



HOME CALENDAR WEBLOGS ARTICLES LOCAL MUSIC NIGHTLIFE RADIO VIDEO EVENTS FORUMS MERCH ABOUT US

MY YAHOO! XML

BUZZCALENDAR

Concerts
4/4/2006
4/11/2006

Search

Today's quick hits:

- \* The Pessimist Club
Celtic and Old-Time Jam
Children of Bodom
Sabra Faulk
Southern Arizona Old Time Fiddlers
Tucson Symphony Orchestra Piano Trio



Album review: Portland's LKN gets grrrry on Postulate I

2006-04-03
Danielle Sottosanti

Despite the mainstream success of pop divas like Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera during the late '90s and early '00s, the Riot Grrrl movement is still alive and kicking.

Given the success of acts like The Yeah Yeah Yeahs and Cat Power, women-fronted rock bands may be reaching a peak not seen since the days when Kathleen Hannah and Courtney Love were getting into catfights backstage. The Tucson band The Beta Sweat know this, as do female rockers nationwide, including Portland-based indie songwriter Lauren K. Newman (LKN).



LKN has already made a name for herself as a musician, as her work in several indie rock bands has already brought her some degree of indie fame. She's relatively well known as the drummer for the Portland-based math rock band Avenue of the Strongest, for example. LKN's jill-of-all-trades quality enables her to play in a variety of bands in the somewhat incestuous Portland scene. Such is the life in a thriving scene that's not New York or L.A.

LKN's solo effort of Postulate I (Greyday, 2006) will undoubtedly please many listeners, especially fans of The Gossip, The Beta Sweat and Le Tigre. Rather than worrying about their next manicures, LKN and other female rockers are concentrating on crunching out heavily distorted power chords on their beat-up electric guitars... just as LKN does on Postulate I.

The album has already received a relatively large amount of critical acclaim and many reviewers compare LKN to P.J. Harvey and Cat Power. As justified as this is, when looking at the larger scope of the past and present Riot Grrrl movement, LKN is much more similar to Minneapolis-based band Babes In Toyland. Like Babes in Toyland's 1992 debut album Fontanelle, Postulate I features sometimes sweet, sometimes banshee-like female vocals over chaotic guitar riffs. LKN's "I Can Think of A Better Question" is by far the most Babes in Toyland-like song on the album, though much of her record could easily be mistaken for a new release from the former Minneapolis act.

"Circumstance" is by far the best song on the album, as everything from the vocals to the musical arrangement is reminiscent of Kim Gordon during Sonic Youth's Goo and Washing Machine days. LKN begins the song by alluding to The Clash's famous question, though not verbatim. "Do you want me to stay or go?" She asks before immediately deciding, "I want to make that choice alone." The lyrics are undoubtedly "Gordonian" and, in fact, "Circumstance" couldn't sound more like Sonic Youth if Gordon herself had written it.

Given the equipment list in the liner notes, LKN's similarity to Sonic Youth's tone seems intentional. Remarkably, LKN plays all the instruments in each of the album's 13 songs, and the ones she uses show a keen sense of indie rock sensibility that Sonic Youth themselves would appreciate. A Big Muff Pi, Japanese re-issue Jaguar, Squier Jagmaster Vista series and Marshall JCM 800 - ahhh, the true staples of any indie rocker's equipment list. Moreover, the fact that she distinguishes between Japanese- and Korean-made Fenders proves that LKN really knows what she's talking about, which is something that any Fender-obsessed guitarist would appreciate. (Fenders made in Japan tend to be higher quality than those made in Korea. The difference is significantly noticeable in Squier's Vista series.)

All in all, LKN's decision to include a full equipment list (and a cool one, at that) is a nice touch that



Conversation Suicide



## BUZZPOLL

The Death Cab for Cutie/Franz Ferdinand concert at UA Centennial Hall on March 27 sold out immediately, proving the power of a strong double bill. If space and time were not a factor, which of these pairings would you most like to see?

- The Beatles/Radiohead
- The Rolling Stones/U2
- Bob Dylan/Bruce Springsteen
- Grateful Dead/Phish
- Jimi Hendrix/Nirvana

**Submit**

will undoubtedly earn her respect among indie musicians "in the know."

### To sum up:

Perfect for fans of: Cat Power, The Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Babes in Toyland, Hole, Le Tigre, Bikini Kill, The Beta Sweat, The Gossip and Sonic Youth.

Who will hate it: People who aren't into the whole "Riot Grrrl" thing.

**Back**

### Comments?

name   Remember

email

http://

Message

<?>

**preview**

older: **Clap your hands say rambling review**  
newer:

Search the AZNightBuzz blog postings:

**search**



---

**Ads by Google**

[Mp3 Downloads](#) • [www.GetMusicFree-Jump.com](http://www.GetMusicFree-Jump.com)

Download Your Favorite Songs 100% Free And Legal!

[Free Mp3 Downloads](#) • [MyMusicInc.com](http://MyMusicInc.com)

19 Billion Songs - No Download Fees All Legal, Find Mp3 Downloads !