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# Wolves let fans dance magique dance

The Montreal band mix experimental dance music with a twist of pop stylings

## musicpreview

### We Are Wolves

With Jane Vain and The Dark Matter  
Saturday, 26 January at 8pm  
The Pawn Shop (10549 82 Avenue)

VANESSA HORNE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer



When you first listen to the music of We Are Wolves, you're immediately struck by the raw, experimental, animalistic freedom in their sound. Soon you find yourself getting wrapped up in the drive, and you can't stop yourself from dancing.

As Alexander Ortiz, bassist and vocalist for the trio, explains, the experience of their music is something that's meant to be shared by the band—Ortiz, Vincent Levesque on keyboard and vocals, and Antonin Marquis on drums and vocals—and a crowd of dancing fans.

"The main important element of everything we do [is] the relation we have with the public and the people who are there and the way we share it. I really perceive it as a ritual in a tribal community, and every part of the community is important—that's what gives the vibe of dancing and going insane and crazy."

Describing his band's sound as "garage rock with electronic," Ortiz explains that they have "the energy of the garage rock [but] with synthesizers and drum machines and effects like post-funk."

However, there's also a multicultural element to their music that further intensifies the experience. Ortiz, who's also Spanish, acknowledges that his trilingual upbringing has a significant influence in their music.

"I speak Spanish," Ortiz says. "It had an influence on the whole education I had when I was younger, the French education and the English. It's the mixture of all those cultural elements and maybe the European influence that is present in Montreal and [its] language."

The first single off their sophomore album *Total Magique*, "Fight & Kiss," illustrates their approach to life, relationships, and music.

"In general, relationships and everything that is a relation is always like that. It's never that easy; it's never black or white; it's never simple love or simple pleasure and being happy," Ortiz explains.

"It takes a lot of violence and destruction. All those elements make it complete, and it's because of those elements of aggressiveness and destruction and hate that love becomes so important and that's the whole part of relationships."

However, Ortiz maintains that the band's music isn't all fury.

"Even though our music is kind of harsh, we still kind of like pop music,

and so we try to work it out the pop way, but [that's] not necessarily what comes out," Ortiz adds.

This duality of severe punk emotionality and pop influences gives We Are Wolves that hard-hitting dance vibe, and on their latest album, *Total Magique*, the subject matter is as Ortiz puts it, "concept du magique"

"It's all about the idea of magic more than the magic itself. The way you perceive magic and try to interpret magic, but it's not that easy. The fact is that you don't really know what is going on, and you kind of want to know," Ortiz admits, adding that listeners and concertgoers can expect a show to add a dash of mystery to the overall experience.

And mystery is important with so many other wolf-christened bands scampering around. Despite the fact that such band names seem to be common, We Are Wolves lives up to theirs, keeping their dance tunes unapologetically wild. And being a wolf band isn't all bad jokes.

"Most of all the bands that I know who are wolf are pretty good," he says. "At least we don't suck all together."

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