

# THE MACKS

Following a packed year and a half of touring since the self-released Camp Poppa, Oregon rock and roll band The Macks are preparing to release their sophomore LP Yup, a decidedly upward step for the band sonically and stylistically from their debut. While many elements remain consistent between the two records - the live feel, the roomy and omnipresent drums, the bluesy base, and grunge-punk delivery find a way on to both - Yup brings a new depth to the identity of the band that highlights creativity, spirit, and cohesiveness. The record is eclectic and diverse, with few tracks sounding very similar to each other, although the forward and exaggerated style brought by the members creates a flow gluing the record together as a whole. The groovy, dark, odd-timed psychedelia of “Bunny Honey” gives way to the aggressive punk pace of “King Hell Freaks”, which in turn spits to the bird pun-laced “Sick Exotic Bird Parade”. “Boulder” shifts to a slow, heavy churn with soft vocals lamenting a jerk of a landlord, “The Minimalist” fires into a breakneck Oh Sees-esque barnburner only to be interrupted by a lengthy blues crooner, and the record is capped by the far-out classic rock-inspired “Tried My Best”.

This wide mix is guided by the band’s distinct style. Vocalist Sam Fulwiler’s delivery is punctuated, urgent, and confident, with his higher tamber cutting through. The lyrics are subtle, at times tongue in cheek, and consistently engaging. Ben Windheim’s guitar is sharp and assertive, heavily drenched in blues riffage and always pushing the groove forward with flairs and nuance in every measure. Josef Windheim’s drums are roomy, nimble, and powerful, simultaneously dragging and driving with the guitar. The eccentric guitars and drums are held down by bassist Bailey Sauls, who acts as a delivery vehicle for the ambitious rhythm changes and commanding basslines. The record was tracked in the Windheim family’s foyer by the band with engineering help from Sam Lay, and the album was mixed by the band. This lends to the at times rough, but delightfully gritty, warm, and certainly personal sound, ripe with movement and detail.

While The Macks are still young, this record is a showcase of the band’s growth and serves as a launching point for any direction the band wants to take. Yup releases November 6th, with the band’s release show at Post 134 on November 7th in Portland, Oregon.

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