

Mustangs and Madras

La Lechuza

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If there were a class on how to make punk sound new without ruining it, Mustangs and Madras could teach it. They would probably turn down the offer, though, because they're having too much fun on the road.

Mustangs and Madras are a tight group of friends who grew up together in the small Colorado town of Longmont; they have been playing music for years, have been a band for four years, and are now releasing a new album on Latest Flame Records called *La Lechuza*. The songs on *La Lechuza* are refreshingly substantive, sonically and lyrically, keeping your ears full while tackling social issues and the state of humanity without preaching.

“Paradox of Grace,” on which Gared O’Donnell from Planes Mistaken for Stars sings backup, is a song the band says is “loosely based on the Columbine shootings,” a tragedy that occurred just an hour from the band’s hometown; they add, “It’s a song about regret.”

Talking to Mustangs and Madras, though, you’d never know they understood the concept of regret- they’re known for making the best out of every situation. They are light-hearted, hilarious, humble, and love their fans and being on the road more than anything in the world. They also “have so many inside jokes that we’re not interesting. But we make no apologies for that!”

Mustangs and Madras have developed a very strong fan base in the Denver scene, garnering praise from journalists and fellow bands alike. They have toured America in the past playing with such acts as 31 Knots, Avail, Planes Mistaken for Stars, Ricky Fitts, Traindodge, and The North Atlantic. They plan to hit the road in the US again in June to spread that fan base even wider.

In April of 2007, the band will embark on their first tour of Europe and are immensely excited. Friends of the band describe their countenance as being “wide-eyed” and full of passion and anticipation. They are looking forward to seeing and trying new things in Europe, but mostly can’t wait to make new friends and fans along the way.

Mustangs and Madras consider their fans part of their family, and they would drop anything to help out their family. This intense devotion may stem from their upbringing; the guys stayed close throughout their childhood and were also part of close-knit biological families.

Three of the five band members are “Mexican and proud,” and from this comes their album title: *La Lechuza* refers to an old Mexican folk tale about a shape-shifting owl who turns into a woman, an according to some the woman is a *bruja*, or a witch. Mustangs and Madras want audiences to watch out; they’re headed your way soon.



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