







Black Mountain, this Sunday at Beck's Music Box

BLACK MOUNTAIN

Kick-Ass Classics





Black Mountain might be artistic, sometime mental-health and social workers, but the Canadian five-piece, are certainly *not* proto-hippies.

In fact, with their incredible second album, *In The Future* from last year, Black Mountain are nothing short of a classic-rock arse kick, and it's an idea that sits unbelievably well with bassist Matt Cairrand.

"Yeah," he says gruffly, "it was pretty nice to get into the blues-ier side of the band in the last little while, and to really get into the riffs we've got. It helps that it's pretty damn cathartic as well."

That catharsis is achieved across balls-out trips such as *Stormy High* or *Bright Lights*, which basically transport the listener into a seedy, whacked-out bad trip, of rock. Black Mountain are basically the band you wish Led Zeppelin had the balls to be, but instead we got *Presence*.

However, just as Black Mountain aren't proto-hippies, nor are they simple rock revivalists. Everything they do is conjured from a place neither you nor me could probably understand. It was evident in their self-titled debut from 2005, and *In The Future* served notice as, not just one of the year's greatest records, but as a freakin' masterpiece.

How they've managed to combine raucous psyche-rock with a freaked out, mystical folkadelica is nothing short of inspiring, and it's something that Matt believes is simply "a natural occurrence," he muses quietly. "I mean," he adds, "it's just 'us'. It's what we like. It's us really playing the music we dig, and that changes from song to song depending on the mood of the band - and that's what it's all about. Everyone brings something to the band, and it's a melting pot of ideas. That's the rock 'n' roll fantasy - we got into bands because we loved kick-ass rock 'n' roll music. That's the reason I want to step onto a stage. That's what you get on the record I guess. It actually makes the writing process super fun. There are no rules. We don't care if people call it a 'throwback' - we're gonna make these songs we think are kick-ass."

With Matt and his Canadian compadres boasting a slew of tours off the back of *In The Future*, the band (*Stephen McBean, Amber Webber, Jeremy Schmidt, Joshua Wells*), Black Mountain are also a live juggernaut not to be fucked with. "I'm pretty proud to say we can pull the record off live," laughs Matt demurely. "We've got a really great sound guy who's pretty much a part of the band, but I don't think the live show lacks anything sonically from the record, which was a pretty solid goal of ours going into it."

Black Mountain perform at the Beck's Music Box this Sunday, March 1.

_ JAYMZ CLEMENTS