

one of these days i'm going to cut you into little pieces

THE AUSTIN

CHERUBS

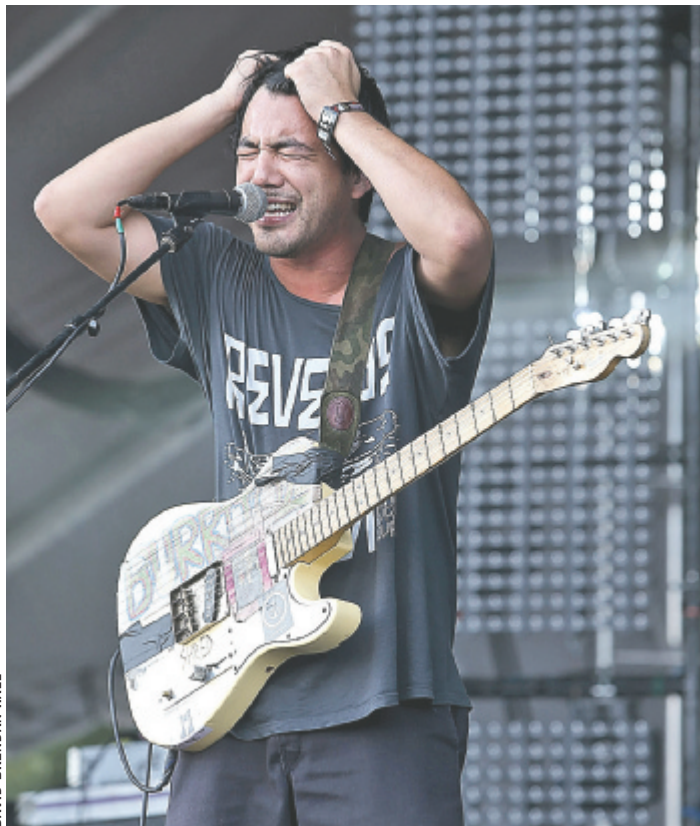


CHERUBS
GO MEDIEVAL
ON YOUR SOS
THIS SUNDAY

PHOTO BY JOHN ANDERSON

SOUND ON SOUND
P R E V I E W

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE
SOUND ON SOUND
 ON
SOUND
 PREVIEW
FRIDAY



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

"I'm not 20 years old anymore, so I'm a little bit more conscious of song structure and everything."

Fidlar

10:25pm, Forest stage

"People at festivals are there to rage and fucking go for it, and we're there to prove to them that we're better than the band playing after us," says FidlAR frontman Zac Carper with a laugh.

The singer/guitarist at the helm of the acronymed L.A. party-punk quartet – "Fuck It Dog, Life's a Risk" – reflects on the band's graduation from grimy clubs and booze-soaked house shows to massive festival stages around the world in just a few years.

"Since we've started playing bigger venues, I'm not so worried about the energy being nonstop," continues Carper. "The first record was, start to finish, just on 11 the whole time. The second record, I started to learn how to do pre-choruses and bridges and all these different kinds of things."

He's talking about the sneering, hyper-speed debauchery odes of FidlAR's eponymous debut ("Cheap Beer," "Cocaine," "Wake Bake Skate") vs. last year's *Too*, which brims with hooks, blues, and power-pop excursions. Muscular production comes courtesy of Jay Joyce, better known for his work with Keith Urban and Faith Hill.

"That sets us apart from other bands, [where] everything has to sound lo-fi and garage-y and all this stuff," points out the animated stage bohemian. "I don't believe in that. I listen to fucking Weezer."

Too also chronicles the growing pains of Carper, 29, who kicked drugs then wrote about the sheer monotony of sobriety. For the skate maven to recycle the three-chord ragers of yore would have been inauthentic.

"You gotta stay true to punk rock, blah blah blah, the scene," scoffs Carper of purists who complain of FidlAR's evolution. "I'm not 20 years old anymore, so I'm a little bit more conscious of song structure and everything."

He pauses, smirk nearly audible on the other end of the line. "Which is probably gonna fuck me in the end." – Bryan Rolli



DEPRESSED AT THE FAIRE

by Libby Webster

Into It. Over It. (Fri., 5pm, Forest stage)

Concept project from Chicago emo vet Evan Weiss swings from acoustic emo to full rockin' band.

Cursive (Fri., 5:20pm, Dragon's Lair stage)

Omaha outfit made it big on 2003's critically beloved *The Ugly Organ*, Tim Kasher's about-to-cry vocals and frantic, mathy guitar lines leading the way.

▲ Touché Amoré (Fri., 9:15pm, the Keep stage)

New kids on the screamo block: Los Angeles-based, fast-paced, and crushing.

Recover (Sun., 4:25pm, Dragon's Lair stage)

Austin-sown fourpiece operates on the more abrasive, harder edge of emo. No new material since an indefinite hiatus in late 2005.

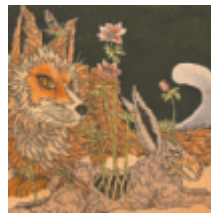
Protomartyr (Sun., 9:20pm, the Keep stage)

Soul-crushing on a global level, serving up gritty, dystopian sermons by way of Detroit. Grating, off-kilter post-punk delivered in Joe Casey's bored drawl.

Planes Mistaken for Stars

Prey (Deathwish)

Like a bear after a long hibernation, Planes Mistaken for Stars roars to life on *Prey*, the Denver quartet's first LP in a decade. Blending punk, metal, and art rock, dynamic metallic shifts support swathes of elevated feedback as hardcore drum explosions lay foundations for Gared O'Donnell's hoarse croon. The action flick rage of "Til It Clicks" contrasts the garage-rock clangor of "She Who Steps" and atmospheric dream wave of "Alabaster Cello." The flying fists of "Riot Season" spit out the genre mash-ups lean and mean. Leavening distorted crunch with anthemic melody and obscuring emo heartbeats with waves of noise, PMFS bangs its head while gazing shoe-ward. **(Fri., 3:55pm, the Keep stage)** ★★★

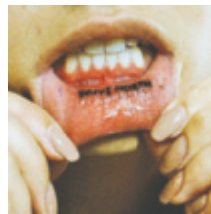


– Michael Toland

SWMRS

Drive North (Uncool)

SWMRS is no accident. After two straight-shot punk albums as Emily's Army, the rebranded Oakland quartet debuts as SWMRS on *Drive North*, produced by FidlAR frontman Zac Carper and counting Billie Joe Armstrong's son Joey on drums. Fusing Japandroids' ferocity and Black Flag's cacophony, the band gamely sticks to genre basics: wheelbarrow bass ("Uncool"), youthful abandonment ("Harry Dean"), and distortion ("BRB"). *Drive North* speeds with enough teenage angst and raw vigor to coalesce into an onslaught of gleefully twisted mayhem. **(Fri., 4:05pm, Forest stage)** ★★★

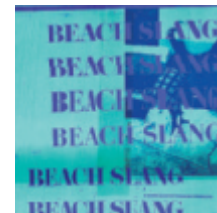


– Alejandra Ramirez

Beach Slang

A Loud Bash of Teenage Feelings (Polyvinyl)

Ally Sheedy's *Breakfast Club* character warned, "When you grow up, your heart dies." Not so, says Beach Slang bandleader James Alex, whose 42-year-old heart still pumps fierce, gory, and earnest indie-punk anthems. The Philadelphian parades his Replacements adoration throughout 10 brisk tracks, hardening emo themes with a punk-lite edge, his lyrics preserving the sting of adolescence. "I never belonged," whines the singer on "Spin the Dial," though he ultimately prevails thanks to music. Duds ("Warpaint") detract from gems ("Hot Tramps"), energy falling short of 2015's *The Things We Do to Find People Who Feel Like Us*. If BS's LP titles sound so corny they're painful, Alex's POV remains imminently relatable. **(Fri., 6:05pm, the Keep stage)** ★★★



– Neph Basedow

Guided by Voices

Please Be Honest (Rockathon)

Regressing to points along GBV's Eighties timeline, sole mainstay Robert Pollard wrote every word and played every instrument on the Dayton-ers' 23rd LP. Following opening anthem "My Zodiac Companion," the playful melody and slinking bass of "Kid on a Ladder" evokes 1995 group high-water mark *Alien Lanes*. Several of *PBH's* 15 tracks stop short of blossoming into the hooky, soaring choruses for which GBV were revered – half bar band, half Grand Funk Railroad – but the title track won't disappoint via breezy-but-glum lo-fi. Bizarro flecks ("Sad Baby Eyes") recall the 58-year-old frontman's Frogs-like eccentricity. If fans approach this idiosyncratic half-hour listen like a Pollard solo work rather than band output, it assimilates a slightly disjointed but fascinating character study. **(Fri., 6:40pm, Dragon's Lair stage)** ★★★



– Neph Basedow

Death Grips**Bottomless Pit (Third Worlds/Harvest)**

Radical rap, strained through absurdity and grotesqueness, Death Grips' fifth full-length effectively services – and disrupts – both punk and hip-hop. Abrasive starter "Giving Bad People Good Ideas," featuring Cherry Glazerr vocalist Clementine Creevy, leans into jagged, rusty knives electro paranoia. The swirling, somewhat low key (for Death Grips) *Bottomless Pit* finds MC Ride rapping in his speaking voice like a vintage Tricky minus the Bristol accent. Ride bangs on the opposition in drone-bass standout "Bubbles Buried in This Jungle," the Sacramento duo's mouthpiece blurting, "Fuck weak, no respect, no chance." *Bottomless Pit* is Grips' best and most accessible work since legend-making *The Money Store*.

(Fri., 7:55pm, Dragon's Lair stage)

★★★



– Kahron Spearman

Hinds Leave Me Alone (Mom + Pop)

A rare instance in which the LP art looks exactly as the album sounds: a low-quality snapshot, too bright flash, and the band unkempt and drinking beer. The debut from Madrid's Hinds could easily fit into the young, unpolished ilk filling up the sprawling roster of L.A.'s Burger Records. The four women deliver "San Diego" heads a-bopping, the tambourine-laden, bratty sing-song with a chugging drumbeat proving the album's biggest earwig along with the frustrated "Warts." Addictive little hooks, "I'll Be Your Man" plies a sweet, slowing love song. Not quite a party record, *Leave Me Alone* fuels messy rock with sunny guitar lines. **(Fri., 9:20pm, Forest stage)**

★★★



– Libby Webster

Thee Oh Sees**A Weird Exits (Castle Face)**

Seventeenth album from the freaky forefathers of California skuzz, *A Weird Exits* somehow captures Thee Oh Sees at their best. Led by manic John Dwyer, the prolific and pulverizing San Fran fourpiece incorporates the usual: lyrics blurred into oblivion by distorted, ethereal vocals above a thrash of ripping, fuzz guitars and caveman drums, Dwyer's shouts of "wool!" punctuating the madness. Spacey instrumental "Jammed Entrance," organ-driven "The Axis," and the nearly eight-minute "Crawl Out From the Fall Out" offer some reprieve from more propulsive cuts "Gelatinous Cube" and "Dead Man's Gun," which conjure up sloshing beer and moshing bodies in dim, dirty venues. **(Fri., 10:25pm, the Keep stage)**

★★★★



– Libby Webster

DREAM POP by Abby Johnston**Empress Of (Fri., 8:15pm, Forest stage)**

Spanish-Honduran Brooklynite Lorely Rodriguez pops with trippy R&B on 2015 debut LP *Me*.

The Relationship (Sat., 3:10pm, Dragon's Lair stage)

Weezer guitarist Brian Bell stretches his legs along with hummable pop choruses marked by fuzz guitar.

► **Beach House (Sat., 9:15pm, Dragon's Lair stage)** Stormy Baltimore synth duo rooted by Victoria Legrand's sultry French alto dropped both its fifth (*Depression Cherry*) and sixth (*Thank Your Lucky Stars*) LPs last year.

Purity Ring (Sat., 10:55pm, Dragon's Lair stage) Canadian duo brought post-dub to the masses through seductive layers of bass over pop hooks on 2015 sophomore full-length *Another Eternity*.

**Phantogram****Three (Fiction/Republic)**

Third albums normally find artists planting ceremonial flags, often statements of mastery. Beset by the suicide of singer Sarah Barthel's older sister, *Three* arrives with a weight hovering over electro pop-hop duo Phantogram. Soulful follow-up to last year's Big Boi co-feature EP *Big Grams*, the Voices of Conquest-sampled "Same Old Blues" and boom-bap-crunched "Cruel World" and "You're Mine" all venture into sonic realms previously unexplored by the Greenwich Village, NYC, concern. "And hurt people hurt people too," howls Josh Carter on "Barking Dog," a track explicitly confronting the death in the room. Not without failings, such as the power ballad "Destroyer," the lower points temper the album's explosiveness. **(Fri., 10:45pm, Dragon's Lair stage)**

★★★



– Kahron Spearman

Descendents**Hypercaffium Spazzinate (Epitaph)**

"Started out with nothing to say/ In a carpet cave we learned how to play/ We didn't know that this would last forever." So concedes iconic, bespectacled frontman Milo "I Don't Want to Grow Up" Aukerman on the first new Descendents LP since 2004's *Cool to Be You*. SoCal's proto-nerdcore smartasses have inevitably aged since their 1981 debut *Fat EP*, but you'd never know it from this caffeinated comeback, which crams 16 snap, crackle, and punk tracks into a 31-minute blast of pure pop-punk abandon. "Feel This" offers blunt, eyes-wide testimony to the health hardships of the Redondo Beach quartet's latter-day sainthood – a heart attack for bassist Karl Alvarez, skinsman Bill Stevenson's brain tumor. "Victim of Me" cuts zero slack to a culture of victimization, while serio-comic tirade "No Fat Burger" retorts early singles "Weinerschnitzel" and "I Like Food." Muscular production from the Blasting Room's Jason Livermore brings Stephen Egerton's melodic guitar to the forefront, and Alvarez and Stevenson's lockstep percussion sounds downright youthful. **(Fri., 11:40pm, Forest stage)**

★★★★



– Marc Savlov

WAR ON WOMEN 3pm, the Keep stage

A hardcore punk band that sharpens brains and teeth equally. The Baltimore badasses' eponymous LP pivoted solely on the everyday violence and injustice experienced by women, whether it be abortion rights, the wage gap, rape, or misogynistic YouTube comments. Shawna Potter hollers each line with visceral rage over a sonic mixture of metal and punk, fighting to make her voice heard. – Libby Webster

DIET CIG 3:20pm, Dragon's Lair stage

Recalling early Best Coast's unpolished lo-fi, New York duo Diet Cig exudes exuberant youthfulness, an explosion of frenzied, devil-may-care adolescence. Live, Alex Luciano, the guitarist and 21-year-old front-lady navigating infatuation and burning exes through simple, guitar-driven slop-pop, thrashes about like she's spiraling out of control. Revisit the candid, enthusiastic fervor of kids who just started their first band. – Libby Webster

THUNDERCAT 11:40pm, the Keep stage

Hard to make bass the lead instrument unless you're Bootsie Collins or Thundercat. Boasting the cosmic bass swirls in Erykah Badu's *New Amerykah* (2008) and Kendrick Lamar's *To Pimp a Butterfly* (2015), Stephen Bruner's heavy-lidded melodies and feather falsetto take you through watercolor jazz streams, rapid-fire funk vamps, and bebop improvisations. 2011 debut *The Golden Age of Apocalypse* and follow-up *Apocalypse* combine for a cosmic opus. – Alejandra Ramirez

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THE AUSTIN **CHRONICLE**
SOUND ON SOUND
PREVIEW
SATURDAY

RAP by Kahron Spearman

Denzel Curry (Fri., 7:10pm, the Keep stage) Adventurous Florida rapper formerly associated with SpaceGhostPurrp puts a mainstream shine on lo-fi cloud rap via this year's second full-length *Imperial*.



Death Grips (Fri., 7:55pm, Dragon's Lair stage) Sacramento experimental/industrial rap outfit known for ultra-abrasion – and getting themselves dropped from Epic Records after a dick-measuring contest.

Run the Jewels (Fri., 9:15pm, Dragon's Lair stage) Currently reading *RTJ 3*, the Atlanta/NYC duo just released its vicious first track, "Talk to Me."

Big Boi (Sat., 7:40pm, Dragon's Lair stage) ATLien and one half of legendary Outkast, known for spiffire pimpiness and consciousness. Also in Big Grams, a side project with SOS headliner Phantogram.

Aesop Rock (Sat., 10:25pm, Forest stage) Portland abstractionist MC released his latest, *The Impossible Kid*, complete with album visual – a miniature remake of Kubrick's *The Shining*.

Wale (Sun., 5:30pm, Dragon's Lair stage) D.C. underdog with two past *Billboard* No. 1s readies a new full-length, *Shine (Still Here, Ignoring Negative Energy)*.

Young Thug (Sun., 7:55pm, Dragon's Lair stage) Eccentric Atlanta rapper reimagines the hazy parameters of mumble rap/trap on latest commercial mixtape *Jeffery*.

A-Trak (Sun., 11:40pm, Forest stage) Fool's Gold owner and festival-thrower released remix EPs *Parallel Lines* (featuring Phantogram) and *Lose My Mind* with signee Tommy Trash.



Car Seat Headrest

7:10pm, Forest stage

"I want to produce something that cements my reputation as something more than a one-album-wonder."

That's the hope of Car Seat Headrest brainchild Will Toledo, anyway. In one year's time, the Virginian swelled his bedroom project

into an ever-touring rock fourpiece with two label-supported LPs. Last year's *Teens of Style* marked the then-23-year-old's Matador Records debut, trailed by May's *Teens of Denial*. Mingling the early naivete of Ben Kweller with Guided by Voices' finessed alt-raucousness, the South by Southwest veteran's songs capture life as-is: good, bad, bewildering.

"Pushing outside your comfort zone is a big part of making art," says the College of William & Mary graduate. "I've always tried to make my music personal. *Denial* is definitely in that vein."

This year's disc lessened the guitarist's initial lo-fi while upping the decibel quotient. Spilled guts, as always, fell front and center. Particularly stirring, "Costa Concordia" climbs slowly toward its peak, the English major's free-flow laundry-list one of confessions/resentments: "How the hell was I supposed to steer this ship?" he pleads.

"If there's one thing [Denial] lacks, it's empathy," says Toledo.

"That's a song we don't always put on the set list," he admits. "It's difficult for me to perform."

Toledo's brainy/innocent air – Rivers Cuomo meets McLovin – continues scanning far wiser than the work of most twentysomethings.

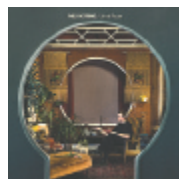
"Many of my favorite artists were making music at my age," he notes, citing David Bowie and Kurt Cobain's respective magnum opuses, *Space Oddity* and *Nevermind*. "Now seems like the appropriate time to be fronting a rock band!"

When not touring, the Airbnb-hopper writes CSH's next album. "If there's one thing [Denial] lacks, it's empathy," he says. "The next record is all about empathy. I'm in a better mental state this year. The next album will reflect that." – Neph Basedow

Wild Nothing

Life of Pause
(Captured Tracks)

Amidst Wild Nothing's pessimistic synth catalog, *Life of Pause* births a sunny jaunt gleaming with footloose disco and ebullient, funk-glossed pop. Rising out of a bedroom shoegaze revival, Virginian Jack Tatum's 2010 debut *Gemini* and sophomore *Nocturne* two years later remain solitary swashes of moody guitars and sulky introspection. *Life of Pause* loses these moments in favor of lush waves of warm electronics and buoyant soul that coalesce into Neon Glo flourishes. Seventies-kissed "Whenever I," slow-burned yacht vamp "Alien," and psychedelic-swirled "Adore" leave behind doleful ruminations for glam optimism. (Sat., 4:10pm, Dragon's Lair stage) ★★★

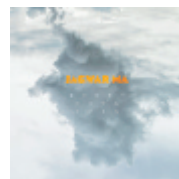


– Alejandra Ramirez

Jagwar Ma

Every Now & Then
(Mom + Pop)

Jagwar Ma's sophomore album drops in on the Australian trio pushing even more anthemic, beats gunning for stadiums and the dance floor alike. Like 2003 debut *Howlin*, the outfit bleeds Primal Scream psychedelia cut with an earnestness and optimism washing up in the wake of Animal Collective's *Merriwether Post Pavilion*. "Can we be real?" asks "Say What You Feel," setting up intoxicating grooves in "Give Me a Reason" and skuzzy, hypnotic lead single "OB1." The second LP mines elements from their debut, but pushes bigger and more ambitious with plenty of room left to grow. (Sat., 8:15pm, Forest stage) ★★★



– Doug Freeman

The Dillinger Escape Plan

Dissociation (Party Smasher/Cooking Vinyl)

With 10 feet in several camps, New Jersey's Dillinger Escape Plan whips back and forth between dissonant thrash and brooding prog rock on its allegedly final studio LP. The blazing "Limerent Death" snaps necks at 100 paces, but the lush "Low Feels Blvd" soothes the afflicted. "Honeysuckle" splits the difference, brass knuckles on one hand and a silken glove on the other. The group's ability to gracefully navigate its pop-eyed eclecticore gives it a precision and power its legion of imitators can't touch. (Sat., 11:40pm, the Keep stage) ★★★



– Michael Toland

SHEET MUSIC by Tim Stegall

My Damage: The Story of a Punk Rock Survivor

by Keith Morris, with Jim Ruland
Da Capo, 336 pp., \$24.99

"I was a burnout/ I was a dropout/ I was out of my head," screamed Hermosa Beach native Keith Morris in his hardcore punk anthem "Wasted," off Black Flag's 1979 debut EP *Nervous Breakdown*. Declaring himself "fucked up," "messed up," "drunk up," "jacked up," he's ultimately "so wasted." Assisted by longtime punk zine writer Jim Ruland, the singer reiterates this through a hefty chunk of his engaging memoir, albeit with far more wit. Along the way, he recaptures the long-gone America of the Sixties and Seventies, and U.S. punk's evolution into the louder/harder/faster distillation of hardcore. Morris plays a central role in the timeline, first as Black Flag's initial singer, then in Golden State slam-rock's ultimate party band the Circle Jerks. Which makes *My Damage* far more important than a *Behind the Music* episode. Ruland stays so transparent the entire thing reads with Morris' unique, raspy beach drawl, your brain creating an instant audiobook for characteristic lines like, "[Black Flag leader] Greg Ginn had already graduated from UCLA, where I imagine he received a degree in screwing people over and becoming an all-powerful dictator." (Flag, Keith Morris and other ex-Black Flag members: Sat., 9:20pm, Forest stage)





JOHN ANDERSON

AUSTIN JOUSTERS A–Z by Kevin Curtin

American Sharks (Sat., 4pm, the Keep stage)

Superfast stoner-rock trio thunders drums, latent pop, and Seventies glam-fluences.

Anya (Sat., 1:30pm, Forest stage)

Femcee throws agile raps with thoughtful lyricism and soul.

BoomBaptist (Sun., 2:20pm, Forest stage)

Breakout beatmaker Andrew Thaggard, of Austin's Applied Pressure crew, brings a technician's touch to hip-hop, bass music, and forward-thinking electronic sounds.

Boyfrndz (Fri., 1:30pm, Dragon's Lair stage)

Instrumentally restless and heavy math-rock quartet with a penchant for prog-pop.

Calliope Musicals (Fri., 2:20pm, Dragon's Lair stage)

Jubilant psych-folk ensemble dosed with LSD.

▲ Cherubs (Sun., 6:05pm, the Keep stage)

Legendary noise rock misfits still wield a warped sonic depravity after a 22-year hiatus.

Emily Wolfe (Sun., 1:30pm, Dragon's Lair stage)

Guitar-wielding singer-songwriter with a fetching voice dishing garage blues and catchy indie.

Explosions in the Sky (Sun., 10:45pm, Dragon's Lair stage)

Musical Mt. Everest whose delay-heavy instrumentals thrive on April's seventh LP *The Wilderness*.

Fragile Rock (Sat., 1:20pm, Globe stage)

Talk to the hand: Emo puppet band gets deep with googly eyes.

Hard Proof (Sat., 2:20pm, Dragon's Lair stage)

Afrobeat 10-piece cooks up muscular grooves with brass and beats.

Leopold & His Fiction (Sun., 2:20pm, Dragon's Lair stage)

Former Cowboy & Indian vocalist continues his glammy alternative blues-rock project. Recent single "Cowboy" supercharges a Leadbelly classic.

Magna Carda (Fri., 3:10pm, Forest stage)

Ferocious rapper Megz Kelli and dreamy producer Dougie Do.

Midgetmen (Fri., 1:30pm, the Keep stage)

Austin's endearing indie/punk hobbyists – sick of covering *Weird Al* – play *This Is Spinal Tap* in full.

Moving Panoramas (Sat., 1:30pm, Dragon's Lair stage)

Dream pop times shoegaze equals dream gaze as fronted by singer/guitarist Leslie Sisson.

Night Drive (Sun., 3:10pm, Forest stage)

Driving, synth, electro-pop co-fronted by Brandon Duhon and Rodney Connell.

Orthy (Sat., 3:10pm, Forest stage)

Pulsing celestial pop from a hybrid electronic/live band led by songwriter/producer Ian Orth.

Protector (Fri., 2:20pm, Forest stage)

Clever hip-hop wordsmith, formerly known as P-Tek, spits confessional cultural commentary.

Sailor Poon (Sun., 1:30pm, the Keep stage)

Here are the "nasty women" Trump was talking about: filthy feminist garage-punk group singing about daddy issues and butt-gushing.

US Weekly (Sat., 2:20pm, the Keep stage)

Explosive screamer Christopher Nordahl leads this nervy, No Wave, unconventional punk quartet.

GIRLS AGAINST BOYS

9:20pm, the Keep stage

Double bass attack, D.C. hardcore roots, demimonde dance-floor aspirations, and decadent ambience: These Girls aren't like other boys. Classic *Venus Luxure No. 1 Baby* and *House of GVSB* defined the Nineties alt-rock underground. Reactivated in 2013 after a decade-long absence, the NYC quartet hasn't released new music since that year's *The Ghost List* EP, but its sleazy noir rock remains timelessly potent. – Michael Toland



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THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE
SOUND ON SOUND
 PREVIEW
SUNDAY

PUNK A-Z by Tim Stegall

Bleached (Sat., 4pm, the Forest stage)

A rawer, more pissed-off Go-Go's for the Burger Records generation.

Dead Milkmen (Sat., 5:15pm, Dragon's Lair stage) Funniest punk band of the Eighties, wiseguy anthems like "Bitchin' Camaro" out of Philly.

Diarrhea Planet (Sat., 7:10pm, the Keep stage) Nashville garage-punk sixpiece with horrible name and great, catchy, raw, heart-on-sleeve songs.

Good Riddance (Fri., 5pm, the Keep stage) Nineties skatecore quartet from Santa Cruz rips far rawer than most of their Fat Wreck Chords labelmates.



▲ **Metz** (Sat., 8:15pm, the Keep stage) Young Ottawans proving Helmet and Sonic Youth still loom large in the punk universe.

The Monkeywrench (Sun., 7:10pm, the Keep stage) Reactivation of garage-blues supergroup featuring Mudhoney's Mark Arm and Steve Turner, and local punk godfather Tim Kerr (Big Boys), the latter thankfully returning to electric music after too long an absence.

Piñata Protest (Fri., 2:10pm, the Keep stage) San Antonians create a true fusion of punk and conjunto, complete with Spanglish and accordion.

Shannon & the Clams (Fri., 4:20pm, Dragon's Lair stage) Oakland garage-pop powerhouse rooted in the Shangri-Las and Ramones.

Youth of Today (Sat., 10:25pm, the Keep stage) Second-wave NYC straightedge hardcore still featuring fierce vocalist Ray Cappo.



Thursday

6:40pm, Dragon's Lair stage

In hindsight, "Stay True" – closing track on Thursday's sixth and most recent album, 2011's *No Devolución* – was a sign. A warning to younger bands about music industry trials and tribulations, it sounded like a swan song.

"That was what it was," confirms singer Geoff Rickly. "It was a great place for us to say we've made some kind of mark, and it's time to pass it on to kids that are better than us and more compassionate than us."

Thursday never explained what forces ripped them apart, except they were personal. For five years, the furiously intimate and poetically political post-hardcore icons fractured.

"The band missed Thursday, the fans missed Thursday, but we [the group] can't stand to be around each other."

This wasn't just any split. Thursday connected with its loyal audience – emotionally, purposefully.

"In the beginning, I would bring a notebook with me, and

everyone that wanted my signature had to give me theirs and write me a note," remembers the frontman.

Promises of reunions evaporated because the band members weren't even talking. But ice thaws, bonds reforge, like guitarist Tom Keeley naming his new son after drummer Tucker Rule.

"All of a sudden, things were working again. And then it was, 'Holy shit, if it's working again, maybe it's time to play again!'" exclaims Rickly.

Now the white dove – their iconic logo, both fragile and resilient – flies again, with SOS the last stop on a summerlong reconnection. It's been a return to the old days and Rickly's sing-scream call-and-response with the crowd, face to face, eye to eye.

"We were one of the first bands to reach that size and say, 'There's no difference between us and you.' There's no hero worship with Thursday."

– Richard Whittaker

"The band missed Thursday, the fans missed Thursday, but we [the group] can't stand to be around each other."

The Frights

You Are Going to Hate This (Dangerbird)

Production by Fidler's Zac Carper explains the similarities in sound between both sets of SoCal grunge punks, the Frights churning out compelling, surprisingly emotional cuts. Most of debut long-player *You Are Going to Hate This* turns on fleeting youth and various stages of love, more forlorn than not, but the inner turmoil often gets buried by the surfy doo-wop and tsunami of petulant punk. "Afraid of the Dark" and "Puppy Knuckles," both clean, measured, and thoughtful, capture the band at its best, as does "Growing Up," which finds the San Diego trio indulging more cerebral self-loathing. (Sun., 4pm, Forest stage)

★★★



– Libby Webster

Young Thug Jeffery

 (Atlantic)

Originally *No, My Name Is Jeffery* – as initially announced by Atlantic Records head Lyor Cohen – the charismatic mumble rap of Young Thug's third retail mixtape (and rebrand) explores the evolution of an enigma. First off, actual songs and their titles – like the album moniker – have changed or disappeared. "Kanye West" was once "Pop Man." Midtempo banger "Floyd Mayweather" didn't feature Travis Scott's vox. What remains is a tight, 42-minute affair, with unique undertones of hood romance openly referring to his fiancée Jerrika, especially "RiRi" and Wyclef Jean-assisted standout "Kanye West." Young Thug's typical trapped-out accoutrement – the heavy gunplay and misogyny – have begun an evaporation process. In its place, *Jeffery* redefines what rap could be going forward. (Sun., 7:55pm, Dragon's Lair stage)

★★★★



– Kahron Spearman

Courtney Barnett

9:15pm, Dragon's Lair stage

Courtney Barnett's full-length debut, *Sometimes I Sit and Think, and Sometimes I Just Sit*, dropped only last year, but the 28-year-old Australian was already well on her way to trademark aesthetics following the fusion of two extended plays on 2014's *The Double EP: A Sea of Split Peas*. A few loud, fuzzy chords into any of her tracks – even before her sing/talk voice hits – and there's no question who's playing that guitar.

Accessible lyricism delivered in her accented deadpan has



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

been her biggest asset, somehow casual and relatable even when she's at her cleverest. The self-effacing "Pedestrian at Best," for example, fills with internal rhyming: "Erroneous, harmonious, I'm hardly sanctimonious/ Dirty clothes, I suppose we all outgrow ourselves." Other tracks simply re-tell the mundane in almost Lou Reed speak.

"I do take notes and they're all over every different possible thing – in my phone or on a piece of paper or in my actual notebook, or I just try to remember them," says Barnett of her writing process. "Normally it's just little scraps of nothing that at the time seem really interesting, just scraps of sentences. I think it's a good way of doing it. It jogs your memory and turns into something else."

"Erroneous, harmonious, I'm hardly sanctimonious/ Dirty clothes, I suppose we all outgrow ourselves."

"I try to separate it, but realistically, I think that's kind of a hard thing to totally eliminate. It's always popping up, or people are always saying things that get me thinking about it," laughs Barnett. "I don't think I really care that much."

A pause.

"Well, I don't know, that's a weird thing to say. I think I'm starting to care less about what people think about me."

– Libby Webster



Carcass 11:40pm, the Keep stage

Carcass defied its own name not once, but twice. First, when bassist/vocalist Jeff Walker and guitarist Bill Steer resurrected the band in 2008 after a 13-year hiatus. Then, the quartet released 2013's *Surgical Steel*, a comeback album every bit as savage as anything from its original run (1985-95).

The Liverpool metallurgists helped pioneer two different subgenres – grindcore and death metal – and the band's chewy thrash hasn't softened a jot since. Though there's no new music on the immediate horizon ("Maybe we'll keep you hanging," chuckles Walker), Carcass currently rampages across America with *Deafheaven* and *Inter Arma* on its way to Sound on Sound.

"I like the fact that they provoke a reaction and get up some people's noses," says Walker about the hotly debated *Deafheaven*. "Just like Carcass does, or at least used to, when we were younger!"

The group's previous show in Austin ("A nice oasis of bohemia in Texas," proclaims Walker) occurred on another multi-generational metal package, headlining over the Black Dahlia Murder, Gorguts, and Noisem on the Decibel Magazine Tour in 2014 outside at Mohawk.

"I enjoyed it," remembers Walker. "I recall we ruined a wedding party that was occurring on the hill behind the venue with our racket."

"That didn't feel too good," admits Steer. "But how were we to know?"

The eclectic Sound on Sound will be something of a new experience for the band.

"Looking at the billing, it'll be interesting, to say the least," remarks Walker on Carcass being the only extreme metal act in the lineup. "Hopefully I'll get to catch Bob Mould. No, that's not an STD."

"At least it's a little different from the type of festival we normally get invited to," adds Steer.

**"Hopefully I'll get to catch Bob Mould. No, that's not an STD."
– Jeff Walker**

BULLY

3:20pm, Dragon's Lair stage
Nashville Nineties alterna-rock revivalists rolled through ACL 2014 on the back of a fine 45, "Milkman" b/w "Faceblind," released by local indie Chicken Ranch Records. They played out like a rougher version of the Pixies fronted by nighttime soap *Nashville* character Scarlett O'Connor, in this case shyly seductive bandleader Alicia Boganno. Columbia debut LP *Feels Like* (2015) indicates greatly boosted confidence.
– Tim Stegall

BOB MOULD

8:15pm, Forest stage
Father of Nineties alterna-rock culture, punk icon Bob Mould and his crackerjack band steam into Sherwood Forest straight off a European tour. It'll be the second gig of his final U.S. dates this year promoting one of the former Hüsker Dü frontman's best LPs, *Patch the Sky*, a precision blend of furious noise and delicate songcraft meant to heal a broken heart.
– Tim Stegall

BARONESS

10:25pm, the Keep stage
Savannah, Georgia's finest overcame a UK tour bus crash that nearly killed the band on last December's fourth LP *Purple*. That album's proggy hard rock pushes the quartet into new realms of melodic and anthemic overkill, while bringing back the harder edge of its early material. This will be the band's first Austin appearance since a memorable Mohawk show at the beginning of the *Purple* tour.
– Michael Toland



White Lung Paradise (Domino)

Vancouver's squall-punk rock trio expands on the basement snarl of 2014's *Deep Fantasy* with confessional conflagration. Their bleeding-ear, arena-ready punk production bangs no small amount of unsuspected grace: "I will give birth in a trailer/ Huffing the gas in the air/ Baby is born in molasses/ Like I would even care," howls Mish Way on single "Kiss Me When I Bleed." Backed by Ken William's incendiary guitar and Anne-Marie Vassilou's crack o' doom beats, *Paradise* is – like the acute respiratory distress syndrome they're named for – breathtaking and terrifying in equal measure. (Sun., 8:15pm, the Keep stage)

★★★ – Marc Savlov

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AMMO ARSENAL

DEAD RIVER
22 ENT NOV 12TH
MITCHCREEPER
SLUG

KILLING THE MESSENGER
hostile
NOV 10TH

CRIBS OFF THE CRIBE
NOV 13TH Chernobyl the Secret
Blacktop Syndicate, and Ayasoltec
The Canary Roost Ego's PARDNERS

SOUND ON SOUND FEST SCHEDULE

SHERWOOD FOREST

NOV 4.5.6

#SOSFEST

FRIDAY • NOVEMBER 4

	DRAGON'S LAIR	FOREST STAGE	THE KEEP	GLOBE STAGE
1:00 PM				
2:00 PM	BOYFRNDZ 1:30-2:00		THIS IS SPINAL TAP 1:30-1:50	LAUGH DAMMITI 1:20-2:00
3:00 PM	CALLIOPE MUSICALS 2:20-3:00	PROTEKTOR 2:20-2:50	PIÑATA PROTEST 2:10-2:40	SOS LIVE PODCAST 2:00-3:00
4:00 PM	DIET CIG 3:20-4:00	MAGNA CARDA 3:10-3:45	WAR ON WOMEN 3:00-3:35	THE NEEDLE DROP PODCAST 3:00-4:00
5:00 PM	SHANNON & THE CLAMS 4:20-5:00	SWMRS 4:05-4:45	PLANES MISTAKEN FOR STARS 3:55-4:40	YUNG JAKE 4:00-4:30
6:00 PM	CURSIVE 5:20-6:15	INTO IT OVER IT 5:00-5:45	GOOD RIDDANCE 5:00-5:45	ONE NIGHT STAND DATING GAME 4:30-5:00
7:00 PM	GUIDED BY VOICES 6:40-7:30	CLIPPING. 6:05-6:50	BEACH SLANG 6:05-6:50	JOHNNY PEMBERTON 5:00-5:25
8:00 PM	DEATH GRIPS 7:55-8:45	THE RANGE 7:10-7:55	DENZEL CURRY 7:10-7:50	TODD BARRY 5:25-6:10
9:00 PM		EMPRESS OF 8:15-9:00	TURNSTILE 8:10-8:55	SOS 2 KNIGHT SHOW 6:10-7:10
10:00 PM	RUN THE JEWELS 9:15-10:15	HINDS 9:20-10:05	TOUCHÉ AMORÉ 9:15-10:05	
11:00 PM	PHANTOGRAM 10:45-12:00	FIDLAR 10:25-11:15	THEE OH SEES 10:25-11:15	
12:00 AM		DESCENDENTS 11:40-12:40	THUNDERCAT 11:40-12:30	
1:00 AM				

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 5

	DRAGON'S LAIR	FOREST STAGE	THE KEEP	GLOBE STAGE
1:00 PM				
2:00 PM	MOVING PANORAMAS 1:30-2:00	ANYA 1:30-2:00	CULTURE ABUSE 1:30-2:00	FRAGILE ROCK 1:20-2:00
3:00 PM	HARDPROOF 2:20-2:50	TINY MOVING PARTS 2:20-2:50	US WEEKLY 2:20-2:50	CATHERINE & RYAN'S WEDDING 2:05-2:35
4:00 PM	THE RELATIONSHIP 3:10-3:50	ORTHY 3:10-3:40	RADIOACTIVITY 3:10-3:40	STATESMAN SHOTS PODCAST 2:40-3:40
5:00 PM	WILD NOTHING 4:10-4:55	BLEACHED 4:00-4:40	AMERICAN SHARKS 4:00-4:40	TURNED OUT A PUNK W/ DAMIEN ABRAHAM OF FUCKED UP 3:40-4:40
6:00 PM	DEAD MILKMEN 5:15-6:05	ALEX G 5:00-5:45	SMALL BLACK 5:00-5:45	AIR SEX CHAMPIONS 4:45-5:30
7:00 PM	DEERHUNTER 6:25-7:15	POUYA 6:05-6:50	HEALTH 6:05-6:50	JOE MANDE 5:30-6:00
8:00 PM	BIG BOI 7:40-8:30	CAR SEAT HEADREST 7:10-7:55	DIARRHEA PLANET 7:10-7:55	TIM HEIDECKER 6:00-6:40
9:00 PM		JAGWAR MA 8:15-9:00	METZ 8:15-9:00	SOS 2 KNIGHTS SHOW 6:40-7:40
10:00 PM	BEACH HOUSE 9:15-10:25	FLAG 9:20-10:05	GIRLS AGAINST BOYS 9:20-10:05	
11:00 PM		AESOP ROCK 10:25-11:15	YOUTH OF TODAY 10:25-11:15	
12:00 AM	PURITY RING 11:05-12:05	BOYS NOIZE 11:40-12:40	DILLINGER ESCAPE PLAN 11:40-12:40	
1:00 AM				

SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 6

	DRAGON'S LAIR	FOREST STAGE	THE KEEP	GLOBE STAGE
1:00 PM				
2:00 PM	EMILY WOLFE 1:30-2:00	PSYCHIC TWIN 1:30-2:00	SAILOR POON 1:30-2:00	THE NEW MOVEMENT 1:30-2:00
3:00 PM	LEOPOLD & HIS FICTION 2:20-3:00	BOOMBAPTIST 2:30-2:50	DIE YOUNG 2:20-2:50	GREETINGS FROM QUEER MOUNTAIN 2:05-2:45
4:00 PM	BULLY 3:20-4:05	NIGHT DRIVE 3:10-3:40	ILLUSTRATIONS 3:10-3:40	EVER MAINARD 2:45-3:05
5:00 PM	RECOVER 4:25-5:10	THE FRIGHTS 4:00-4:40	YOUTH CODE 4:00-4:40	ALTERCATION PUNK COMEDY 3:05-3:55
6:00 PM	WALE 5:30-6:15	OPEN MIKE EAGLE 5:00-5:45	OLD MAN GLOOM 5:00-5:45	SOS LIVE PODCAST 4:00-5:00
7:00 PM	THURSDAY 6:40-7:30	KERO KERO BONITO 6:05-6:50	CHERUBS 6:05-6:50	NEW YORK HARDCORE PANEL FEATURING YOUTH OF TODAY 5:00-6:00
8:00 PM	YOUNG THUG 7:55-8:45	BAIO 7:10-7:55	THE MONKEY WRENCH 7:10-7:55	PUSSY RIOT CONVERSATION 6:00-7:00
9:00 PM		BOB MOULD 8:15-9:00	WHITE LUNG 8:15-9:00	SOS 2 KNIGHT SHOW 7:05-8:05
10:00 PM	COURTNEY BARNETT 9:15-10:25	STRFKR 9:20-10:05	PROTOMARTYR 9:20-10:05	
11:00 PM	EXPLOSIONS IN THE SKY 10:45-12:00	BIG FREEDIA 10:25-11:15	BARONESS 10:25-11:15	
12:00 AM		A-TRAK 11:40-12:40	CARCASS 11:40-12:40	
1:00 AM				

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FRIDAY • NOV 4

DOWNTOWN AUSTIN

MOHAWK

"SPECIAL GUEST"

LVL UP

BRANDON CAN'T

DANCE

BARRACUDA

"SPECIAL GUEST"

ANGEL DU\$T

BIG BITE

KRIMEWATCH

RAZORBUMPS

SIDEWINDER

"SPECIAL GUEST"

BOUDAIN

SHERWOOD FOREST CAMPGROUND

DISCO DUNGEON

HINDS

APPLIED PRESSURE

THE RANGE DJ SET

LATE KNIGHTS

COMEDY CLUB

ROB GAGNON'S

SANDBOX

JOHNNY PEMBERTON

TODD BARRY

FILM SCREENING:

MONTY PYTHON

AND THE HOLY GRAIL

SATURDAY • NOV 5

DOWNTOWN AUSTIN

MOHAWK

"SPECIAL GUEST"

"SPECIAL GUEST"

THE GOTOBEDS

SHERWOOD FOREST CAMPGROUND

DISCO DUNGEON

BULLY

PLEASURE ESCAPE

JONO MA OF JAGWAR MA

SHERWOOD FOREST CAMPGROUND

LATE KNIGHTS

COMEDY CLUB

HOSTED BY DANNY GOODWIN & ANDREW CLARKSTON

VANESSA GONZALEZ

ALLIE AMRIEN

YUSEF ROACH

JOE MANDE

TIM HEIDECKER

FILM SCREENING:

EVIL DEAD III:

ARMY OF DARKNESS

SUNDAY • NOV 6

DOWNTOWN AUSTIN

MOHAWK

"SPECIAL GUEST"

LOCHNESS MOBSTER

SHERWOOD FOREST CAMPGROUND

DISCO DUNGEON

LEARNING SECRETS

BAIO DJ SET

SHERWOOD FOREST CAMPGROUND

LATE KNIGHTS

COMEDY CLUB

HOSTED BY SAM HARTER

MAGGIE MAYE

PAT DEAN

AVERY MOORE

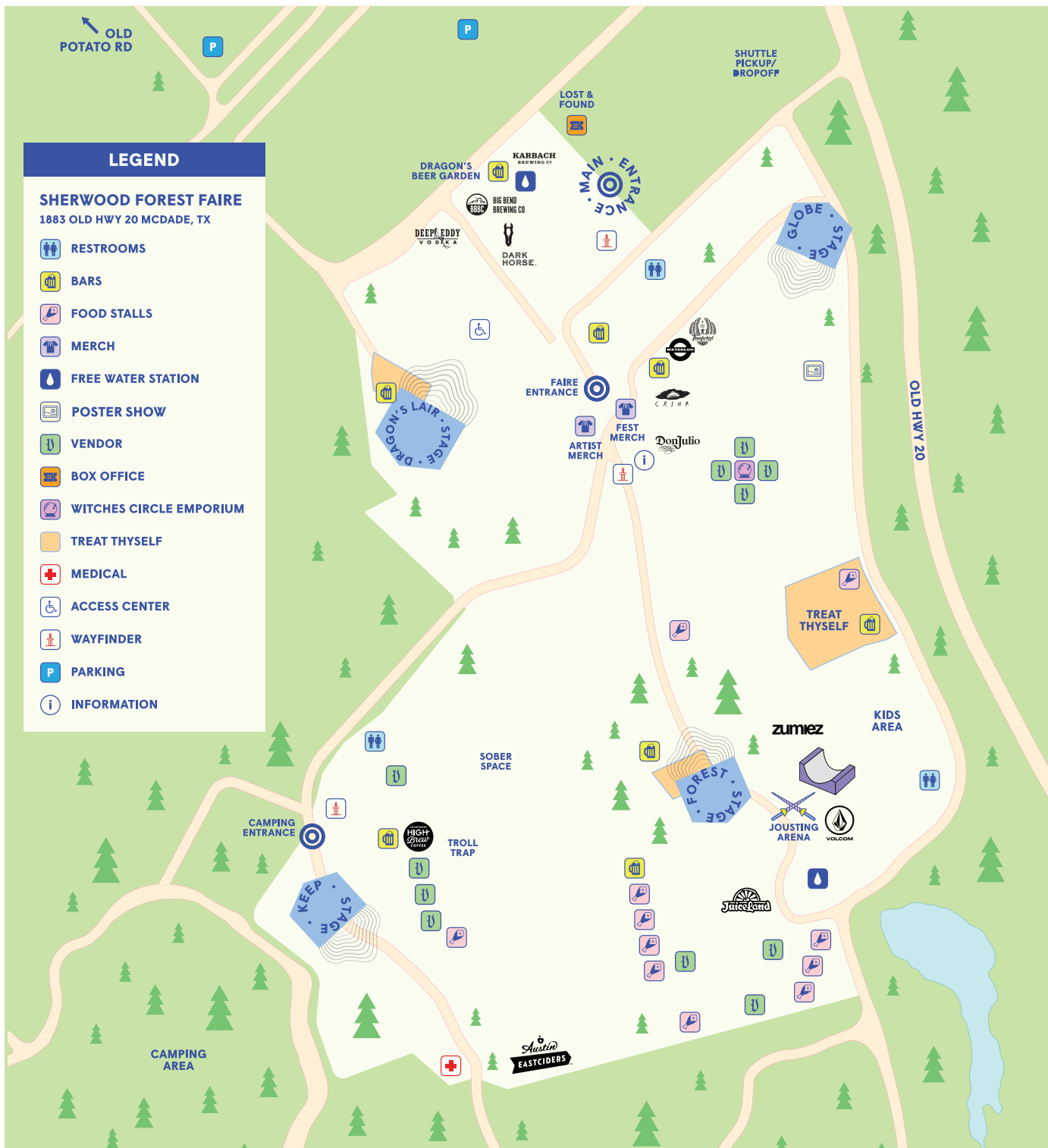
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FILM SCREENING:

ROBIN HOOD:

MEN IN TIGHTS





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LINEUP
ON THE COME & TYKE IT STAGE

FRIDAY

- 6:00-Calliope Musicals
- 7:00-Koo Koo Kanga Roo

SATURDAY

- 1:30-Koo Koo Kanga Roo
- 2:15-Telephone Company
- 3:00-Thor & Friends

SUNDAY

- 1:30-Hey Lolly Brass Band
- 2:15-Telephone Company
- 3:00 -Jad Fair

- VENDORS**
- Arlos
 - Austin Pizza
 - Boomerang's Pies
 - Burro Cheese Kitchen
 - Cazamance
 - Cold Ones Pops
 - Evergreen Chai
 - Fat Friar
 - Frank
 - India Gourmet
 - Juiceland
 - The King's Gone Nuts
 - Mickelthwait Craft Meats
 - Nomad Street Cuisine
 - Skull & Cakebones
 - Shawarma Point

- Taco Baby
 - Vegan Yacht
 - Wild Bill's Soda
 - Wunder-Pilz
- NONPROFIT**
- Austin Bat Cave
 - Austin Harm Reduction Coalition
 - Gardenheads
 - HAAM
 - Love Hope Strength
 - SIMS Foundation
 - SoS Sober Space

- RETAIL**
- Allison's Wonderland
 - American Poster Institute
 - At the Top
 - Austin Facial Hair Club
 - Austin Massage Co.
 - Blue Lux
 - Chameleon Dreams
 - Curious Customs
 - Earthen Bazaar
 - Eris Apothecary
 - Feathers, Fate, and Steel
 - Flip Solomon
 - Foxtrot
 - Gear From Last Night
 - Gypsy Pirate Shop
 - Jamie Spinello Designs
 - Merry Mountain Whimsicals
 - Madison's Divine Herbs & Clothing
 - Milk Moon
 - Mindzai
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THE AUSTIN **CHRONICLE**
SOUND ON SOUND
 PREVIEW
COMEDY



Ever Mainard

JOE MANDE

Sat., 5:30-6pm; 12:30-2am, the Late Knight Comedy Club (Camping Only stage)

The everyschlub persona and low-key delivery that make him relatable might keep you from noticing the craft in his comedy. But this is a comic with real writing chops (*Parks and Recreation*, *Master of None*).



TIM HEIDECKER

Sat., 6-6:40pm; 12:30-2am, the Late Knight Comedy Club (Camping Only stage)

The leadoff hitter for the *Tim and Eric Awesome Show, Great Job!*; *Tim and Eric's Billion Dollar Movie*; and *Tim and Eric Bedtime Stories*, flies solo, dishing up what may be the most low-key and committed deconstruction of contemporary stand-up going.

EVER MAINARD

Sun., 2:45-3:05pm; 12:30-2am, the Late Knight Comedy Club (Camping Only stage)

This Texas native conquered the Chicago stand-up scene with sharply etched character work (honed by improv), witty anecdotes, and acerbic comments that make you laugh at stuff you thought couldn't be funny.

AUSTIN FUN

Laugh, Dammit! Live comedy game show where, if contestants resist laughing, they win. *Fri., 1:20-2pm*
Fragile Rock: America's favorite emo puppet band slits its felt wrists and lets its angsty feels bleed all over the stage. *Sat., 1:20-2pm*
Greetings From Queer Mountain: The LGBTQ storytelling showcase hosted by Micheal Foulk and Ralph Hardesty. *Sun., 2:05-2:45pm*

Laugh on Laugh

The Globe stage is comedy central for Sound on Sound **BY ROBERT FAIRES**

In lieu of Robin Hood's Merry Men, Sound on Sound has booked a mix of visiting headliners and local acts to keep Sherwood Forest ringing with laughter. Almost all of the action is on the Globe stage, as detailed below, but night owls should make note of the Late Knight Comedy Club on the Camping Only stage, featuring headliners and some special local acts. (Fri., 12:30-1am: Todd Barry, Fri., 1-1:30am: Johnny Pemberton, Fri., 1:30-2am: Sandbox with Rob Gagnon; Sat., 12:30-2am: Tim Heidecker, Joe Mande; Sun., 12:30-2am: Ever Mainard, Maggie Maye). The SOS comedy lineup also includes these festival faves from a similar event that used to be held in Austin around this time: the **Air Sex Championship** (Sat., 4:45-5:30pm); comedy from the **New Movement** (Sun., 1:20-2pm); and the **Altercation Punk Comedy Tour** (Sun., 3:05-3:55pm).

Here's a quick guide to the rest of the schedule. Unless otherwise noted, performances listed are on the Globe stage.

JOHNNY PEMBERTON

Fri., 5-5:25pm; 1-1:30am, the Late Knight Comedy Club (Camping Only stage)

The comedian/actor/writer/mildly knowledgeable gardener/reggae enthusiast takes a break from being intimidated by his animated barbarian father on Fox's *Son of Zorn* to sling some punch lines.

TODD BARRY

Fri., 5:25-6:10pm; 12:30-1am, the Late Knight Comedy Club (Camping Only stage)

This master of conceptual humor and bone-dry delivery always comes highly recommended. He can be counted on for observational absurdities that are smart, edgy, and served up with a curmudgeon's charm.

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THE AUSTIN **CHRONICLE**
SOUND ON SOUND
PREVIEW
FOOD

We Know Where You Should Eat During Sound on Sound

Because Denzel Curry isn't an actual food

BY BRANDON WATSON

STEP 1: PICK A SOS ACT

- A) Small Black
- B) Dillinger Escape Plan
- C) Tim Heidecker
- D) Descendents
- E) Run the Jewels
- F) Big Boi
- G) Protomartyr
- H) Purity Ring
- I) Wild Nothing



STEP 2: PICK A COLOR

- A) Navy(ish)
- B) Bright yellow
- C) Pepto-Bismol pink
- D) Sky blue



STEP 3: PICK A SOS DRINK VENDOR

- A) Austin Eastciders
- B) Dark Horse Wine
- C) Karbach Brewing
- D) Big Bend Brewing
- E) Evergreen Chai
- F) Wild Bill's Soda
- G) JuiceLand
- H) Wunder-Pilz Kombucha
- I) High Brew Coffee



STEP 4: PICK AN ESSENTIAL ACCESSORY

- A) Flower crown
- B) Jorts
- C) Band T-shirt
- D) Chanel scarf
- E) Hydration pack
- F) Blistering sunburn
- G) Nipple ring
- H) Floppy felt hat
- I) Fake Wayfarers



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