



“While the name suggests an apathetic attitude, these guys are no slackers. The influences behind the music spans a wide range. The lyrics are inspired by such wordsmiths as Elvis Costello, Richard Thompson and Jeff Buckley, to name a few.”

– Ashley Deem, *Now It's Dark*

shrug

I know what you're thinking out there.

You who, when faced with an ever-narrowing range of music choices from disposable dance-pop, derivative hip-hop, and rock bands whose influences apparently run the gamut from Pearl Jam's "Ten" to Alice In Chains' "Dirt", asks yourself, "Doesn't anybody write songs anymore? Songs that sound just as good when you strum them on a porch as when you hear them blasting from a car radio or out of a PA system set to eleven?"

The answer to your hypothetical question is, "Yes." There are a few out there doing it right and struggling to be heard. One of those bands is Shrug, whose bio you're holding in your hot little hands.

Imagine the structure and attention to craft of Tom Petty's Heartbreakers combined with the edge of Johnny Thunders' Heartbreakers. Imagine Ziggy Stardust-era Bowie refereeing a battle between Elvis Costello, The Who, REM, Steve Earle, Jeff Buckley and the Jayhawks. This is how Shrug has been described, but you'll really have to judge for yourself.

Formed in good old Dayton, Ohio in the mid-nineties, Shrug has gone from basement pastime to regional favorite, gaining college radio airplay around the country and critical praise from major indie music media. They have run away with critical success while winning various "band playoff" type contests around southern Ohio. Their wide musical range has led them to stages shared with musicians such as Guided By Voices, Peter Mulvey, The Verve Pipe, Twilight Singer Harold "Happy" Chichester and even Men At Work. They were a finalist in the 2002 WOXY "97Xposure" contest, earning them airplay on the internationally known station, and in 2003 two of their songs were named in the top ten of all songs submitted by Ohio bands to an ASCAP songwriter's conference. They have performed twice in Cincinnati's MidPoint Music Fest as well as the first and only, and highly-successful, Dayton Music Fest along with bands Swearing at Motorists and Enon.

With a solid past and a sure future (the imminent arrival of their fourth full-length album, the self-released "Whole Hog for the Macho Jesus" in mid-October 2005 is already creating a stir in their hometown) Tod, Dan, Eric and Bryan are hitting their stride with confidence, maturity and creativity. With plans for two more albums in as many years, these guys are serious about their plans to continue taking their music to a new level.

SHRUG IS: Tod Weidner *vocals, guitar* Dan Stahl *drums*
Eric Cassidy *vocals, guitar* Bryan Lakatos *bass*

ALBUMS: *Straight to Beta* 1995; *Everything's Blowing Up Roses* 1998;
Shrug. 2002 *Whole Hog for the Macho Jesus* 2005

Regarding Shrug's live performance:
"Their great guitar lead folk / roots rock attack on the crowd had many people dancing while the rest looked on tapping their toes... they seem on the verge of breaking in a big way."

– Grog, *Mutant Renegade Zine*

"I love my job because of stuff like this...these guys are one extremely tight outfit. The musicianship of these four is downright phenomenal. Here's a song [All Around the Underworld] that by all rights should be on the radio. I loved it."

– Courtney Odom-Rai,
bandfreaks.com

"If you're a major label A&R person looking for something fresh, this could be the catch of the day."

– Dylan Filkow, *The Album Network*

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