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Brother Magnum

Posted by Elliot Cole



photo by Scott Ramsay

With sunglasses tilted over his brow and a smooth, classy mustache, Brother Magnum (a.k.a. Magnum de Pimp and Magnum von Stankfinger) looks every bit the part of a silky blues legend from Chicago. But the former military brat instead settled down right here in Austin in his teens, bringing with him a soulful crooning that ladels itself over a roots-rock style that seems more than at home in the heart of Texas.

Having grown up in California as the youngest of eight siblings, it makes sense that Brother Magnum would become a proverbial sponge of music. Be it Jackson 5 or Kiss, Magnum was introduced to it at a young age, and it all manages to manifest itself in various ways in his style, which nonetheless has an undeniable aesthetic home in the southwest. Rock, jazz, blues, soul, and funk all make sporadic cameos in a sound that is bred for crowded bars and outdoor barbeques.

Austin has a strong (albeit occasionally hidden) jazz/blues scene and high-profile acts like Brother Magnum are welcome. With his charismatic embodiment of his genre, he's a magnet for attention, but that's just a road to the thick, coarse vocals and patient-but-energetic rhythms that help to define his style. The most prominent ingredient, of course, is his soulful wail, a semblance of blues from New Orleans or the edge of rock from decades past, owing as much to Otis Redding as Sly Stone.

With three albums already under his belt from his show band Dysfunkshun Junkshun (worth a glance in its own right) Brother Magnum has already established himself as a prolific performer. More importantly, his style resonates within its genre without being cliché or overdone. Brother Magnum exercises versatility in bouncing around from style to style in a manner that is embrasive and familiar, but never systematic. It's this time of comfortability that has garnered Magnum comparisons to "Mom's cooking with an extra helping of the blues."

Brother Magnum has already performed at festivals, news stations, and jammed with John Popper (of Blues Traveler fame) in anticipation of a 2009 album, but your best chance to catch him is at one of his myriad of sixth street performances or at the North Iron Cactus. For now, take a listen to "Have A Good Time" off of his 2008 release, Meet Me In My Daydream.

Brother Magnum

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