

forget cassettes



Forget Cassettes plays a free CD release show at Southgate House on Saturday night.

On new disc, indie band proves that Nashville stars aren't all country

JUST THE FACTS

WHAT: Forget Cassettes CD release for *Salt*, with Hotpipes and My Goodness Gracious

WHEN: 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19

WHERE: Southgate House, 24 E. Third St., Newport

PRICE: Free

PARKING: Several pay lots around Newport on the Levee, including the Levee garage (\$3-\$5)

CONTACT: 859-431-2201, www.forgetcassettes.com or www.southgatehouse.com

ETC: Beth Cameron will be doing a solo in-store performance at 4 p.m. Aug. 19 at Shake-It Records, 4156 Hamilton Ave., Northside. Call 513-591-0123 or visit www.shakeitrecords.com.

RODNEY WILSON | CIN WEEKLY CONTRIBUTOR

To most people, Nashville is the home of big dreams and even bigger hair.

"Music City, USA," the birthplace of the Grand Ol' Opry, has a legacy built on country music. It even has the popular cable show *Nashville Star*.

Forget Cassettes calls Nashville home, but the band embodies nothing of the city's reputation. Driving, calculated rock doesn't exactly jive with Nashville's rhinestone-bedazzled history, but that doesn't stop frontwoman Beth Cameron from writing intensely-crafted indie rock songs.

MUSIC CITY

While listeners might be shocked to learn that Forget Cassettes hails from a place nationally represented by LeAnn Rimes and Wynonna Judd, Cameron sees no reason why an indie rock band wouldn't be a natural result of a life lived in Nashville.

"I was raised in a town about 40 miles south of Nashville, but with Nashville being so close, I really was exposed to a lot," Cameron says.

A rock band starting out in Nashville may face some cultural stereotyping, but this is more than made up for by the opportunities that abound in central Tennessee. "Being such a huge part of the music industry, there are a lot of resources here for musicians," she says. "It's really pretty easy to record and put out a record here."

BETH CAMERON'S TOP THREE GRRRL INFLUENCES

Forget Cassettes frontwoman Beth Cameron lists a handful of influences, from PJ Harvey to Kate Bush to Babes in Toyland. But Cameron gives special props to bands of the feminism-fueled riot grrrl movement for inspiring her to make music. Here are her top three riot grrrl bands:

**HEAVENS TO BETSY:**

The Olympia, Wash., duo included Corin Tucker of Sleater-Kinney (now on "indefinite hiatus").

**BIKINI KILL:**

The seminal riot grrrl band from Olympia, Wash., collaborated with Nirvana, Joan Jett and Ian MacKaye (Fugazi) and eschewed major labels and mainstream media.

**HUGGY BEAR:**

One of the Brighton, England, band's performances on a popular UK TV show inspired an in-studio riot against a segment that included interviews with Playboy models.

LOSS AND GROWTH

Forget Cassettes, like so many great bands, started after the dissolution of less-fortunate creative collaborations. Originally a part of the trio Fair Verona, Cameron was left without a musical outlet when the band broke up.

"I had been in (Fair Verona) ever since I was 16 and that lasted until I was about 19 or 20," she says. "So I just started playing by myself again, then Doni (Schroader) - who was actually the last drummer for that band - and I started playing out." She and Schroader decided to take advantage of Nashville's record-producing industry, immediately recording an album as Forget Cassettes, 2003's *Instruments of Action*. Then, Cameron found herself alone again.

"Doni got an offer to play drums for ... And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead, and he left me to go tour with them," she says. Though she took a 6-month break from music, Cameron decided to continue with Forget Cassettes, rebuilding the band to fit her ever-expanding musical ideas.

"I got another set of arms," she says of her partnership with new bandmates, multi-instrumentalist Jay Leo Phillips and drummer Aaron Ford. "Toward the end of Doni and I being a two-piece, I started wondering, 'Where can we

go from here?' We were only two people, we could only do so much. Having somebody else, and especially Jay who plays multiple instruments - things that I'd heard in my head, I was actually able to bring to fruition with his help. The songs were able to become broader and more in-depth."

NEW LAYERS OF SOUND

The result of the new collaboration is *Salt*, a sonically dense album brimming with sounds ranging from delay-heavy, ambient guitars and various keyboards to trumpet and trombone on album-closer "Tabula Rasa." Forget Cassettes employs a wide aural palette, creating a rewarding listening experience in *Salt*'s layers of sound.

The album is a reflection of Cameron's ambitions as a musician and songwriter. "My songwriting is very cyclical - I like writing in circles," she says. "I really like to create tension, and I want that to evolve more and more. I'd love to get to the point where I can do that without having to use distortion."

With Cameron's talent, creativity and perseverance, you have to wonder: Maybe Wynonna's looking in the wrong place for the next Nashville star.

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