

Holy Fuck offer foul-mouthed dirty dances

musicpreview

Holy Fuck

With Girl Talk
Friday, 12 October at 8pm
Starlite Room

LIAM FITZPATRICK
Arts & Entertainment Writer

For a band that's been touting their peculiarly volatile cross between an electronic act, jazz quartet, and rock band across Canada the past few years, Holy Fuck is an effectively snappy moniker. Having opened for such rising dance-rock acts as Edmonton's own Shout Out Out Out Out, Holy Fuck presents audiences with an opportunity to pound beers and gyrate shamelessly, all while shouting their name like it was still the gloriously dirty word mom would wash your mouth out for uttering aloud.

"The name just started off as kind of a joke, prompted by the nature of the music," keyboardist Graham Walsh says over the phone. "Some people censor it; some people don't. We don't really care either way. It still comes across."

The nature of the music is certainly unique, with a variety of sounds and influences combining into semi-structured songs worth dancing over. Holy Fuck's been something of a jam band from the beginning, basing many of their sets on improvisation instead of rehearsed music. However, Walsh is quick to note that despite using a bit more structure these days, the band is still free to veer off track if



the mood calls for it.

"We're influenced by everything really. I mean, we're all big music fans, and like music from tons of different genres," Walsh explains. "I think, basically, we've created this arena to create music and put whatever influence we want into that, and it will always come out sounding uniquely Holy Fuck."

"We've been on the road for an awful long time, and after a couple years of touring a lot, we've sort of

reined it in a little bit," he continues. "There's still a lot of jamming, but it's more controlled. We do have a couple of songs now that are actually structured and formulated, but within that, we're all free to stretch out and jam. I guess we have gotten a bit better at jamming, and it's not as noisy and chaotic, but we're looking at each other and cueing things and making it sound a lot tighter these days."

This control and order is evident in their new album *LP*, which

Walsh is excited to see released in its rehearsed state—Holy Fuck's self-titled first album was more like an extended jam session that just happened to get recorded.

"Technically, *LP*'s our second [album], but on the first record we made, we just went into the studio and jammed. Then we started touring a lot and writing newer stuff. This second record is the result of us touring and figuring stuff out. It's a lot more structured and melodic. It will be, for a lot

of people, the first thing they hear from us."

Garnered as one of the top three bands at this year's Glastonbury Music Festival, *LP* probably won't be the last thing anyone hears of Holy Fuck, either.

"We've done a lot of touring and a lot of figuring out who we are and what we are as a band," Walsh explains. "We've got all that refining out of the way, and now we'll just continue to refine and grow."

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