

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

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A new kind of art

Canvas brings eclectic style, performance to Shadow Canyon

By Nishat Fatima
THE BATTALION

because it views its music as an art project.

"The recording process is like a painting, and you can take your time to add all the textures and trimmings to your satisfaction," he said. "We aim to take our listeners on a journey into the beatnik psyche. During our live shows, we want to create a dark, carnival-esque experience."

The band's talent extends from its live performances, however. Canvas' unique sound creates strong appeal with its audiences, Ridgeway said.

"Some musicians stick to their formulas, but end up being stuck in a rut. To keep your fans interested, you have to keep reinventing yourself," she said. "I can see differences in Canvas even from one song to another."

Ridgeway is not alone in her admiration for Canvas' eclectic style.

"There is an underground, almost cult-like following of fans for Canvas," said Shailey Gupta, a junior political science major. "A lot of their fans from different cities try to congregate together whenever there is a show. The band tries to create a close bond with the audience by telling stories between songs, playing an acoustic set every so often and even performing Beatles cover songs sometimes."

Gupta said the sounds of the band are further accented by unique lyrics.

"All of the lyrics are very poetic and thoughtfully written, and the messages in their songs is a departure from the regular popularized lyrics," she said. "(Canvas) creates a



PHOTO COURTESY OF CANVAS

Austin-based Canvas will perform from noon to 2 p.m. at Rudder Fountain and at 7 p.m. at Shadow Canyon.

balanced album because none of their songs sound the same. Some of the members even know how to play traditional Indian instruments such as the Tabla and the Sitar."

Scott Towle, a disc jockey for "Open Book" on AM 1580 KANM and a management information systems graduate student, said Canvas is rotated regularly on his show.

"I like to focus on underground Texas rock that is different and cutting edge," Towle said. "Canvas definitely fits the bill because they are very unique — definitely not the cookie cutter

kind of rock out there. It's remarkable how they take so many different influences and make the result so homogenous."

To completely experience Canvas' music, Towle said listeners should attend a live performance.

"(The band) has an incredible stage presence," he said. "No matter how large the audience is, they make it feel like a very intimate setting. It is an experience rather than just a concert. You end up watching and listening, and completely focused on the stage."

"We aim to take our listeners on a journey into the beatnik psyche. During our live shows we want to create a dark carnival-esque experience."

— Joseph King
lead vocalist for Canvas

Debbie Ridgeway hurries to park her car and get into the Canvas performance. Sprinting toward the entranceway, she turns off her cell phone just in time to get inside the doors. Inside, the audience is silent with anticipation until a single guitar riff causes the crowd to explode into a frenzy.

Ridgeway, a Canvas fan and a senior psychology major, said this kind of reception for the band is not unusual.

"The entire band is made of great musicians," she said. "No matter what genre of music you prefer, they always put on a great show and everybody has a great time."

Austin-based Canvas features the alternative rock talents of Brad Byram, Joseph King, Julian Mandrake, Ben Rada and Scott Thomas. With musical influences ranging from The Doors to traditional Indian mantras, the band's style varies from mainstream rock.

King, Canvas' lead vocalist, said the name of the band originated when he and Rada were spending time in an old house near their recording studio.

"One room (in the old house) had a lot of random and poetic carvings on the walls and ceilings. One of the carvings said 'This is our canvas,'" King said. "After we read that, we knew that the band would be called Canvas."

King said the band's name is appropriate

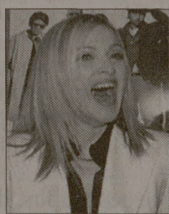
PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Madonna defeated by London weather, press reports claim

LONDON (AP) — Is love affair over between Britain and the superstar it likes to call Madge?

Recent press reports claimed adopted Londoner Madonna has decamped to Los Angeles, defeated by the dreary English weather.

But Madonna's spokeswoman said the absence is only temporary. "She'll be back in London in the spring," Liz Rosenberg said Wednesday.



MADONNA

"Madonna has homes in the States, she has homes in England, and she moves between the two."

A spokesman for Madonna's British husband, Guy Ritchie, said the couple split their time evenly between Britain and the United States.

British newspapers reported this month that Madonna had withdrawn her 6-year-old daughter, Lourdes, from a London school, and quoted the singer as telling friends she was fed up with "everything that is English."

One magazine quoted Madonna's father-in-law, John Ritchie, as saying: "Madonna is very happy to be out of London because the harsh winter weather was getting her down."

The reports of Madonna's departure cheered some sections of the

British press.

"Madonna the Brit," wrote David Thomas in Wednesday's Daily Mail, was "a classic case of the rich, crass, clueless American playing at English tradition."

How things have changed since the singer married Ritchie — the 34-year-old filmmaker behind the gangster flicks "Snatch" and "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels" — in December 2000 at a Scottish castle.

Madonna and Ritchie bought a London house and a mansion in the English countryside, where the vegetarian star briefly took up pheasant shooting. Scottish tourist authorities even gave her her own tartan as an anniversary gift.

But critics trashed Madonna's West End acting debut in the satire "Up For Grabs"

last May. And distributors decided not to release last year's "Swept Away" in Britain after the film — directed by Ritchie and starring Madonna as a spoiled socialite marooned on a deserted island — failed spectacularly in the United States.

Sarandon: Tired of 'anti-American' label

LONDON (AP) — Susan Sarandon said she's weary of being labeled "anti-American" because she's questioned the Bush administration's policy toward Iraq.

The 56-year-old actress, well-known for her political activism, said there are many questions that need to be asked about the prospect of a war with Iraq.

"I'm tired of being labeled anti-

American because I ask questions," she told reporters before the premiere of her movie "The Banger Sisters," co-starring Goldie Hawn, which was released in the United States last year.

Sarandon also said she couldn't understand why British Prime Minister Tony Blair has shown so much support for President Bush.

"What's happened to Blair? I don't understand his reasoning or his logic. I don't understand his evolution," she said. "I can see him being seduced by Clinton but don't understand what he and Bush speak about."

Hawn, 57, was less outspoken on the prospect of a war with Iraq.

"I'm an optimist — I don't think there will be one," she said.



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