



Mongus Needs To Unwind

JAMIE PIERSON

Tulsa's got itself one crackerjack jazz scene, vibrant with talented young musicians keeping places like The Continental and Tsunami Sushi swinging on a weekly basis. Now, Jeff Davis and friends are taking it up a notch.

"We want to create an environment where musicians could learn together on the spot," said Davis. A "jazz composer's workshop." Those 10-15 jazz musicians are handed charts of the tunes, right on the spot, and the impromptu band starts composing together for a live audience. This might sound familiar, the basic formula for the jazz jams that seem to be more common than cover bands these days. But the songs in those jams are familiar to the musicians involved; standards. All of this music will be new, local and original, though with a big band flair, influenced by Thelonius Monk and Charles Mingus. (Could you guess from the name?)

Brian Haas, Jonathan Taylor, Andy McCormick, Annie Ellicott, Chris Foster and Jeff Davis hosted an artistic event (there's no other way to put it) that involved three bands, all of these musicians, plus Nightengale's Old Crow Players and videos by Scotty Griffith. The bands were BEN.BEN., .NEB.NEB POSH-CROW and The Shufflebands, and they performed "iterations," as Davis puts it, of the same catalogue of original songs. All of the artistic endeavors performed that night were connected. It was all something Davis and Taylor call "The Unwind."

"It's an alternate world," explained Davis, expressed through a collection of stories, 100-200 songs, and even screenplays. Davis and Taylor have been working on projects involving The Unwind since 1995. "It all came together in a moment," said Davis, "And ever since, I've been filling in the pieces of my life's work." Davis and Taylor met Chris Foster in Eureka Springs in 2002, shared the stage at The Ozark UFO Conference, and thus the collaboration leading to Sir Threadius Mongus was born. ■

Phrough Knows Music



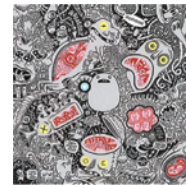
From the Plantation to the Penitentiary

Wynton Marsalis



Mom always had to make you eat those

veggies, and after all of these years it turns out that you actually like a couple of them. Now, I'm not your mom, but it wouldn't kill you to listen to some grown-up music every now and then. This jazz album even has some hard-hitting lyrics to keep your VH1-infested mind occupied with something other than celebrity.



Friend or Foe

Menomena



The champ is now calling out all challengers for album of the year! Indie rockers (do-doo da-do-do) *Menomena* have raised the bar. *Friend or Foe* has a great mix, high energy and plenty of vocals that make you want to roll your car windows down and sing along really loud. When that hottie sneaks up next to you at a red light you won't be quite as embarrassed because your choice of music won't suck.



Back to Black

Amy Winehouse



Amy Winehouse, along with her trusty costume eyelashes, infuses modern lyrics into the old school doo-wop sound — and the results are mostly enjoyable. Maybe you'll be able to relate to an album with opening lyrics proclaiming, "They try to make me go to rehab. I said No, No, No!" Now that's a commitment to good times.