



by Yasmina Reza | Translated by Christopher Hampton

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BEAT CONNECTION

Thursday, 11 p.m., MOTR Pub

This “tropical psychedelic pop” band from Seattle boldly paints broad musical canvas—rather than following rote the current Afro-Caribbean rhythms and surf-inspired guitar revival trend—adding jangles to the guitar lines, mixing in synthetic beats varying from house beats to digital marimba and steel drums, and layering vocals of falsetto percussion and lyrical smoothness. It’s a soundtrack that has you bouncing on a dance floor one moment and making out on a starlit beach the next.

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BACHELORETTE

Saturday, 11:45 pm, Know Theatre

Listening to the music of New Zealand’s Annabel Alpers brings to mind so many wonderful analogies. It’s like listening to: the soundtrack to Blade Runner if Enya composed it; the musical lovechild beot by Broadcast The Focus Group and Goldfrapp; or the theme to Chariots of Fire

mutated with Pink Floyd’s See Emily Play. It’s an exciting trip to hear this digital pop mistress take dance music to the psychedelic edge with her twisted melodies and atmospheric vocals.

ASOBI SEKSU

Friday, 12:30 a.m., Below Zero Lounge

I’ve heard this band described as a lot of genres: dream pop, noise pop, space pop and shoegaze. But its lush and layered sound is ineffable for me. The band’s guitar, bass and drums wax from the heavy side of rock with noise and distortion to the lighter side of pop with jangly guitar lines and bright melodies. Meanwhile lead singer, Yuki Chikudate weaves in gauzy synth chords with different vocal styles, that either float along in harmony when soft and sweet or offer puncturing contrast when emotive and visceral.

THOSE DARLINS

Thursday, 11:30 p.m., Cincinnati Club

The ladies of Those Darlins (there’s also a guy in the band) give the

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days long ago as the lead singer of Lexington's indie pop outfit, The Apparitions. He now travels the world (seems like they're always in France) with Guerin, sharing beautiful tunes with various fans. They released their third full-length album, "Dig Down Deep," earlier this year.

ZACHARY BURNS BAND

Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio

Genre: Rock/Blues

When: Saturday, 12:15 a.m.

Where: Courtyard Cafe

Why I can't wait: For fans of the Black Keys, Burns and his band will have you rockin' your face off before the first song ends. Last time I saw the band was at Mr. Pitiful's and that very well could have been during the last MidPoint Music Festival, I don't recall. Time is escaping me, but that's no matter. I hadn't planned to attend that particular show, I remember, and I was later glad I did. It's music of my favorite genre -- that nitty gritty blues rock -- but with energy and passion that rips through the crowd in the form of two dudes playing their hearts out. You'll see.

DEERHOOF

Hometown: San Francisco, Calif.

Genre: Experimental Rock

When: Friday, 11:45 p.m.

Where: Know Theater on the Bioré Strip

Why I can't wait: If you see a line of hipsters outside of the Know Theater, you have reached your destination. This is the music of their dreams, but for good reason. There's a lot going on, instrumentally, but then you hear a few singing breaths from lead singer, Satomi Matsuzaki, and that's it -- you're mesmerized. Stopped in your tracks. The tenth studio album, "Deerhoof vs. Evil," was released in January, and on the band's site right now, you can download a live album, "99% Upset Feeling," for free. A little fun fact -- The Cincy Brass (9 p.m., Friday at Cincinnati Club) covers a Deerhoof track, "Believe E.S.P. and it is awesome.

BELLA RUSE

Hometown: Minneapolis, Minn.

Genre: Folk

When: Saturday, 8 p.m.

Where: SCPA Mayerson Theater P&G Stage

Why I can't wait: You can hear Kay Gillette smiling on the band's new album, "Kuhzoo." How sweet is that? And once you hear her darling voice, you'll understand why she's probably smiling. She is listening to herself singing! With Joseph Barker, the duo is known as Bella Ruse, and their tunes are mystical, beautiful and captivating. The band was formed in 2009, and has enjoyed the fruits of its labor -- an EP, full-length album and tracks featured on Showtime's "Next Stop for Charlie," "Push On," and MTV's "Skins." My vision of seeing them in a theater makes me feel warm and fuzzy inside.

CONSPIRACY OF OWLS

Hometown: Detroit, Mich.

Genre: Shoegaze

When: Saturday, 11 p.m.

Where: vitaminwater Room at the Hanke Building