

The Monkey Sluts: Underdogs Arise!

Barely six months into their conception, The Monkey Sluts are set to tour Gauteng this month. A four member band from Pietermaritzburg, their unique sound of Indie Core has attracted attention through the help of their blog as well as hard work.

“We got a lot of attention through our blog, we wouldn’t be where we are without Myspace.”

These are the words of Ross Dorkin, lead guitarist of The Monkey Sluts, who admits that their blog has helped to gain the band a lot of attention.

I met with the band on a cool Saturday afternoon in the comfort of Christo Loot’s home in Montrose, right before a band practice. The band was relaxed and as diverse as they come. The band will be touring through Johannesburg from the 15th-17th March. Christo, as well as the rest of the band, is ecstatic about the opportunity.

“There was great demand from the area for our band to play. They deserve to see us!”

The band formed in the middle of 2006 in little Sleepy Hollow, a town that has produced the likes of Seether in its time. Don’t underestimate small towns! True supporters of the underdog, The Monkey Sluts are proud to have a chance to support their town, especially James.

“It’s awesome; it’s rad that a Pietermaritzburg band is finally getting out of PMB.”

The band is made up of four members. Christo Loots is lead singer and guitarist, an introspective character that one can only expect from the iconic figure that is the lead singer. Ross Dorkin is also a guitarist, and is quite the philosopher. Jono plays bass guitar and synths with an aggressive passion. That leaves James Stadler, the boy with a beaming smile and eyes hidden beneath dreadlocks. With so much energy one can see why he is the drummer.

The name, *The Monkey Sluts*, was derived from a misinterpretation of the monkey suits the cast from the MTV show, Jackass, wore. “We saw another interpretation of it and from that the name Monkeysluts was made.”

Ultimately an Indie Core band, they like to experiment and have a range of musical influences from Bloc Party, Queens of the Stone Age to Jazz, Disco and down tempo electronic. Ross believes that each member’s unique taste is crucial to the band. “We are quite a new style; the downfall of a band is if all the members listen to the same music.”

An EP recorded at Barry Bro Studios will be released soon with six tracks including songs like The Underdog, Reset and Bird on a Wire. The material was engineered by the band themselves, while Barry Bro mastered it. Although they are releasing an EP, they consider themselves a cyber band. As James said, "the Internet is a more efficient way of getting music out there."

James and Ross are also producing a side project called 4a.m Productions. "We are approaching theatre and film students offering to do the sound for their productions, to provide ambient sound."

As well as doing their tour this month, on the 8th of April they will be performing at Splashy Fen. This is a fantastic opportunity for any newborn band, yet Ross says that it is not the epitome of their career.

Dave Campbell, the owner of Burn nightclub in Durban saw The Monkey Sluts perform one night and from there invited them to perform at Splashy, since little did they know that Dave happened to be sponsoring one of the stages at Splashy this year. James speaks for the entire band when he says that "it's one of the best ways to get out there; it benefits us."

The Monkey Sluts are a band that promises an eclectic and unique sound that is as Christo describes, "accessible to the public." This is just the beginning for this new band. Oh yes, they have plans for the future! James opts for the humble outlook on their destiny. "We hope to get the music out there and to get people dancing." Jono sets his sights even higher, "we plan to go overseas, possibly the UK."

While Christo settles for a huge possibility in the near future, "Oppikoppi!"

Once the interview is over, the band says cheers and saunter off to their band room. A few minutes later the sound of instruments erupt from it playing in perfect unison, accompanied by Christo's piercing voice slashing through them all.

The Monkey Sluts have worked hard for what they have achieved, and through myspace have gained friends and exposure. Yet despite all this they still remain the same quirky boys I knew before their ascent. I suspect no matter how far they rise, they will never become slaves to the industry, but will remain rebels to the end.

The Monkey Sluts can be contacted at: www.myspace.com/monkeysluts.