

St Albert an ill-fit for the Outfit

The hometown rock-band talk about the all-encompassing Edmonton scene, running out of their first album, and writing ewok music for a burlesque

musicpreview

Illfit Outfit

with *The Last Scene* and *Arbutus Trio*
Thursday, 30 August at 9pm
The Blackspot Cafe

KRISTINA DE GUZMAN
Arts & Entertainment Staff

With bands like Social Code, All Else Fails, and now Illfit Outfit all hailing from St Albert—a city that can boast its own theatre and art gallery—you'd think that more of it's citizens would show pride towards its music scene. However, Illfit's bassist Doug Hoyer chuckles at the mere idea.

"What is the St Albert scene?" he laughs.

Not everyone from Illfit Outfit is from St Albert—drummer Jenni Roberts is from Edmonton—but the original trio of vocalist Liam Trimble, bassist Landon Reimer, and percussionist Ben Put all are. Hoyer is a St Albert native himself, but like many suburban dwellers, he doesn't really differentiate between the metropolitan city and its surrounding suburbs.

"[St Albert] is a suburb! It's in Edmonton! It's all part of the Edmonton scene," he argues. "Nobody says they're part of the St Albert scene! That would be like some band saying,

Yeah, we're part of the Sherwood Park scene! Like, what? No, you're part of the Edmonton scene."

Earlier this year, Illfit Outfit independently released their debut EP, *Proudly Resenting*. Being without a label, however, has been a restriction on the band's limited resources. Hoyer claims that the band only has about ten copies of *Proudly Resenting* left, but doesn't appear to be in a rush to sign on to a label, especially when doing so might mean touring for many months straight at the expense of school and full-time jobs.

In the meantime, Illfit Outfit is planning a little break from playing shows and dedicating more time to writing new material, though whether that new material appears on an EP or a full-length album remains to be seen. The band also has a unique side-gig—writing instrumental music for a burlesque show.

"[The music] is not really Illfit," Hoyer explains, sounding extremely excited about the project. "One theme has to be a march, so we've made this militaristic march. We have this other thing that sounds like an Ewok village party, where, [like] in *Return of the Jedi*, all the Ewoks are dancing around."

Illfit Outfit's own music doesn't consist of marches or the sounds of small bear-like creatures celebrating

the fall of the Emperor, but it's meant to be just as catchy.

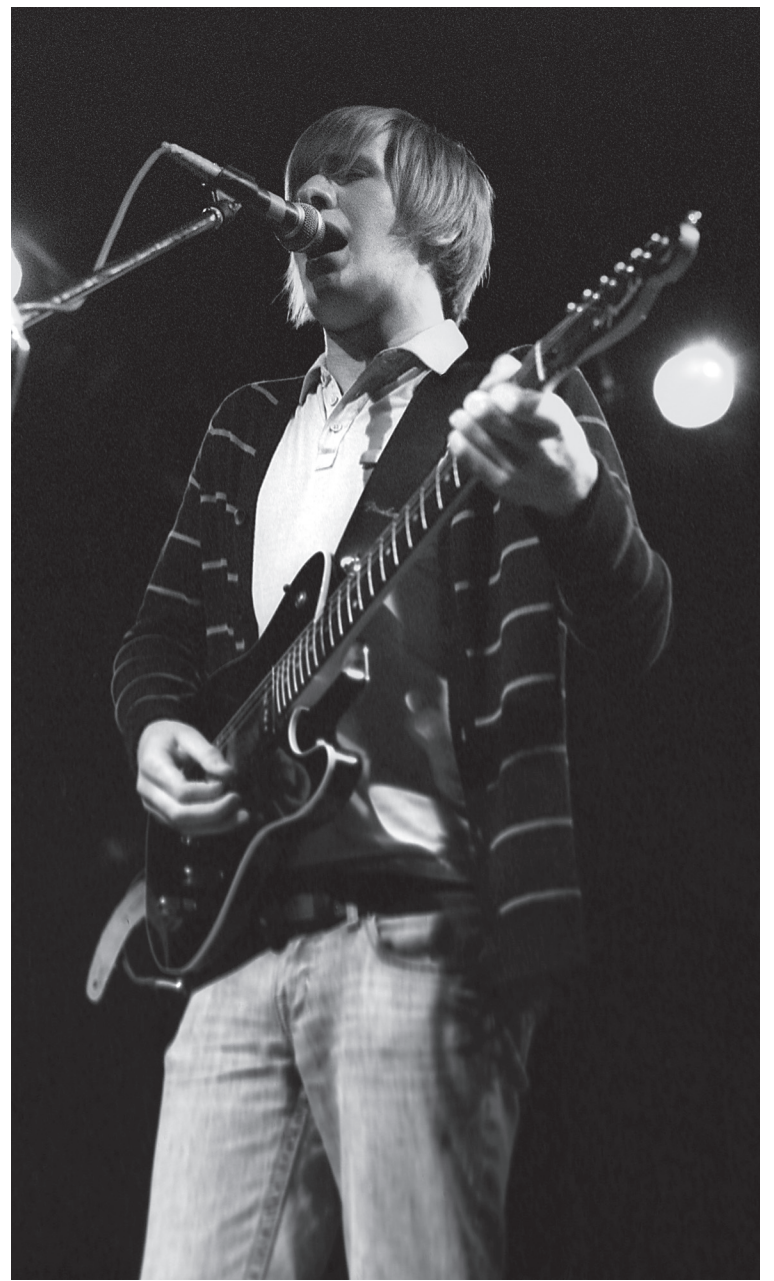
"I think we would love to just call ourselves a pop band," Hoyer states. "Pop shouldn't be something to be afraid of. We should embrace pop. Whether it's indie-pop or pop, it's something that's catchy and generally fun."

According to Hoyer, those that turn away at the title "pop music" without listening for themselves could take a hint from the Germans.

"[Germans] have this term called *ohrwurm*," says Hoyer. "It translates in English to 'earworm.' It sounds so gross but it's like a really catchy song—as if it's some worm that's levelled up a home in your ear because it's so catchy that it's just stuck in your head all the time. We would like to write earworm for people."

Fortunately for Illfit Outfit, they aren't limited to the "St Albert scene" for inspiration in pursuing this goal. They have all of Edmonton—and its surrounding area—to observe, admire, and try to one-up.

"There's so many bands doing a lot of really creative things and [making] interesting music," Hoyer notes. "I think it's good because it pushes the other bands. You can also have a bit of ... I want to say healthy rivalry, but I don't know if that's the right way to put it."



FILE PHOTO: MIKE OTTO

FITS LIKE A GLOVE Illfit Outfit tout their pop music all over Edmonton's scene.

Mr Bean takes a vacation, leaves the funny at home



filmreview

Mr Bean's Holiday

Now Playing
Directed by Steve Bendelak
Starring Rowan Atkinson

TYSON DURST
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Even though nobody really demanded it, Mr Bean returns to the big screen in *Mr Bean's Holiday*. Mr Bean hasn't ever had a job that one can recall in detail, but whatever he does, he's taking a holiday from it.

Now, I loved—and still love—the classic Mr Bean TV sketches. But if there was any hope that a Mr Bean feature-length movie might be decent and worth seeing in theaters, this sequel comes along like a monstrous tank and flattens that hope like a Mini-cooper, as seen in a great Mr Bean episode from his golden television days.

Almost all of the scenes worth watching are in the trailer, with the remaining 85 minutes marching on in bland stupor as Mr Bean bumbles through France. After he befriends a young boy at a train station who had been separated from his father and a

judge at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival—because of his over-the-top behaviour, of course—the predictable, paint-by-numbers hilarity rolls on, with a love interest popping up along the way. Of course, everybody gets reunited in the end at Cannes as we learn that only if you're a complete idiot like Bean can you truly succeed and appreciate life to the fullest.

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One thing that elevates the film beyond being a complete turd is the scene-stealing Willem Dafoe, who plays self-absorbed, pretentious filmmaker Carson Clay. His character manages to keep the film on life-support just long enough to reach the end credits.

Oddly, the basic plot of *Mr Bean's Holiday* is quite similar to that of *The Bourne Ultimatum*. Both films feature main characters touring European countries, only Jason Bourne kills people along the way, while Mr Bean just kills comedy. Both films also feature shaky cams utilizing the latest in epileptic-seizure-inducing technology.

Of course, Mr Bean's Europe is a bit different than Jason Bourne's Europe, because if Bean were to cross over into Bourne's world, he'd have been shot multiple times by security and police officers at the train terminal for his suspicious behaviour.

Younger audiences are likely the target demographic for this movie, and may be more forgiving of how repetitive Bean's follies are. Some of the physical comedy and sight-gags in the movie were decent enough for genuine chuckles, and should delight the youngsters. But of course, children also elevated Elmo and Barney to levels of superstardom, and talking vegetables and a talking sponge are on the rise, too.

If you're looking for a quality Bean fix, skip *Mr Bean's Holiday* in favour of buying the vastly superior sketch episodes on DVD so that you can, indeed, laugh a lot.



culturaobscura

Real Dolls

VICTOR VARGAS
Arts & Entertainment Staff

These special dolls use the latest in science to recreate the human form. Using innovations such as their PVC skeleton with steel joints and silicone flesh formula, these feats of engineering look—and feel—like a real person. Costing

a minimum of US\$6500, these dolls serve one main purpose—sex.

Created and manufactured by Abyss Creations in San Marcos, California, Real Dolls are available in multiple genders (even Shemale), ten customizable body styles, 15 unique faces, five different skin tones, and even your choice of genitalia. If these options aren't enough for your twisted tastes, the company website even offers "special" requests to fit your needs—and these dolls are an amazing success. Every week, six

to eight of these lifelike sex dolls are shipped to buyers worldwide.

There are some limitations to these dolls, however. Abyss Creations used to sell the Real Dolls with electronic additions like a speech feedback system and robotic hip actuators. But they can no longer be ordered with any extra electronic equipment. The company's website claims that since electronic components are not life-like, they are no longer willing to use them. Also, Real Dolls aren't able to grab anything or

even stand on their own. The skeletal structure is simply too flexible to hold any position without some kind of exterior support.

But these little details don't stop enterprising consumers from "modifying" their purchases, or finding innovative ways to make their doll even more life-like. One technique is to use electric blankets or baths to change a doll's body temperature. Others prefer more direct feats of engineering: installing vibrators.