

Faunts find new fans through concocting their own 8-bit symphony

musicpreview

The Faunts

Part of Video Games Live and the Video Games Live After Party
Sunday, 17 February
Jubilee Auditorium at 8pm, The Starlite Room at 9pm

KRISTINA DE GUZMAN
Arts & Entertainment Staff

If being given the opportunity to provide music scores to some short films wasn't cool enough, it's undoubtedly cooler to have one of those reworked songs chosen to be in a positively reviewed, award-winning video game—not to mention one owned by over 1.5 million people by the time it had reached its sixth week of infancy.

"M4 Pt. II", written by local experimental band The Faunts, is the track playing during the closing credits of *Mass Effect*, a sci-fi-like action role-playing video game created by local game developer BioWare for the Xbox 360 and one of the best-selling video games of 2007. This weekend, the quintet is playing twice—first at the Jubilee Auditorium to premiere "M4 Pt. II" for Video Games Live, and following right after at the Starlite Room to perform a full set.

It would be perfectly understandable for any musician to jump at the chance to play a video game just so he can catch his own song, but surprisingly for some of The Faunts, including bassist Scott Gallant, playing *Mass Effect* remains unchecked on their to-do list.

"I don't think we're skilled enough



video gamers to finish the game," Gallant modestly admits. "But we've seen it on YouTube. You can search it, and they'll have the credits on there, so we've seen that, so we know what it looks like and what it sounds like."

Originally meant to provide the background music to some Film and Video Association films, "M4 Pt. II" and a number of other tracks were redone to provide the repertoire for the band's EP *M4* before

Mass Effect came into play.

With so many copies of the game being sold, there are bound to be gamers who find themselves digging The Faunts' track, doing a little research, and subsequently, buying *M4*. Gallant doesn't quite have a story that fits that formula, but people have let the band know that they've noticed.

"On our MySpace page, if you look down on the comments, there are people from all over the world who have said, 'Oh, I heard your song on

Mass Effect—I'm checking you guys out,'" Gallant explains. "It's been very cool to see."

Things have improved immensely for The Faunts since their cross-country American tour two years ago to promote their last album, *High Expectations/Low Results*, was suddenly cancelled due to visa problems.

Fortunately for Gallant, who joined the band only a year and a half ago, he didn't have to deal with the hassles of

seeing a well-planned tour go down the drain. Hopefully it stays that way when the band makes another attempt to tour the States this summer.

"We're planning to tour a little bit in July; we're probably going to tour the east coast, and then in August, we're probably going to play the west coast."

The Faunts are also in the process of recording their next full-length album which Gallant reveals is more than halfway done.



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