

Greg Sandow

From: Tim Thomas [tim@bangonacan.org]
Sent: Friday, September 19, 2008 10:48 AM
To: tim@bangonacan.org
Subject: Bang on a Can Office Festival: Thursday October 2, 2008 8PM: Babe the blue Ox;Melomane;M Shanghai String Band;Get Him Eat Him; Riot of 1866 Brass Band

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2008: 8PM \$10
THE BELL HOUSE, 149 7th Street, Gowanus Brooklyn
(The new spacious and stylish club from the folks who brought you Union Hall)
The staff at Bang on a Can strut their OWN stuff in a makeshift festival of misfit bands

The folks in the office at Bang on a Can work hard to make the world safe for kooky contemporary music. They help commission, record, release, present and produce music that defies category. So what do these underpaid but overstimulated staffers do when they're not banging on cans? They make more music of course. So why not bring their varied projects under one roof for one night, and call it *THE BANG ON CAN OFFICE FESTIVAL?*

When not at their day jobs, Bang staffers are involved in musical projects that span from nouveau-bluegrass (M SHANGHAI STRING BAND) to smarty-pants avant-skronk (BABE THE BLUE OX) to neo-indie-classicism (GET HIM EAT HIM) to baroque-noir (MELOMANE) and, of course, boogie-down anachronism-funk (RIOT OF 1866 BRASS BAND). Despite the fact that such ludicrous descriptive categories are entirely fabricated and arbitrary, the lineup reflects the ethos of Bang on a Can, albeit without the curatorial hand of its founders, who will likely attend, if only out of abject curiosity.

INFO:

Here's some info on the Bang staffers' bands and their roles at work and at play, in order of appearance:

8:00 PM: - GET HIM EAT HIM

featuring Bang on a Can's Marketing Manager: Matt LeMay: Singer/Songwriter/Guitarist

Formed in February of 2004, Get Him Eat Him consists of five young men with passable small motor skills playing big, confusing music. Paroxysm-laden pop that balances gravity and gratuitousness, the music of Get Him Eat Him has been described as "a hybrid of The Wrens, Enon, and Weezer's pop sensibility." In July of 2004, Get Him Eat Him signed to Absolutely Kosher Records, home of The Wrens, Frog Eyes, and Sunset Rubdown (Spencer from Wolf Parade). Get Him Eat Him has played shows with Broken Social Scene, The Wrens, Oxford Collapse, The Arcade Fire, The Constantines, Beirut, Black Dice, Xiu Xiu, and The Walkmen. The band released their debut album, recorded at John Vanderslice's Tiny Telephone Studios by Jay Pellicci (Deerhoof, Erase Errata), July 26, 2005 on Absolutely Kosher. Three tour EPs followed in late 2005 and early 2006. On June 5th 2007, Get Him Eat Him released their second full-length Arms Down, co-produced by former Dismemberment Plan guitarist Jason Caddell.

<http://www.myspace.com/gethimeathim>

8:45 PM - BABE THE BLUE OX

featuring Bang on a Can's Director of Development Tim Thomas Guitarist/Singer/Songwriter

In the 1990s, you couldn't swing a dead cat without hitting a Babe the blue OX show. And after babies, weddings, sobriety and/or advanced degrees, they're fiercer and wilder and prettier than ever. Babe the blue Ox is impossible to categorize, but after a rare recent appearance in Brooklyn, the Village Voice's Rob Harvilla put it this way:

"Babe developed and perfected a vibrant, volatile blend of catchy melodies and spastic, rambunctious noise, like Captain Beefheart making children's records, Tom Waits auditioning for Kool and the Gang, the Minutemen meeting girls."

Babe the blue OX deftly and joyously tromps on musical expectations - the lead guitarist is actually the phenomenal bass player Rose Thomson or -- as Harvilla muses: "It's like she ate that seven-CD Sly and the Family Stone box set for breakfast." Meanwhile, the actual guitarist sounds like he never read the guitar players manual and might rather be playing drums; the actual drummer, Hanna Fox, plays as if she invented the instrument for herself; and the actual percussionist, Eddie Gormley, moves like a dream and sings like an angel. Over the course of five records – three on Homestead and two on RCA – Babe found a strikingly perfect balance between beauty and discord.

www.myspace.com/babetheblueoxmusic

9:30 PM - M SHANGHAI STRING BAND

featuring Bang on a Can Program Director: Philippa Thompson Violinist/Singer/Songwriter

The M SHANGHAI STRING BAND of Brooklyn, New York, started in 2002 as a monthly show in the basement of a local Chinese restaurant, the M Shanghai Bistro. Locals began to call the band "M Shanghai". The name stuck. The crowds grew. Their debut album, "Up From the Ground Below" (20 songs recorded in one day in the restaurant's dining room) set the mission in motion: timeless original music played with a sense of abandon, captured completely live. "From the Air", the band's second album, captures the raw, all acoustic energy, yet this time in higher fidelity. Although the band uses the classic bluegrass approach: live around a single microphone for recordings and live shows, the music is an eclectic blend that draws from many genres- traditional and modern. "The M Shanghai String Band have first-rate original songs. Their performances are highly entertaining, like a modern day medicine show." -Tommy Ramone, of The Ramones & Uncle Monk.

<http://www.mshanghaistringband.com/home.aspx>

9:30 PM - MELOMANE

featuring Bang on a Can's Executive Director Kenny Savelson: Drummer/Percussionist/Bookie

New York's MELOMANE make smart, cinematic rock music. Their distinctive sound has been compared to such disparate acts as Magnetic Fields, Roxy Music, Elvis Costello, Calexico, Wings, and Stereolab. Some have called Melomane "the most European band in America," and others call them pop-noir. Experience the lush sonic textures, sweet harmonies, and biting yet hopeful lyrics and let your ears decide. "These tracks combine garage accessibility and boho poetry with an ingenuity that will win over intelligent listeners and show musicians just how far a band can travel..." (All Music Guide).

Originally conceived in 1998 by front-man Pierre de Gaillande, Melomane's line-up eventually solidified to include bassist/vocalist Daria Klotz, cellist/synth-player Frank Heer, keyboardist Quentin Jennings, and drummer Kenny Savelson. Frequent additional performers include Eveline Feldmann (trombone), Jeremy Thal (trumpet, French horn) Jody Redhage (cello), Philippa Thompson (violin and saw), and Brad Stewart and Jesse Neuman (trumpet).

Over 6 years, Melomane have performed regularly in NYC at venues such as Joe's Pub, Tonic, Mercury Lounge, BAM Cafe, Union Hall, and many others. The group tours Europe each year and has appeared at festivals and venues throughout Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Spain, Italy, and France. They were sponsored by the US embassy in Moscow in September, 2006 for a four-concert series in Russia. Melomane has appeared in New York, nationally and internationally with artists such as Wilco, Keren Ann, Luna, Arab Strap, Eleni Mandell, Fastball, and many others.

www.melomane.org, www.myspace.com/melomane

10:15 PM - RIOT OF 1866 BRASS BAND

featuring Education Project Manager Jeremy Thal on the French Horn with:

Mark Stewart, Tuba
Jude Traxler, Drums
Eli Asher, Trumpet
Ben Holmes, Trumpet
Andy Kozar, Trumpet
Jeremy Thal, Horn
James Hirschfeld, Trombone
David Crowell, Alto Sax

The Riot of 1866 Brass Band, an assemblage of ruffians from the Louisiana swamps, Wisconsin woods, Appalachian dive bars, and Brooklyn bordellos, is returning home after a triumphant tour to Wasilla, AK, where its blend of raucous funk and tender tubistry led audiences into a riotous rapture, causing them to relinquish their gods and guns, embrace weary caribou, and booty-shake provocatively towards their Russian neighbors.

BANG ON A CAN
718-852-7755