

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Lessons from a Seven Foot Penis
 Thursday, 25 October at 9pm
 Jekyll & Hyde Pub (10610 100 Avenue)

Occasionally, a story comes along that gives hard-working, committed entertainment journalists a bit of a break—just some time to kick back without having to develop ledes and article motifs. Unfortunately, this isn't one of those stories. What possible angle could anyone take to provoke interest in a comedic stage show that conjures up images of a Tony Robbins-sized phallus in a dapper Armani suit giving an educational seminar to a packed auditorium, complete with pie charts and a self-help book?

Norman Nawrocki stars—though not, as one might expect, as a mountainous Bluetooth-mic-toting tallywhacker—as a standup comedian who discusses such pertinent issues as homosexuality, gender identity, safe sex, and more with a humorous, positive bend. His “educational comedy cabarets” include other heroically titled programs such as *Sex Toys!* and *My Dick and Other Manly Tales*.

Second City Trojan “Condomy” Tour
 Thursday, 25 October at 8pm
 Myer Horowitz Theatre

Yes, there are not one, but two sex-related comedy tours visiting Edmonton, not only in the same week, but on the same night. Oh, the calamity of having to choose between one erotically inclined comedic schtick and another side-splittingly farcical exercise in sensuality! Though, to be fair to the giant one-eyed-monster act, this performance only offers indirect sexual connotations, as it's sponsored by Trojan Condoms, allowing for a play on words several times less clever than the organizers probably assumed it would be.

The Second City comedy squad, descendants of the SCTV legends, helms this tour, the only one in North America that can be tested prior to viewing through application to a ripened banana (or plantain, if the tour is less comically endowed).

Hey Ocean!
 With the McGowan Family Band
 Thursday, 25 October at 8pm
 Starlite Room

If you're in the mood for something a little less organ-based this Thursday night, head down to the Starlite to catch this easy-listening pop-funk band from Vancouver. Combining Sublime and Jamiroquai with a female lead singer, the group is currently on a Canadian tour and released their first full length album, *Stop Looking Like Music*, last year.

Sander Kleinenberg
 Thursday, 25 October at 8pm
 Empire Ballroom (WEM)

Holland's Sander Kleinenberg brings his DJing skills to West Ed's Empire Ballroom. Mixing both audio and video during his performance, this fly Dutchman is riding the success of his club hit “This is Not Miami.”

Oh Susanna!
 Saturday, 27 October at 11pm
 Varscona Theatre (10329 83 Avenue)

A game and variety show, the ninth annual season of this Halloween-themed party is upon the Varscona Theatre. Susanna Patchouli stars along with several co-performers all eager to express their playful exasperation with the lead, including wacky magician Blizzard the Wizzard and cunningly named Fringe buskers the Be Arthurs, among others. It also features the *Oh Susanna!* Jug Band, a definite highlight for fans of local jug music. Best of all, if you're financially disadvantaged, you can get a two-dollar discount by wearing a Halloween costume—which should only run you about 20 bucks.

JOHN KMECH
 Practices safe Social Intercourse



Wintersleep welcomes the *Night Sky*

The Halifax-based quintet may not be eager to discuss their new album, but it's given them radio play, notable producers to work with, and even an international release in Japan

musicpreview

Wintersleep
 With *Wooden Stars*
 Sunday, 28 October at 8pm
 Starlite Room

KRISTINA DE GUZMAN
 Arts & Entertainment Staff

One has to wonder if Wintersleep's apparent lack of enthusiasm in discussing their new album, *Welcome to the Night Sky*, is due to the overwhelming number of questions they repeatedly get asked by journalists or genuine disinterest in talking about the finished product. It's probably the former—although the soporific attitude associated with the latter would reflect the band name well.

Currently on a cross-Canada tour in support of *Welcome to the Night Sky*, the guys from Halifax only have time to respond to questions in brief, which guitarist/keyboardist Tim D'eon reveals that the band name has gotten more interesting comments beyond people listing unflattering sleepy synonyms back to them.

“This summer, we were playing at the Evolve Festival in Antigonish, Nova Scotia,” D'eon writes via email. “I was riding with Brian [Borcherdt] from Holy Fuck and [Mike] Bigelow [formerly of Holy Fuck and new Wintersleep bass player] in Brian's van.

“We were blasting Slayer's ‘Reign in Blood’ when we were stopped at the gate of the festival and [were] told to go see this lady about getting our artist passes,” he continues. “She asked what band we were, and Brian said ‘Holy Fuck.’ She replied, ‘I really hate your band name. I come from a Catholic town, and we ripped down all of your posters.’ She looks at me and asks my band's name. I told her and she replies, ‘Now that is a beautiful name. You guys must make nice music.’”

Although they make nice music according to a lot of fans and music critics, D'eon doesn't

seem to fully share this opinion quite yet. When asked if a hypnotic, singable song like “Dead Letter and the Infinite Yes” could become a single for the album, he seemed doubtful.

“I don't know how well it would do as a single, but I'd be up for releasing any of these songs as a single. The reality of it is that it's very difficult to get a song on the radio, especially since most of our songs don't follow the sort of verse-chorus-verse type of thing they like to play.”

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TIM D'EOON
 WINTERSLEEP GUITARIST/KEYBOARDIST

If the growing amount of airplay that “Weighty Ghost,” the first single of the band's new release, is any indication, D'eon is dead wrong. Wintersleep has never before obtained as much radio attention, with both of their previous two untitled albums as they are currently getting with *Welcome to the Night Sky*.

Perhaps the label jump last year from Yarmouth-based Dependent Music to Labwork, a product of the marriage between major label EMI Canada and independent Sonic Unyon is to thank for the renewed interest in Wintersleep as a band. But the move helped the band to gain some recognition in the US by re-releasing their two

previous studio efforts.

That doesn't really explain the change of the band's sound from mellow and melancholic to more lively and epic. Perhaps producer Tony Doogan—who's worked with bands like Mogwai and Belle & Sebastian—is the one to praise. It appears the man has some psychic abilities beyond his musical genius.

“It was great working with [Doogan],” D'eon says. “It's nice to have suggestions from someone who knows very little about the band and the music.”

Under Doogan's guidance, *Welcome to the Night Sky* was sent across the pond to Doogan's ominously named personal studio to be mixed and prepared for release.

“Castle of Doom is actually [Doogan's] Studio in Glasgow. He co-owns the place with the guys in Mogwai. It's a nice old townhouse that was converted into a studio.”

The album itself was recorded at Halifax's Sonic Temple, but Wintersleep has spent so much time touring that they rarely hang around their hometown. D'eon admits that it's due to lack of time spent in the city that he doesn't pay much attention to Halifax's local music scene, although the entire band loves fellow Halifax band Dog Day.

Maybe it's for the best that Wintersleep keep on trekking, as they now have another opportunity to tread on international waters again. While the band continues to search for American labels, they've caught the attention of a Japanese label. Although D'eon's tight-lipped on the subject—“I probably shouldn't name [it] until it's official,” he says—that label will release their albums in Japan.

So while Wintersleep are silent on topics discussing what concepts are behind the new record or what stories shaped its sound, disinterest isn't the reason why. Not only has the band pushed hard to attain recognition beyond Halifax and consequently, Canada, they've managed to develop music that's more accessible to those outside of the hipster crowd but at the same time remains imaginative.