

PEACHFUZZ

As Smooth As ..



Peachfuzz

Melbourne-based band Peachfuzz make their live debut in Perth tonight at Club Original to promote their melodic, fuzz-pop 8-track EP called V8.

The show will mark a return to playing gigs here for Perth expatriate Cameron Potts (drummer), formerly of Thou Gideon and Manic Pizza.

He relocated to Melbourne with the latter band almost two years ago and after their demise joined the already established Peachfuzz.

The remaining two thirds of the band are vocalist/guitarist Stefan Schutt who is originally from Adelaide, and bass player Steve Hyde, formerly of Melbourne band Harlequin Dreams.

This line-up has been together for about eight months, supported by a growing legion of fans on the local Melbourne scene.

With the EP being distributed nationwide through MDS and the band receiving a fair amount of airplay on Triple J (they were featured on *Live To Air* a couple of weeks back and the song *Hurt You* has been added to the playlist), Cameron spoke to *X-Press Magazine* from Melbourne last week.

Unlike many other bands, Peachfuzz are determined not to take themselves too seriously and are more concerned with enjoying playing live shows and recording new material (another EP is due to be released early next year).

"If you take things too seriously, you just become a parody of yourself. You turn into an idiot and have no friends after a while. Manic Pizza got really serious and then it dissolved just like that," explains Cameron.

Although he didn't reveal what messages would be directed at Perth audiences, Cameron assured me that the music they will hear is quite different to the EP.

"The eight songs on the debut were recorded quite a long time ago when the band had only been going for a few months, and I wasn't even in the band for half of them. We sound a lot different now. We're a lot tighter and heavier. We've got a pretty full sound which is important in a three-piece."

Peachfuzz are playing only three shows in Perth so if you're partial towards noisy, melodic guitar-pop then get down to one of their gigs.

Check this page for details.

— LUCY MORRIS.

EP Of The Week

Peachfuzz
"V8" (MDS)

Straight outta Brunswick Street come Peachfuzz, ready to tease your pop gland into submission. Lead track here *Hurt You* is as fine a song as any you'll hear this year, kinda like Ned's Atomic Dustbin mated with Bambi. *Dancing On My Grave* is similarly cool, and the Empress provides the live setting for the likes of Octopus and the feisty Ram. V8 is as energy-filled as the drink it is named after, but far more tasty.

CAMERON ADAMS

Out of the pubs of Fitzroy emerge Peachfuzz with their shiny CD V8. The full throttle title is a bit of a misnomer (or did they mean the fruit juice?) because Peachfuzz are in fact a fine pop band. Not a flighty, pretty pop but one with a healthy bass propulsion and some attractive guitar ministrations. Occasionally Stefan slips into the elongated vocalise of vocalists in bands like Adorable (*Dance On My Grave, Hurt You*) but they turned out to be my favourites, so it's not a bad thing. Joining the evergrowing ranks of bands with cat worshipping tendencies, Dallas (*Wondercat*) is a pop whirlwind that nearly tops Ratcat's *She's Gone*, but not quite. V8 is a charming effort and don't forget every Thursday in June see Peachfuzz at The Evelyn for Hat Trick.

Lollop-a-losers

After Peachfuzz's recent stonkin' Evelyn show, their drummers favorite ride cymbal decided to do an 'Escape From Alcatraz' and flew out the back of the van somewhere in Fitzroy, never to be seen again. So now they're putting on a cymbal benefit show.

It's called Lollop-a-losers and it's on at the Empress this Thursday February 17 featuring Hurdy Gurdy, Peachfuzz, Crank and Cheese-grater. Entry is \$3 and \$4, and by the way, if you see a bruised looking Zildjian Amir Cymbal anywhere, call 347 9887. ON the recording front, Peachfuzz are putting the finishing touches on *Watermelon Man*, a six-track CD featuring pop songs, hissing sounds, bits of metal, a bowed cello and a piece of cheese. Look out for it around April.

Peachfuzz Smooth as an arse

Peachfuzz are one of the most refreshing new bands around. They present a fun noisy pop guitar sound loaded with personality. With the release of their debut CD titled V8 they are revved up to make their impact. **MARY MIHELAKOS** met up with Stefan Schutt and Cameron Potts from the band.

The recording of V8 commenced only three months into the career of Peachfuzz. The band recorded five songs with Simon Grounds, four of which made it on to the CD. The second half of the mini album with Cam on drums was recorded live at the Empress Hotel.

Stefan played in a couple of bands in Adelaide prior to making the move to Melbourne where he joined *Relax With Max* for two weeks. He had a band called *Stanley's Dance* for a short while and following their demise he formed Peachfuzz with bassist Steve Hyde.

Cameron Potts originally from Perth played drums in *Thou Gideon*. After joining *Manic Pizza* he moved to Melbourne. When they split up Cameron replaced John Edwards on drums in Peachfuzz late last year.

Cameron's attribute to the band included art as well as drumming. "Art is a big part of the band and Cameron is very creative," says Stefan. Cam is responsible for the artwork behind the band including that funky cover. He has an art studio space in Brunswick Street.

The songbook was Cam's idea. "The idea came from early 80s hardcore bands that always put out little booklets, I thought that was great after you buy and open up the record to get something extra," explains Cam.

"I agree, I relate to it, it is all a deliberate amateur thing, like *Sebadoh* and stuff, that attitude. A reaction against hitless glossy computer graphics, it makes it more human," adds Stefan.

Another creative component of the band is their live show. Peachfuzz make an effort when playing live, they inject a lot of energy and personality into a performance. "It's not a forced thing, it just happens

naturally. We are ourselves on stage," relates Stefan.

The music of Peachfuzz neatly lends itself to an extroverted performance. Some songs are serious and then there are tunes about pet cats like *Dallas*.

"The song writing started off being mainly my songs. Now the process has changed, if someone has an idea we go to the rehearsal room or Steve's bedroom and work on it together. Steve sings some of the songs. Steve put a different slant on things. On the CD he sings *My Friend*," says Stefan.

Enthusiastic is an understatement in reference to Peachfuzz.

To the name of promotion they beam some unique stunts. As Stefan continues, "my house is a pretty

prominent spot, on the corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets. I have sort of transformed it into a big advertising spot for Peachfuzz including my old van. A journalist from the Australian saw it and did an interview with me and they took photographs."

Peachfuzz were so anxious to release V8 as soon as possible they financed the CD themselves with a little bit of help from MDS who offered moral support and a distribution deal. Hopefully somebody else will front money for their second recording.

The band are already planning for the recording of their next release in late August before Stefan heads to Europe for a couple of months to meet up with relatives in Germany and travel.

In the meantime we can all enjoy the irresistible pop of Peachfuzz. They are enjoying frequent airplay on Triple R and they have recorded a live set for airing on Triple J's Australian music program. Catch them live.

PEACHFUZZ LAUNCH V8 ON FRIDAY 9TH JULY AT THE ROYAL DERBY HOTEL WITH SUPPORTS THE DAILY PLANETS AND MARK FROM HURDY GURDY.

