

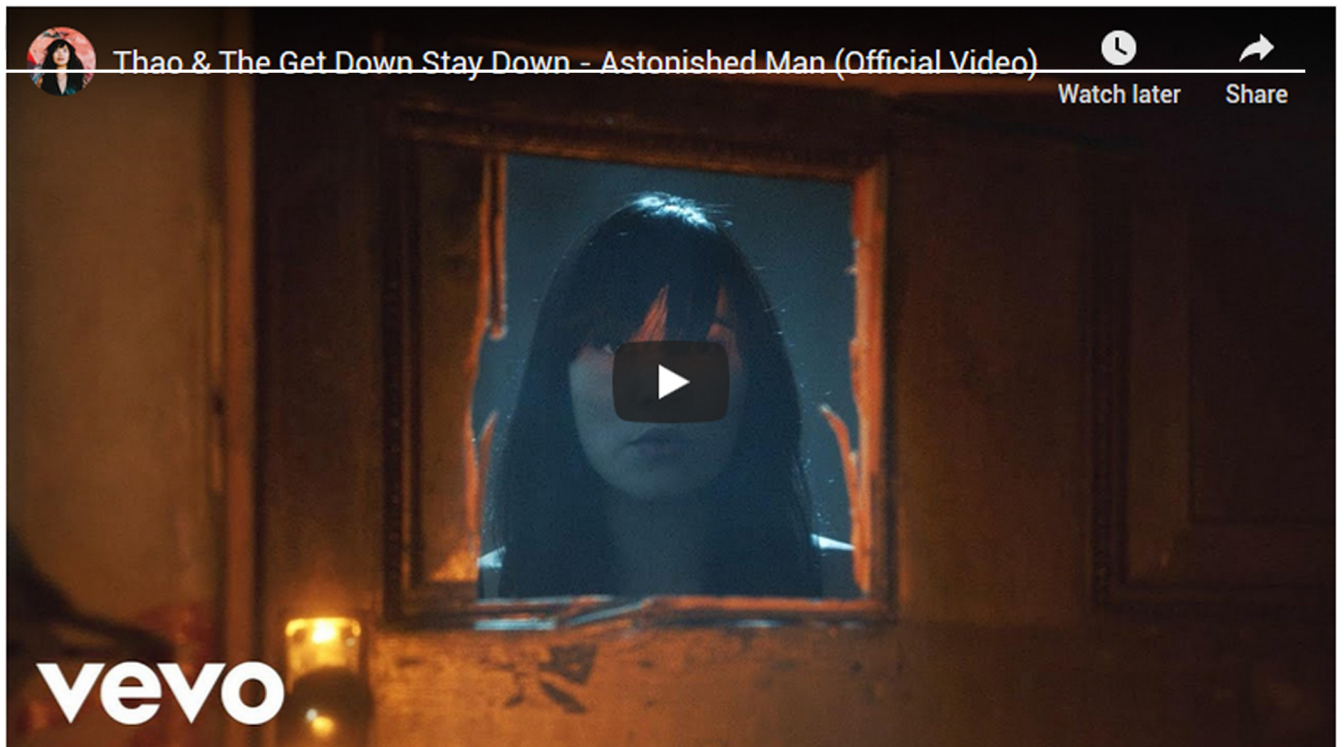
BLOG

SHOW PREVIEW: THAO & THE GET DOWN STAY DOWN 3/25/16



Punky, folky, feminist rocker Thao Nguyen returns to Portland with her band the Get Down Stay Down after appearing at SXSW last week.

The San Francisco-based group's 2013 album *We the Common* was described by *The New Yorker* as "music that makes you move from your bones out." Their latest album, *A Man Alive*, by contrast, moves inward. The album explores Thao's relationship, or non-relationship with her father, who "kinda just floated away," she told NPR, after her parents split up when she was 11 or 12.



The resulting sound, beat-centric and loop-y, produced by Thao's longtime friend Merrill Garbus of tUnE-yArDs, is danceable but more dissonant and layered, the vocals raw and striking. The album's closing song "Endless Love" contains just three lines, and everything Thao wants to say: "I've got an endless love no one can starve / I don't want it, I don't want it, carve it on out of me..."

"I wanted to make a record that was very introspective and personal, but it would also seek to communicate," Nguyen told SXSW. "And we would have fun performing it—not just fun, but I wanted a kind of crazy, rabid, animal energy. That's my favorite thing about performing—you can tap into this frenzy. We want people to dance and feel. And I want to do that every night, too," she said.

Thao & the Get Down Stay Down bring their energetic frenzy to the Wonder Ballroom this Friday, March 25th with openers Car Seat Headrest.

Car Seat Headrest was recently signed by Matador Records and released their debut album *Teens of Style* last fall. Frontman Will Toledo amassed a prolific catalogue of self-released Bandcamp albums before appearing with full band backing as Car Seat Headrest. Their music has been described by *Rolling Stone* as "the best classic-rock record anyone under 50 is likely to make this year" and by *Pitchfork* as "a composite of the label's history: Guided by Voices' ear for cracked pop oddities, Belle and Sebastian's emotional directness, Yo La Tengo's intimate approach to jamming, Stephen Malkmus' ability to get wordy without forgetting to rock out."

A Man Alive is available from Ribbon Music.

Thao & The Get Down Stay Down
at the Wonder Ballroom
with Car Seat Headrest
Friday, March 25th
Doors at 8:00 PM, [\\$17.00-\\$20.00](#), all ages.

Contributed by: m.e.