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## [Show Review] Pretty Please CD Release Party

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So where do I start? After 2 years of hard work, **Pretty Please** has finally released their debut album and launched their CD release party this past Saturday on December 11, 2010. The venue was probably one of the best high end venues I've been to in awhile, especially for a local show. The venue **Awarehouse** was a huge building that was more like a huge art gallery. The outside was an enormous outdoor space for artists and painters to paint freely while the outside acoustic acts were performing as warmers for the acts playing inside. The show was supposed to start off with Pocket Of Lollipops, but they cancelled. The event was done very well and considering the venue itself you can tell there was a lot of work put into the CD Release Party.

I want to start off by saying that I'm not into watching a lot of acoustic acts unless they really shine and stand out for me. It's really not the acoustic acts' fault, but in my personal view I just get too hyped up for live bands playing that listening to acoustic acts outside doesn't become much of an interest for me. Considering I was reviewing the show though, I decided to pay more attention and regardless I know a good acoustic act when I see one. I got in just in time for the watered down version of Dead Dead Bird performing outside and it was just two guys, one on percussions and the other one with a acoustic guitar/vocals. I think the show started with a disclaimer that the "vocalist" is not a vocalist or guitarist, but merely just a drummer. They performed a few songs that sounded like they were written and performed right on the spot including a song called 'Fuck Buddha' which is the name of their former bassist. The lyrics to the song included a line that went something down the lines of, "he quit the band and to join another one and they probably suck too." I wasn't too sure about the crowd's reaction but I turned away and headed inside.

The inside was filled with a shit load of art and a bar to get your drink on while the DJ inside was spinning a lot of dance music. It was the kind of dance music I wasn't exactly into neither but a lot of people inside were still dancing to it or just paying attention to the art that was hung on the walls. By this time I was hanging out with my best friend and his girlfriend waiting for one of the highlights of the night to performing on stage, **Space Between Words**.

I love Space Between Words and their performance was nothing short of great. They had really good stage presences, great crowd interaction, and an energetic performance. There were a few bits of technical difficulties, but they were so unnoticeable because the band kept their shit moving. Space Between Words is a fun band to listen to. They're humorous on stage, friendly, energetic, and just plain ol' amazing. If you guys are into **The Pixies**, **Weezer**, and/or **Sonic Youth**, you'll find a lot of fondness with the sound of Space Between Words.

In the outside stage there was another performance, but it wasn't exactly an acoustic act, it was a solo electronic musician by the name of **Altus Noumena**. It was interesting to watch due to the fact that a lot of times you don't get these kind of acts and it was kind of refreshing to see a difference as opposed to other acoustic acts. Although, not all of his tracks were really my style I do have to say that some of his tracks were actually pretty cool, it was unique and a lot of people were into it. This is really not a negative review at all on this particular performer because I wish I could see a lot of these

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at our local rock shows.

Next up was a performance by **JOCE** which was the lead singer of the former legendary local band **Al's Not Well** (or Al Is Well). When I wrote earlier about not being too big of a fan of acoustic acts when I'm in the mood to see live bands, JOCE is an exception. I think JOCE is THE local acoustic act that needs to be heard and witnessed no matter what show you're at. The best way to describe her music would be an experimental folk genre with a **Bjork** and **Beth Gibbons** from **Portishead** voice. You know real talent when someone that uses her voice and guitar solely kicks the ass of your ears.

Right before **Pretty Please's** performance on the main stage inside there was a dance performance by **Tania Sofia** to the music of **Afuche**. She pretty much danced in the center stage and although I missed half of the performance I was there just in time to see her use a rather large ladder as being part of her routine. It had a fairy tale feel to the performance along with the masquerade-like mask and all. It was really cool actually and not something you always see at a rock show. It's more evidence that the ones running this event made a huge effort of making this party as artistic as possible.

Finally, **Pretty Please's** performance started with the song "Leftovers For The Dogs" which was exciting to see along the fact that **Bianca Brite** was truly back in the band and it wasn't a false rumor after all. She began the set also by stating that it took 2 years to finally get this record released and that it feels good to be back. I think for old school fans of **Outre Violet** and beginning era of **Pretty Please**, it was exciting for the audience. Great way to continue the path of having **Bianca Brite** back for future shows by starting out with her return in the CD release party!

The band had a huge screen in the background that felt as if you were watching an actual stadium band live. The screen showed clips that would relate to the songs they were performing. The band seem very well coordinated with each other as if **Bianca Brite** had never left the band to begin with. The mixture between having **Bavie** and **Bianca** together is also very much great force as they share lead vocal duties. It was seriously hard to believe I was even at a local rock show anymore.

The stage was also shared with **Ferny Coipel** on clarinet, **Jorge Gonzalez** on guitars, and more. **Pretty Please** proved to have set the stage like if they were an actual national act and in all honesty while I was there through only half their set, it was all I needed to see. I would highly suggest anyone to come check out a show whenever **Pretty Please** performs again, but if you missed this show, then you missed the full on power of their performance. Considering they had full control of their show it was very easy to set it up the way they wanted it to. This also proves that **Pretty Please** ran a great event and in the future I would recommend other venues to allow these guys to take control the way they did.

Overall, the CD Release Party seemed to me like a huge session. The painters outside that gave the theme of the show a great characteristic considering it was targeting the art rock crowd, DJ Saul Good (which played a rougher harsh-beats-type electronic dance music), the venue itself, **Space Between Words**, **JOCE**, and **Pretty Please** were pretty much the main highlight of the show. With the exception of **JOCE** and **Altus Noumena**, I wasn't too thrilled with the acoustic acts. In other words, I think the watered **Dead Dead Bird** should never do a acoustic set ever. I found that to be quite possibly the biggest and probably only flaw about the show. The anticipation of seeing **Pretty Please** go on way later than planned was probably another, but its understandable, especially when you're the band performing AND running the show. My final word is I vote **Pretty Please** to run more shows like this and that I hope the rest of the local scene pays attention to this side of the local art/local rock scene because it came hand in hand together extremely well.

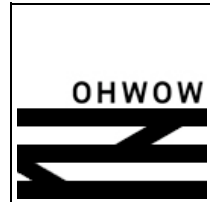
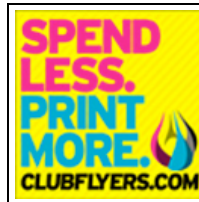
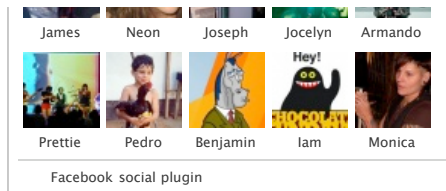
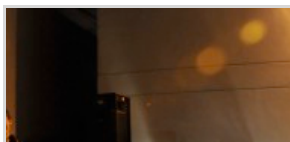
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P.S. Thank you man for saving my ass and taking these pictures!



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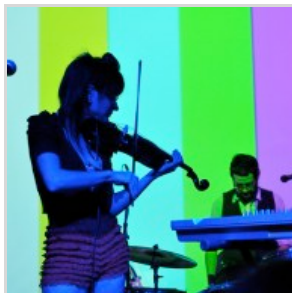
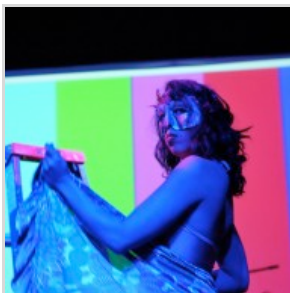
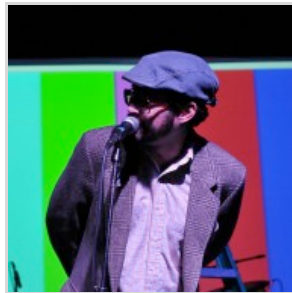
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JOCE





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