

SALT LAKE CITY WEEKLY

MUSIC NEWSLETTER



Arrival: the music of ABBA * David Cook * Footloose the Musical * Peter Frampton

SANDY amphitheater
2014 SEASON

Thursday, July 24

ARTIST PROFILES



Artist Profile: Those Darlins
Nashville band doesn't care how you define them
By Kolbie Stonehocker

There are certain words that seem to accompany any online mention of Those Darlins. When describing the Nashville, Tenn., band's 2009 self-titled debut album—with its popular single "Red Light Love"—those words are usually "alt-country" and "cowpunk." Those Darlins' second album, 2011's *Screws Get Loose*, often got pegged as "garage rock." And for their entire career, the female band members have been "sassy" "tough girls."

Vocalist/guitarist and songwriter Jessi Zazu is sick of all the labels. "It's really frustrating when you know that you're not just this one little thing that people want you to be," Zazu says from her home. The trio's typical response to getting labels slapped onto their work, she says, is, "Fuck that, we're this now."

But, she adds, being pigeonholed is "also kind of nice because you can always keep people guessing." Since Those Darlins are currently in a "transition" period between albums, that could be a prophetic statement. With their third album, 2013's *Blur the Line*, the band proved they have the gumption to test their own sonic boundaries, pushing their sound into territory as diverse as doo-wop and psych rock, executed with plenty of raw guitar, pounding rock rhythms and snarling energy.

But despite *Blur the Line's* ambition, it had a mixed reception with listeners and critics, who could be divided into those who embraced the band's new direction and those who clung to Those Darlins' ragged punk beginnings or thought *Blur the Line* was too all over the place.

Zazu isn't concerned with seeking approval, however—only with being truthful in the music the band makes.

"I feel like the people that have stuck with us from the beginning or people who respect our full career and kind of get who we actually are ... those are the people that help me just feel like, 'OK, I'm an artist that can make art that comes from where I'm at, and that's OK,'" she says. "And then there's another school of people who just need to have some type of label or some type of box to kind of put it in to make it make sense to them." Evidently, the place where Zazu and co-vocalist/guitarist and songwriter Nikki Kvarnes were at while making *Blur the Line* was a "pretty intense, serious growing stage," Zazu says. It was a period where they realized, she says, "if we try to write songs that are just like trying to get people going, that are just fun, silly songs, it won't be being true to where we are right now...." [Read More](#)

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ARTIST PROFILES



Artist Profile: Black Flag
Hardcore band faces future with new frontman
By Natalee Wilding

A decade ago, veteran pro skateboarder Mike Vallely, known as Mike V, got the chance that every punk kid in the '80s wanted: to perform with Black Flag. Now, as of January, he's the veteran California hardcore band's full-time frontman.

"My mom is still shocked," Vallely says with a laugh. "She wouldn't let me go see Black Flag in 1983, and now I'm their lead singer."

Vallely's big break came after he developed a relationship with the band through his collaboration in a punk project called *Good for You* with sole remaining original Black Flag member Greg Ginn. In 2003, Vallely fronted Black Flag—which formed in 1976 but broke up in 1986—for three reunion shows in Hollywood and Long Beach, Calif. In 2013, Ginn attempted a second reunion, this time with former lead singer Ron Reyes. But after one disastrous album, *What the ...*, and a very public ousting of Reyes in November that year at a concert in Perth, Australia, Black Flag started 2014 uncertain of the band's future.

"We had to decide if we wanted the band to end on this kind of sour note," says Vallely, who in 2013 was working as Black Flag's tour manager. After filling in for Reyes to finish the tour, Vallely officially joined the band as the lead vocalist at the start of 2014. Drummer Tyler Smith and bassist Brandon Pertzborn also joined the band around the same time.

With so many lineup changes, it would be easy to focus on the drama. But, Vallely says, "who the singer is, or who the drummer is, is way less important than the songs themselves."

Even though the new Black Flag has yet to record an album with its current lineup, Vallely and the new guys have the same high energy and volume that made Black Flag's raucous shows famous in the '80s. Vallely says he's not sure what's next for Black Flag, but that a new album is definitely something he and Ginn are thinking about. He says he hopes the process of making an album will be as organic as this reincarnation of Black Flag was—"We don't want to put a filter in front of the creative process...." [Read More](#)

JIM GAFFIGAN

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THIS WEEK'S LIVE MUSIC PICKS



Live Music: Music Picks July 24-30
By City Weekly Staff

THURSDAY JULY 24
Twilight Screaming Series: Charles Bradley & His Extraordinaires, The Budos Band
Charles "Screaming Eagle of Soul" Bradley has a voice powerful enough to blow the roof off any venue. But something he also has in spades is the ability to connect with his audience, no matter how big or small—a rare quality. During shows, Bradley is visibly grateful to be onstage, as he pours every ounce of emotion possible into his gruff voice. On his second full-length album, 2013's *Victim of Love*, he sings about heartache and the rough path he took before finally hitting it big at age 62 when he was discovered by Daptone Records. Also on the bill is labelmate The Budos Band, a nine-piece from New York City that plays a sizzling brand of instrumental Afro-soul and funk. (Kolbie Stonehocker)
Pioneer Park, 300 South & 300 West, 7 p.m., \$5, [TwilightConcertSeries.com](#)

FRIDAY JULY 25 - Kithkin
Granted, Seattle band Kithkin describe themselves as a "tribe of Cascadian treepunks" with a goal of spreading "the hidden knowledge of the forest," but their music is no flute-heavy cutesies; after all, Kithkin was inspired by a novel about the collapse of civilization. With truly wild drumming—all four members play drums—and more whooping, hollering, and chanting than singing, Kithkin's sound is an apocalyptic, primal mix of psych-rock, hard-hitting punk and black magic. Their debut full-length album, *Rituals, Trances & Ecstasies for Humans in Face of the Collapse*—released in May—is full of Kithkin's "witchy rhythms," especially in the killer "Fallen Giants" and the various "Din" tracks, which are drum-only interludes scattered throughout the album. Aan, The North Valley and Lake Island will also perform. (Kolbie Stonehocker)
Kilby Court, 741 S. Kilby Court (330 West), 8 p.m., \$6, [KilbyCourt.com](#)... [Read More](#)

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Saturday, July 26
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Cedar City, UT
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