



WED MAR 21, 2012

MUSIC

Zeus: Busting Visions

Arts & Crafts

BY: STUART BERMAN

GRID RATING: 7/10

USER RATINGS: ★★★★★★★★
★★

They may be named for the ultimate deity in Greek mythology, but on their 2010 debut, Toronto foursome Zeus worshipped at the altars of a different kind of golden god. Their idols: Paul McCartney, The Band, The James Gang, and pretty much every other scraggly-haired, unkempt-bearded rocker you'd find on FM radio airwaves between 1968 and 1973.

Zeus' sophomore effort, *Busting Visions*, however, nudges the band's internal calendar closer to 1974, when the likes of Queen and ELO were busy dressing up traditional rock in gaudier outfits. Of course, there's a fine line between "inspired" and "indulgent," but *Busting Visions* mostly sides with the former by never taking itself too seriously. While these silly love songs may be overstuffed with jaunty barrelhouse piano lines, stereo-panned operatic harmonies, handclaps, string arrangements, and Brian May-esque guitar solos that hang in the farthest reaches of your left-ear headphone, Zeus still manage to retain the feel of an endearingly sloppy, Saturday night bar band that could ride off the rails at any moment.

The eternal conundrum of rock 'n' roll is how to translate spontaneity into studio-crafted art; even as they push their aesthetic towards the latter, Zeus show you can still have it both ways.

Playlist picks: "Anything You Want Dear," "Are You Gonna Waste My Time?"

Zeus play Arts & Crafts' CMF showcase at the Horseshoe Tavern (370 Queen St. W.) on March 23.

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