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program



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2010

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**M**arch 2010 marks the fifth installment of Iowa City's Mission Creek Festival, a music and arts bash that takes over downtown Iowa City for several days each year. A now-independent spin-off from the original Mission Creek Festival in San Francisco, it is kind of a miracle that the festival even exists in a town this small. However, thanks to the dedication of music fans, the support of local businesses, and the hard work of a small staff of rabid art-lovers, the festival manages to organize more than 100 bands, artists and writers across Iowa City's venues over five rewarding days. Past festivals have hosted fan-favorite

bands like Tapes 'n Tapes (MC 2006); Mucca Pazza and Patti Griffin (MC 2007); Bon Iver and Cursive (MC 2008); and GZA, The Mountain Goats and Beach House (MC 2009)--and Jesus H., that's just the short list of national acts.

Even as Mission Creek hosts bigger and more rocktastic acts like this year's Booker T. of the MGs, the Meat Puppets, the Hood Internet and Acid Mothers Temple, the organizers continue to stuff its programming with a vast number of local and regional bands that have entertained Iowa City residents for months (Grand Tetons), years (Liberty Leg) or even decades (Greg Brown). Thumb through the

pages of this guide to see when your favorite local band might be gracing a stage.

And let's be clear: Mission Creek is not just about the music. Each year the organizers schedule several events to highlight the written word, hosting both local and national writers. Turn to page 4 of this Mission Creek Festival program to see this year's exciting literary events.

Be sure to check [MissionFreak.com](http://MissionFreak.com) for the most current Mission Creek Festival news and updates, including information about obtaining all-access festival passes. *Little Village* is proud to be collaborating with festival organizers to publish this 2010 festival program, and will be posting Mission Creek news to its own website at [LittleVillageMag.com](http://LittleVillageMag.com), as well.

Woot! Enjoy the shows!!!

### festival producers

Craig Eley, Tanner Illingworth, Todd Olmstead, Andre Perry

### festival staff

Nelle Dunlap, John Schlotfeldt, Mikko Wolf, Joe Tiffenthaler, Chris Wiersma

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### program design

Nelle Dunlap, Andrew Sherburne

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## mon, march 29

## highlights for tues, march 30

### POCAHAUNTED + PEAKING LIGHTS \ RENE HELL \ ALEX BODY

**Gabe's/The Picador, 9pm** [\$8]

Pocahaunted is a psychedelic drone outfit from California comprised of Amanda Brown and Bethany Cosentino (Bethany is also making waves as Best Coast). The duo mixes a diverse pallet of influences like Native American chants, Reggae and North African tribal music over deep synth drones. Pocahaunted found the right mixture on 2008's dub-infused sensation *Island Diamonds*. The duo garnered numerous blogosphere accolades and became the soundtrack to many a DIY dance party. That same year, the duo also released *Beast That You Are*, a cassette, on Iowa City's very own Night-People Records.



### THE CAVE SINGERS + BIRDS & BATTERIES \ MONDO DRAG

**The Mill, 9pm** [Free]

What's remarkable about the Cave Singers isn't that they're indie dudes playing folk music; that story has been told before. No, what's remarkable is that none of these three men have much of a background in folk music. Considering their pedigree—three musicians whose backgrounds lie primarily in loud, punk rock—that they've invoked a sound so classic and timeless is almost unbelievable. With two releases for renowned indie label Matador Records under their belts, they are poised to break out. Their recent release, *Welcome Joy* is fresh and exciting while staying true to some of America's most well-traveled musical paths.

### DINOSAUR FEATHERS + REPLACING THE ROBOTS \ SO MUCH FUN

**Public Space ONE, 6pm** [Free]

As fellow New Yorkers who have taken aspects of "world music" and woven it into their own brand of pop, Brooklyn up-and-comers Dinosaur Feathers will eventually be compared to Vampire Weekend. In the meantime, though, they are flying delightfully under most radars, even as they continue to make really fun and sonically interesting pop music.



**XIU XIU**  
+ TUNE-YARDS \ TALK NORMAL \ COYOTE SLINGSHOT

**Gabe's/The Picador, 8pm** [\$8]

tUnE-yArDs defies any notion of what a solo performer should be. With an arsenal of imagination, the artist also known as Merrill Garbus has created a hypnotic, original collection of songs (*BiRd-BrAiNs*) that owes heavily to DIY home recording aesthetics as well as world flavors. It is noisy, chaotic, rhythmic and heartwarming at the same time. tUnE-yArDs is touring with Xiu Xiu, one of indie rock's more daring and enigmatic bands. That band's core, Jamie Stewart, mixes passion and politics in his music, creating a volatile mix of musical noise and lyrical subjects that tackle transgression, outsidership and sexuality.



**THE DAREDEVIL CHRISTOPHER WRIGHT**

+ BRIGHTON, MA \ SARAH MANNIX \ THE NEW BODIES

**The Mill, 9pm** [\$6]

The Daredevil Christopher Wright create bold, playful and original folk music. 2010 is going to be spent building on the success of last year's excellent *In Deference to a Broken Back*, for which they worked with fellow Eau Claire, Wisconsin, native Justin Vernon, more popularly known as the man behind Bon Iver.



**BOOKER T. (OF THE LEGENDARY MGS)**  
+ JJ GREY \ DUSTIN BUSCH

**The Englert, 8pm** [\$26 advance/\$29 day of show]

Booker T. Jones' presence at Mission Creek this year marks a big step for Mission Creek: He will be the first artist to perform at the festival who has been inducted to the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame. That said, Booker T. doesn't need any awards to justify his legendary status in the music world. As a key member in the 1960s soul group Booker T. & the MGs, Booker T.'s irresistible organ riffs became part of our musical consciousness—that simple hook from "Green Onions" is still as mesmerizing today as it was 40 years ago. While the MGs garnered success from their own records, they also served as the house band for the seminal Stax Records, anchoring key recordings by the likes of Otis Redding and Wilson Pickett. In recent years, Booker T. has remained busy, most recently cutting the highly acclaimed record *Potato Hole* with the Drive-By Truckers, and hitting the road for a series of highly acclaimed festival shows.

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## ACID MOTHERS TEMPLE

+ OVER-GAIN OPTIMAL DEATH \ WET HAIR \ BROKEN WATER

Gabe's/The Picador, 9pm [\$8]

Acid Mothers Temple is like a trippy, prog-rock, Japanese version of The Wu-Tang Clan. Formed with a communal spirit in 1995-96, Acid Mothers Temple is the brain child of Kawabata Makoto. Kawabata wanted a place where musicians of equal talent, not necessarily notoriety, could get together and collaborate on long, psychedelic, progressive jams. Since the first release, *Acid Mothers Temple & the Melting Paraiso U.F.O.*, Kawabata and the artists have splintered into numerous offshoots (most featuring Kawabata in some capacity) working in a bevy of different styles (free jazz, kraut-rock, prog-rock). All of the various collectives promote experimentation and improvisation. Gabe's/The Picador will host the flagship group, Acid Mothers Temple & the Melting Paraiso U.F.O., featuring Kawabata, Tsuyama Atsushi, Higashi Hiroshi and Shimura Koji.

## literary events

Mission Creek is more than music. Feed your hunger for good words with these five free literary happenings.

### ASHLEY BUTLER

Thursday, Mar. 30, 7pm, Prairie Lights

### THOMAS BELLER, BEN HALE, STEPHEN KUUSISTO, AND MEMBERS OF THE UI'S NONFICTION WRITING PROGRAM

Friday, Mar. 31, 7pm, Prairie Lights

### BOOK FAIR

MAKE MAGAZINE, HOBART MAGAZINE, IOWA REVIEW, ESSAY PRESS, WAG'S REVUE, SARABANDE

Saturday, Apr. 1, 2-6pm, The Mill

### COLSON WHITEHEAD, EULA BISS, AND KIKI PETROSINO

Saturday, Apr. 1, 3pm, The Mill

### LITERARY DEATH MATCH

Saturday, Apr. 1, 5pm, The Mill

For descriptions of these events, check out the March issue of *Little Village*.



## BOMB SQUAD

+ THE HOOD INTERNET \ DATABASE \ SCHOOL OF FLYENTOLOGY

The Yacht Club, 10pm [\$8]

The past, the present and the future converge upon each other at the Yacht Club for what promises to be an amazing meeting of beat-making minds. Legendary deejays/producers Bomb Squad, who pioneered the use of sampling in music on albums like Public Enemy's *It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back* and *Fear of a Black Planet*, unveil their new dark electronic sounds alongside rising stars the Hood Internet, whose own mash-ups continue to stun audiences long after the fad has passed. Brazil's dance music phenoms Database return to the USA after a long absence, and local mash-up and dance-music enthusiasts, School of Flyentology, will kick things off. Bomb Squad's appearance at this show coincides with their panel talk at the Englert where they will discuss, alongside Chuck D, the making of the essential hip hop album *Fear of a Black Planet*.

## DAVID BAZAN

+ HEADLIGHTS \ CAROLINE SMITH & THE GOODNIGHT SLEEPS \ THE POISON CONTROL CENTER

The Mill, 9pm [\$8 advance/\$10 day of show]

David Bazan's recent album, *Curse Your Branches*, was his first since retiring his band Pedro the Lion in 2006. And while that band was splitting up, what many didn't realize was that Bazan was also undergoing a deep personal split with the Christian faith. As a Christian indie rocker, Bazan was an anomaly; he received accolades from both Christian and secular audiences. *Curse Your Branches* is a deep and human rumination on life, faith and doubt. He is currently touring with emotive pop quartet Headlights. Caroline Smith plays, as well as the return of Ames, Iowa, rockers the Poison Control Center.



## MEAT PUPPETS

+ JOE JACK TALCUM (OF THE DEAD MILK-MEN) \ SAM LOCKE-WARD & THE BOO-HOOS

The Mill, 8pm [\$15]

Once part of the influential SST Records roster (including: Sonic Youth, Hüsker Dü, and Minutemen), Meat Puppets were too idiosyncratic to garner the hardcore or punk acolytes who flocked to Hüsker Dü and Minutemen (respectively), and not highfalutin enough to attract the art-house punks surrounding Sonic Youth. Yet Meat Puppets would survive long enough to see their brand of cooky, country-fried punk have its day. After over a decade as a band and seven albums, Meat Puppets went gold with their eighth effort, *Too High to Die*, and charted an alternative radio hit with that album's single "Backwater." The spotlight found them after Nirvana covered three songs ("Lake of Fire," "Oh, Me," and "Plateau") from Meat Puppets' seminal sophomore album *Meat Puppets II* for Nirvana's equally seminal *MTV Unplugged in New York*, which was released earlier in 1994 just after Kurt Cobain's death. Drug problems sidelined Meat Puppets a few years and albums later, but in 2007, after a four-year hiatus, the group returned to the fray with *Rise to Your Knees*. The group upped the ante in 2009 with the considerably stronger release *Sewn Together*. Meat Puppets played The Mill last June in support of *Sewn Together* and had such a wonderful time they asked to come back.

## LITTLE DRAGON

+ VV BROWN \ THE ENVY CORPS \ THE WESTERN FRONT

Blue Moose Taphouse, 9pm [\$8 advance/\$10 day of show]

Hailing from Sweden, Little Dragon have recently been exploding big city clubs across the United States with their body-moving electronic pop. Much like France's electronic duo Air, this music is as appropriate for the dance floor as it is for the bedroom. These sexy grooves are built around the seductive voice of Yukimi Nagano and the cunning textural craftwork of her bandmates. With hints of '80s electro-pop, futuristic space-pop, and an EDM pulse this has the potential to be the sleeper dance party of the festival. The Envy Corps, indie-pop vets from Ames, Iowa, will play as well, behind their best release yet, *Kid Gloves*.



## TIM HECKER

+ GREG DAVIS \ LWA \ WIND FARM

Gabe's/The Picador, 9:30pm [\$8]

Tim Hecker makes "ambient" music, for lack of a better word. That said, his songs have shown up everywhere from concept art records to metal blogs, which is a testament to his versatility, the

density of his soundscapes, and his willingness to experiment with his own sound over the last decade. Starting with 2001's landmark *Haunt Me, Haunt Me, Do It Again*, Hecker's work consciously blurs his sonic sources, which at any given moment might include computer-generated tones, analog synths or acoustic and electric guitars through all variety of pedals. The result has ranged from glitchy, staticky minimalism to the lush electronic waves of last year's *An Imaginary Country*, which Hecker has said was based on a "utopian idea" of music. This rare live performance should have the audience feeling similarly.

## DAWN'S AT DUSK

Dawn's Hide and Bead Away, Friday April 2 and Saturday April 3, 6-8pm [Free]

The festival is always in search of something new and different, and this year, that means having shows in a bead store. These events are all about two things: diverse musical acts and really short sets! These two shows will feature 10-12 acts (each night!) performing for no longer than 10 minutes. There will be free food and drink, so stop by before you head out to the rest of the events!

**GRANT HART**  
+ THE TANKS \ FAMILY VAN  
\ AND SUPER SONIC PISS \  
LIVING GHOST

**Gabe's/The Picador, 9:30pm** [\$8]

Grant Hart reached the public consciousness as the drummer for St. Paul hardcore band Hüsker Dü. Hart, in many ways, proved to be McCartney to fellow Hüsker Dü songwriter Bob Mould's Lennon; and deserves fair credit for the expansive and psychedelic palettes the band would explore as it became a critical darling. After Hüsker Dü's disillusion, Hart concentrated his efforts on his alternative act Nova Mob before finally focusing on a solo career after 1997. Hart is still out on the road supporting his 2009 release, *Hot Wax*, an album steeped in early garage rock and the psychedelic sounds of the late '60s. Hart's solo debut, 1989's *Intolerance*, originally released on the heels of Hüsker Dü's break up, has also been recently reissued on 180-gram vinyl.



**ANNI ROSSI**  
+ CASIOTONE FOR  
THE PAINFULLY  
ALONE \ GOLDEN  
BIRDS \ JEFF RAY

**Public Space ONE, 9pm** [\$6]

Classically-trained violist Anni Rossi has accomplished a lot in her 24 years, including two of the biggest breaks an indie songwriter could hope for: getting signed to the 4AD record label and having a debut album produced by the legendary Steve Albini (who has recorded The Breeders, The Jesus Lizard, Slint, Fugazi and PJ Harvey, to name a few). The result of these stars aligning is 2009's *Rockwell*, a gem of a record that features her trademark quirky vocals, minimal musical accompaniment, and the overwhelming feeling that she both deserves her success and is criminally underrated. With 10 songs clocking in at just more than 26 minutes, Rossi certainly can't be described as self-indulgent, which is refreshing in the increasingly crowded performance category of stringed-instrument virtuosos wanting to make indie music.



**CORY CHISEL**  
& THE WANDERING SONS  
+ DIPLOMATS OF SOLID SOUND \ SAD IRON

**The Mill, 9pm** [\$8 advance/\$10 day of show]

As a live unit, the Wandering Sons are reminiscent of classic groups like the Heartbreakers and the Band—and with Cory Chisel fronting them, they have a distinctive voice to complement those instrumental chops. Chisel croons like he's a lost member of the Rat Pack but his posturing is much more modern: He is a charming, whisky-sipping hipster. His songs are one-part country, one-part soul, and a healthy dose of salvation. Chisel just cut a new album with members of the Raconteurs down in Nashville. The result is a rocking collection of songs, full of regrets and revelations. Also, the highly revered Diplomats of Solid Sound reunite to bring their hip-shaking '60s grooves back to the stage.

**FULL SCHEDULE**

**BLUE MOOSE**  
211 IOWA AVE

**ENGLERT**  
221 E WASHINGTON ST

**MILL**  
120 E BURLINGTON ST

**TUE 3/30**

9:00 Mondo Drag  
10:00 Birds & Batteries  
11:00 The Cave Singers

**WED 3/31**

TBA Black Cobra Metal Show  
(details at [www.missionfreak.com](http://www.missionfreak.com))

8:00 Dustin Busch  
8:30 JJ Grey  
9:30 Booker T.

9:00 The New Bodies  
9:50 Sarah Mannix  
10:45 Brighton, MA  
11:45 The Daredevil Christopher Wright

**THU 4/1**

9:30 Scenester Credentials Showcase  
(details at [www.missionfreak.com](http://www.missionfreak.com))

7:00 Chuck D Lecture  
9:00 Circus  
10:00 Les Dames du Burlesque

9:00 The Poison Control Center  
10:00 Caroline Smith  
11:00 Headlights  
12:00 David Bazan

**FRI 4/2**

9:15 The Western Front  
10:15 The Envy Corps  
11:15 VV Brown  
12:15 Little Dragon

8:00 Shame Stevens  
8:50 Spirit of the Red  
9:40 Dave Zollo

8:50 Joe Jack Talcum  
8:00 Sam Locke Ward & the Boo-Hoos  
9:45 The Meat Puppets

**SAT 4/3**

8:00 TBA  
8:50 Camera Obscura

8:00 Pieta Brown  
9:00 Greg Brown

9:30 Sad Iron  
10:30 Diplomats of Solid Sound  
11:30 Cory Chisel

# GREG BROWN + PIETA BROWN

**The Englert, 8pm** [\$30 assigned seating/\$45 Golden Circle seating]



Along with Bix Beiderbeck and Slipknot, Greg Brown stands as one of Iowa's few, true, homegrown musical stars. Brown was something of a journeyman in his younger days, he led the famous hootenannies at Gerde's Folk City in New York, traveled to Portland, Los Angeles, and wrote songs for Buck Ram of the Platters in Vegas. In 1980, Brown returned to Iowa, got married, and set his sights on a solo career. His early records, released on his very own Red House Records, landed the folkie solid reviews and his regular appearances on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion* netted him a strong following. The title track from his '81 release *The Iowa Waltz* was even in the running as the official state song of Iowa. Among Brown's numerous accolades and awards, he's also recieved two Grammy nominations (*Friend of Mine* [with Bill Morrissey] and *Slant 6 Mind*). Brown's spare compositions and emotionally wrought lyrics have been admired and covered by the likes of Willie Nelson, Jack Johnson, Joan Baez, Ani DiFranco, Carlos Santana and many more. Mission Creek organizers are truly honored to have a quintessential Iowa musician be an integral part of this festival.



# CAMERA OBSCURA + TBA

**Blue Moose Taphouse, 8pm** [\$15]

When Camera Obscura broke through in the United States with 2004's *Underachievers Please Try Harder*, some critics were prepared for them to be a short, but amazing, blip on the indie-pop radar. They were just too precious, too devoted to fellow Glaswegians Belle & Sebastian, and too darn good at writing forlorn love songs to stick around for long, right? Thankfully, those critics were wrong, and Camera Obscura's critical and popular success has only increased with each new record. After *Underachievers*, Merge Records reissued their 2001 European debut, *Biggest Bluest Hi-Fi*, and in 2006, they returned with new material on *Let's Get Out of This Country*. Their most recent effort is last year's *My Maudlin Career*.

The face and voice of Camera Obscura is Tracyanne Campbell, whose deceptively plain singing manages to capture loneliness, desperation and low self-esteem in an emotionally honest way, whether she's singing about high school crushes or more adult traumas of love and loss. The whole thing might be a big downer if it wasn't for the incredibly lush and melodic music made by the quintet that accompanies her. Make no mistake: This is classic, sugary sweet pop music, in that way that the Scottish are so darn good at.

## GABE'S/PICADOR 330 E WASHINGTON ST

## PUBLIC SPACE 1 129 E WASHINGTON ST

## YACHT CLUB 13 S LINN ST

## MORE!

**MON 3/29**  
9:30 Alex Body  
10:15 Rene Hell  
11:00 Peaking Lights  
11:50 Pocahaunted

7:00 Happy Chromosomes  
7:50 So Much Fun  
8:40 Replacing the Robots  
9:20 Dinosaur Feathers

9:00 Coyote Slingshot  
9:50 Talk Normal  
10:40 tUnE-yArDs  
11:40 Xiu-Xiu

8:00 Old Panther  
8:50 The Wheelers  
9:40 Capgun Coup  
10:40 Molly Ringwald

9:30 Liberty Leg  
10:20 Beast Wars  
11:10 Carusella  
12:00 Mannix!

9:20 Broken Water  
10:05 Wet Hair  
10:45 Over Gain Optimal Death  
11:30 Acid Mothers Temple

9:00 School of Flyentology  
11:00 The Hood Internet  
10:00 Database  
12:15 Bomb Squad

9:30 Wind Farm  
10:00 Lwa  
10:40 Greg Davis  
11:40 Tim Hecker

8:00 Mumfords  
8:50 Porno Galactica  
9:40 Roommate  
10:30 Christopher the Conquered

9:30 Dave Bess  
10:30 The Gglitch

9:15 Living Ghost  
9:50 Family Van  
10:30 Super Sonic Piss  
11:00 The Tanks  
12:00 Grant Hart

8:30 Jeff Ray  
9:15 Golden Birds  
10:00 Casiotone for the Painfully Alone  
11:00 Anni Rossi

10:00 Dennis McMurrin

## SANCTUARY PUB 405 S GILBERT ST

**Thurs, April 1**  
8:30 Dewi Sant  
9:15 Monadnoc  
10:00 Brooks Strause

## JAVA HOUSE 211 1/2 E WASHINGTON ST

**Thurs, April 1**  
8:00 Star City  
8:50 Ed Gray

**Fri, April 2**  
8:30 Equilateral

**Sat, April 3**  
8:00 Chrash  
8:50 The Poison Control Center

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