

# Red Ram butts into the Edmonton music scene

## Red Ram CD Release

With The Fabulous Beefeeders and The Casanova Playboys  
Saturday, 11 November at 8pm  
Starlite Room

JOHN KMECH  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Side projects can be both a blessing and a curse. Although they allow artists to venture off into new meadows, take the creative bull by the horns and charge forth in genres or styles that weren't previously available to them, side projects can also cause bad blood between artists and their original bandmates over their commitment to the new enterprise.

Fortunately, though, for Edmonton alt-country group The Uncas, there's no need to panic. Mark Feduk, a fellow Uncas member and front man of new Edmonton upstart Red Ram, doesn't see his new musical undertaking as affecting his relationship with his other band.

"A lot of times when people start side projects, the members of the original band get jealous and don't like it," Feduk says. "But these guys

[in the Uncas] have been so supportive and they're really happy that I'm doing it."

Taking a step in the opposite direction of the western-flavoured, sarcasm-riddled punk of The Uncas, Feduk, who took on the role of lead songwriter in Red Ram, saw an opportunity to channel his more serious side through the band's electronic, melodic rock. Combining Feduk's musicianship and Doug Organ's production skills, the duo recorded their debut album *Stars Ablaze*, then recently added Bill George on drums and Sean Brewer on guitars to make Red Ram a quartet. Even though he's been part of the Edmonton music scene for more than ten years, Feduk noted that the experience of leading a band for the first time could be a harrowing, yet rewarding, journey.

"I still definitely get butterflies," Feduk laughs. "It's a totally different experience to be the guy in the middle singing every tune. It's fun for me to have different outlets, because I never could have done these tunes on an Uncas album. A lot of my early songs for The Uncas were really funny songs, but as it's gone on, mine have



become the darker ones. I think that's why Red Ram is so much more serious and dark, because it's just me."

Besides songwriting, Feduk also manages the band. His serious songwriting ultimately influences his design direction, as seen with the unique mannequin art he uses for the album cover, a work that Feduk says symbolizes his musical message on *Stars Ablaze*.

"It's a piece of graphic art created

by Jonas Eriksson, who designed our website," Feduk says. "I really liked the image because I think that too many people are cut-outs of each other, so it goes along with one of the themes of the album."

Despite the major time management issues that could come from playing in one band and leading another, Feduk sees himself existing in both groups. The way he views the scene, both bands complement each other

regardless of their stylistic differences.

"I don't see [either band] being put on the back burner," Feduk explains. "The way The Uncas have always viewed the local scene is that if one band is doing well, it's good for all the other bands and everyone should work together and be happy. The more one band draws attention to the city, the more it'll bring attention to the other bands, so that's the way we're approaching this."

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