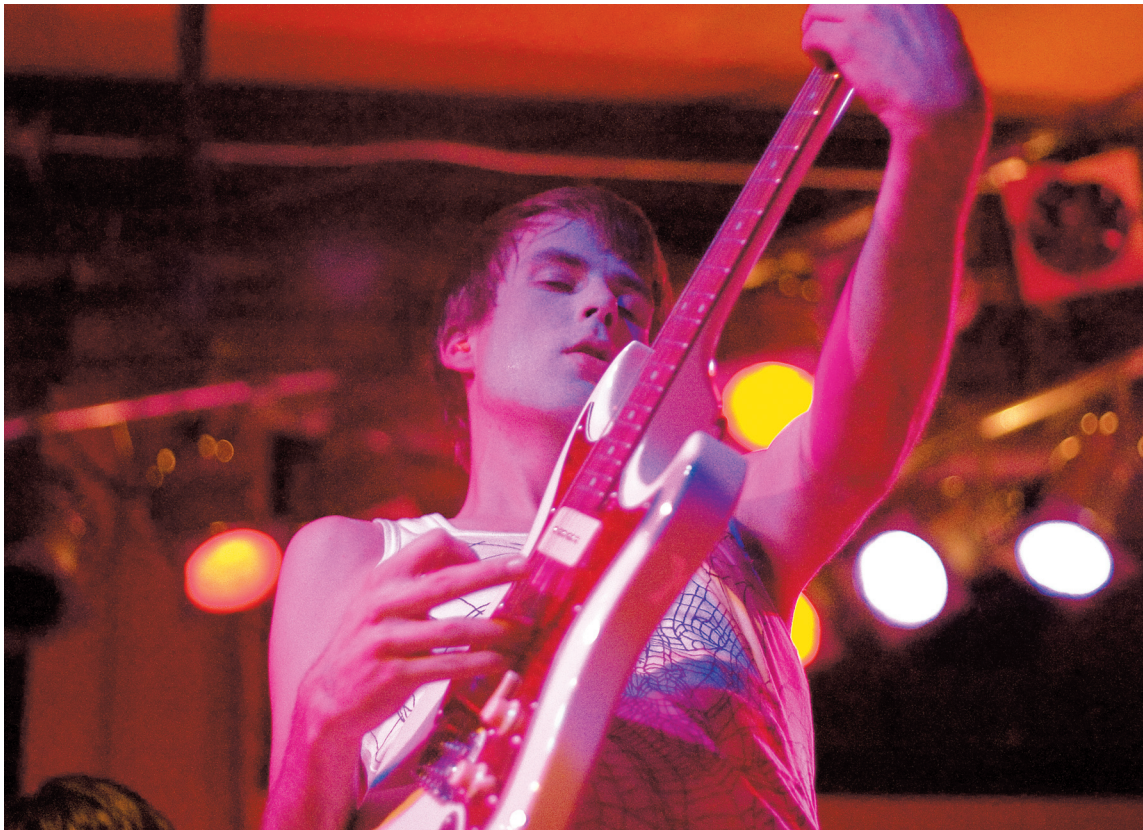
I Dreamed We Fell Apart wasn't promoted, nor did Memphis tour at that time due to Campbell's commitment to Stars. Soon afterwards, Stars exploded all over the indie scene, shoving Memphis further onto the back burner for a few years. With Stars still peaking, one might question the timing of a new Memphis release, but Campbell insists the timing is better than ever for audiences to give his lesser-known band a subjective listen.

"At this point, Stars has started writing a new record, but it was a good time for me to tour and put out Memphis because Stars doesn't have anything new out at the moment and we're not

playing shows," Campbell explains. "So it gave Memphis a chance to stand on its own and have people listen to it without too much influence from other works that I've done."

Despite the greater popularity of Stars, Campbell refuses to dismiss Memphis as merely a side project. To him, they're both part of a life he's very eager to lead.

"[Memphis is] not me dishing out some tunes that didn't make it to Stars," Campbell says. "This really is another journey that I'm on. You can't really control when things happen. Stars is a band, and Memphis is a band, but [both are] also my life. It's just people who I'm close to, who I love and have friendships with, and inevitably we end up making music together."



NEAL WILDING

NO, THEY'RE NOT FROM *LOST* The Islands played to a costumed and energetic crowd Tuesday night at the Starlite.

GOLDEN BEARS & PANDAS SPORTS



YOUR UNIVERSITY
YOUR TEAMS
YOUR SEAT IS READY

Golden Bears & Pandas Basketball

Friday, November 3 vs Thompson Rivers

Saturday, November 4 vs Fraser Valley

Pandas @ 6:00, Golden Bears @ 8:00

Main Gym

492-BEAR / 451-8000 www.bears.ualberta.ca

PROFESSOR OF THE WEEK



DR. YVETTE
D'ENTREMONT
CU ME 322

"Dr d'Entremont is an **incredibly organized** teacher, who has absolute **mastery of the subject matter she teaches**. She helps her students learn by employing different styles of teaching, and will even take us out of class to the lab for **hands-on teacher training**. She also invites useful and informed guests to further our understanding. In addition, Dr. d'Entremont has **great respect for her students**, which is demonstrated through her commitment to teaching.

Mme d'Entremont est une professeure **incroyablement bien organisée** qui **maîtrise sa matière**. Elle nous aide en utilisant **différents styles d'enseignement**. Elle nous apporte souvent au labo pour faire des expériences et ses invites sont des gens informés et utiles. En gros Mme d'Entremont a un **respect énorme pour ses élèves** qui se démontre dans son enseignement."

MAKE TEACHING MATTER!

NOMINATE YOUR OWN PROFESSOR FOR PROFESSOR OF THE WEEK

Excellent teaching is the foundation of an outstanding undergraduate education, and the university community needs to begin to value everyday achievements in undergraduate teaching.

The Students' Union is looking to recognize professors who demonstrate sincere enthusiasm for teaching undergraduates, innovative methods of engaging students in the learning process and a willingness to go beyond what is normally expected of a professor.

Don't let great teaching go unrecognized.

Nominations can be picked up/submitted at any Faculty Association office or InfoLink desk, or at the SU Executive Office front desk. Nominations can also be emailed to the Associate VP-Academic Tasneem Karbani at avpa@su.ualberta.ca.