

MidWeek

Arkeo - The Product of Gestalt - Releases: July 20

July 20, 2007

By Melissa Moniz

The 411



At award shows, bands often obtusely thank their fans for their support and even may throw in the line, "If it wasn't for you all, I wouldn't be here" - but Arkeo thanks its fans every day, and doesn't need a televised opportunity to do so.

From the naming of its band, to the naming of its CD, which releases today, Arkeo turned to its fans aka friends - even its CD cover and jacket is flooded with pictures fans have sent in.

"The album title was also left up to the fans - and we got, The Product of Gestalt," says Jordan Taulau. "We could be completely off on this because we don't have our degree in psychology or anything, but as far as Gestalt psychology it is about the whole of the thing being better than the individual parts. It (Arkeo) is the Greek verb for "to be content," and as far as our faith, just being content in whatever state you find yourself in. We thought that name embodied like who we were and what our music is about."

"Fans first" is a philosophy that members Jordan Shalm (guitar/lead vocals), Trey Bruffey (guitar/vocals), Justin Williams (guitar), Dave Childers (bass and vocals) and Jordan Taulau (drums and vocals) live by.

"We put our fans in the forefront in everything we do, and we get inspired by that to create progressive music," says Childers.

Progressive is just one of many adjectives that Arkeo uses to describe its music. Others include punk rock, dance rock, pop rock, alternative and reggae. It's a mixed plate of sounds smashed together to create their unique sound that has garnered attention from fans around the country.

"The music is not one genre, and it represents who we are," says Shalm. "We come from all different places and like all different kinds of music, and we've kind of thrown everything we are together so even the music is reflective of that."

Arkeo will perform live from 6 p.m. July 26 at Soundhouse, and at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 1 at the Outlet in Aiea.

For more info, visit www.myspace.com/arkeo

Q'n A

If you had to compare your music to a food, what would it be?

Trey: A salad.

Dave: A pupu platter.

Jordan: Corn. It's an inside joke with anyone who follows us, but I'm going to think of a real reason, why corn? It goes back to the Gestalt thing because the kernels are all the individual experiences and people that make up the whole ear of corn.

(laughs)

What song do you think you've sung the most times in your life?

Dave: Hotel California.

Shalm: I'd probably say Sweet Home Alabama.

Trey: I'd have to say Fall Out Boy's Thanks for the Memories because that song always gets stuck in my head.

Jordan: If we are counting like literally, then probably Amazing Grace. Just growing up in church and stuff.

If you could see any band/artist in concert, who would you pick? Trey: Metallica.

Jordan: Right now, No. 1 priority is Brand New; I'm dying to see those guys.

Shalm: They're not a band anymore, but Van Halen. That would have been rad. Or Def Leppard. Justin: I'd probably have to say, Explosions In The Sky.

What is the strangest thing about you?

Justin: I have this weird little noise that I do. I hiccup and burp at the same time. It's really weird, you should experience it sometime. Jordan: This is not even that weird, but just tying it in to the music, when I drive how I write is I'll be sitting in traffic and I'll bus' out the recorder on my phone and start singing and humming stuff. And I can just imagine what that looks like to everyone else in traffic.

What would you say is the hardest song to sing?

Dave: Any Celine Dion song or Mariah Carey song. That's really high.

Trey: I'd say a lot of the Coheed and Cambria songs. That guy is amazing.

Jordan: Yeah, you definitely don't see that many bands trying to sing Coheed and Cambria.

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