



Constantly touring/playing with a variety of acts including The Girly Freak Show (Featuring Sylmensrta Hymen of Gwar), Estradasphere, Dillenger Escape Plan, Stone Sour, Chevelle, Pennywise, Buckcherry, Dog Fashion Disco, CKY, Wesley Willis, Mushroomhead, Breaking Benjamin, The Frogs, Jimmie's Chicken Shack, The Dismemberment Plan, The Blue Meanies and more. Their humor, vigor and authority on stage never fail to capture new fans and always entertain long-time followers.

Tub Ring is the unwilling, led by the unknowing...doing the impossible for the ungrateful. In fact, they have been doing so much, for so long, with so little, they are now qualified to do anything with nothing. True post-modernists, Tub Ring's nomadic musical senses fit them snugly in the company of norm-defying acts such as Fantomas, Radiohead, and Beck. *Fermi Paradox* (Oct 02), their newest album, takes over where the previous *Drake Equation* left off. This time Tub Ring went into the studio armed with a slew of guest musicians creating a small orchestra to compliment each of the new tracks. In a given track, one might find sitar, flute, violin, vibraphones, and a horn section. This album may very well be one of the most ambitious indie rock recordings of our time. In fact, *Fermi Paradox* might



deepen one's outlook on the universe or soften the heart of the most jaded music listener. Tub Ring has taken their controlled schizophrenia all throughout America, Canada, and Japan.



On to the interview...

I hear you have a new album in the works. Can you tell us how it's going to sound? Will it be similar to the past releases or a whole new thing?

When will we hear it? Yeah, we're currently working on the new album. We're doing it in spurts, actually. Every time we have a week or two off from touring we've been jumping in the studio to record a few songs. I'm not sure when exactly it will be complete. We're still on the road, but we have about half of it finished and recorded. We're really excited about the way the songs sound. By recording this way we really get to go over each song with a fine toothcomb and spend as much time tweaking them as we like. I think people will be happy. So far, it's a little faster and crazier than *Fermi*, but orchestrated in similar ways (violin, marimba, horns, etc).

What kind of songs do you try to write? Are you able to get what is in your head onto the CD?

Actually, the way a song sounds in our heads almost never sounds the way it eventually turns out. This is a good thing. The finished product turns out to be more of a group effort. By the time we all add our individual influences, the song becomes a "Tub Ring" song.

What types of bands have influenced Tub Ring?

I think we all come from different musical backgrounds, which is why our music goes through so many different styles. I think we're all fans of bands that don't necessarily make cookie cutter songs. Bands like Radiohead, Mr. Bungle, Beck, etc. They're the ones that make us try harder to enrich music so it's not just following the motions.

Is there a band that stands out in your mind, that should be getting more press and exposure than they are currently receiving?

My favorite band is a band called Self. They're on Dreamworks and I don't understand how they're not huge. It's super intricate, layered music with catchy as hell vocals over them. Really good stuff. Plus, there is this band called Tub Ring who tours constantly and keeps funding their own albums, only to hardly be found in any record stores or be promoted by the powers that be. Hopefully things will change for them soon.

I saw you did a tour with Mindless Self Indulgence. How was that experience?



That was great. They were fun people and that tour was off the hook. I didn't realize how big they were. I knew they had a major label album released but I didn't realize they were selling out sizable venues. Which, of course, was a great opportunity for us to spread our name a bit. I think it was a good mix. We went over well with their audience. They just recently came out to our last New York

show, which was extremely nice of them.

Any wild road stories or truck stop adventures you wanna get off your chest?

I think we're pretty tame compared to some bands. We end up living out of a van for months at a time while we're on the road, so we have to be disciplined to get to the next show on time. Sometimes we'll play a show and get offered a place to crash afterwards and the person will be saying, "Yeah, cool! I'll grab some beer and call my friends and we'll party all night!" and we're thinking, "Uh, yeah, you think it's cool if we just shower and get to sleep before we have to drive 8 hours tomorrow?"

You play a ton of shows. What cities have you received the greatest response from?

Being from the Midwest, we've been playing the Midwest the longest and most frequently, so that's where our strongest draws are. Places like Chicago, Indianapolis, Cincinnati. We're a pretty "grassroots/tell-your-friends-about-us" band, so hitting towns often is how we spread the name. The crowds are pretty different city to city. Some places we have a strong punk rock following, some places a metal crowd, which is fine by us. We listen to many styles of music, so hopefully we're not pigeonholed into one style of music ourselves.

Anything that you want everybody to know about Tub Ring? Anything you want to add?

We're pretty happy with our live show. If you've only heard our album, make sure to check us out live. That's really what we are, a live band. Plus, by the amount of touring we do, odds are we'll be close to you soon. Also, check out the web page at www.tubring.com. We have a little budding community there and it's always nice to have more.

