



Of Montreal  
Photo: Amy Vinicombe

## MADNESS FROM MONTREAL

Of Montreal  
Beck's Music Box  
Friday, February 27, 2009

Perth's stormy sky left a layer of water on the Beck's Music Box's dance floor, which we would be warned of later; as the doors opened and lines of plastic wrapped poncho wearers smothered the venue. Friends huddled together on sofas while others gathered the drinks, some headed towards the front to secure a place; close enough to experience the spit of every lyric sung from any band. As we waited, flying and crawling creatures from the riverside danced in the smoke unraveling on the stage, illuminated by the blue lights lingering for **Of Montreal**.

No support act was needed to rev up the eagerly anticipating crowd, only a tiger headed man that pranced around the stage, the stage that would endure a jungle of music and antics to follow. And then there they were unleashed, **Of Montreal**, a handful of fun and madness upon us.

In between their psychedelic melodies and pop synth sensations, an array of strange mythical creatures danced, wrestled and did acrobatic theatrics to compliment. A pink creature entered into the madness, pulling carrots and apples out of his over-sized crutch under his pink leotard like suit, which was followed by taking a bite of the carrot and apple and throwing them into the crowd before gracefully leaving the stage and leaving the audience flabbergasted.. 'What the hell is going on?!'

It was almost like an unorganised play or skit but in the most beautiful form that is totally indescribable but

it made you feel good whatever was happening... like an *Alice In Wonderland* scene unraveling before your eyes. The crowd bopped to tunes from the band's expansive ten year career such as *Heimdalsgate Like Promethean Curse*. Just look at the album and song titles released by the band, times that by ten and you may be close to thinking of the craziness and unexplainable madness that everyone experienced. And it did not stop.

A gold, tin-man like creature entered and was joined by the ever reappearing crouching tiger that ripped off his gold suit. But no, the tiger was fooled, underneath reappeared the black creature which jumped on the tiger's back, which was complimented by the soundtrack of epic music and distorted guitars which soon morphed into a taste of Guns And Roses' *Sweet Child Of Mine*.

Tracks from their most recent album from 2008 were given to the night such as *Id Engager*, a funky little dance tune... Think if Kylie Minogue started a band and took acid. And if that wasn't enough, and obviously it wasn't due to the floor stomping thunder of the crowd for an encore, the tiger appeared with a superman-like alien who jumped around to hype up the crowd. And eventually, sabotaged Of Montreal by hopping on the drums and microphone, before being pulled and wrestled off stage by Kevin Barnes and his crew.

While all this madness continued through the set there was just something missing. Although the Music Box offers one of the best venues in Perth and holds such a great atmosphere, maybe a smaller more intimate venue would of suited the band's antics and sound as it seemed to get too lost in the open environment. Saying that, the band pulled it off, getting people at the front bopping about and others up the back glued to the antics that were unleashed upon Perth.

Crazy... YES.

AMY VINICOMBE