

Bow Down to the Almighty

MUSIC

Lachrymator: Metal in Your Eye by Julianne Shepherd

LACHRYMATOR almost had to cancel this show, because one of the band's guitarists, Stane Dethenstein (ex-Kung Fu's), was supposed to go on vacation with his ailing grandfather. Instead, Dethenstein asked his grandpa if he could postpone. Grandpa agreed, saying that he wanted to do his part for the "propagation of metal" [paraphrased]. Conclusion: Grandpa Dethenstein is a radical dude, and only from such a metal-dedicated lineage could a musician like Dethenstein (and a band like Portland's Lachrymator) emerge.

To make very good, tight metal that is sludgy and musical, melodic and powerful, the single most important element is guitar virtuosity. Without a guitarist who is able

to play metal chords and hot licks, a band might as well call itself "grunge" and cash in its chips at the closest KUFO office.

Lachrymator
w/ Heavy Johnson
Trio, High on Fire
July 20
Satyricon

Lachrymator, whose brain-crushing riffs are far too sophisticated for such nonsense, has not one, but *two* guitar masters: Dethenstein and ex-Regraped guitarist Pfist San Guino.

Together with Bozart/ Holgater drummer Waste Sexsmith (who replaced Aaron Fratis, who replaced Grant Mainland, who replaced Edgar, who replaced Grant Mainland the first time), Lachrymator plays fist-clenching instru-metal with the vehement damage of a very SERIOUS Olde English metal font. (Example: **METAL FONT**.) All of Lachrymator's past bassists are either deceased (RIP) or

MIA, so they are forced to rely on their devastating licks to strike fear and admiration in the hearts of their audience.

Beyond that, all descriptions of metal fail because, let's face it, either metal is really good or really bad—there's not much in between. If you like the Fucking Champs, Lachrymator is similar, but with way less treble and no irony. If you love *Master of Puppets*, you will like Lachrymator. Lachrymator fucking rulz.

The entire female editorial staff of the *Mercury* is starting a Lachrymator Fan Club. If you would like to join, get a white T-shirt, write the word "LACHRYMATOR" on it in metal lettering (or an approximation thereof) with a Sharpie, and attend their concert with the Heavy Johnson Trio and High on Fire this Friday at Satyricon. If you are truly hardcore, you will add studs to the T-shirt with a BeDazzler™. Make sure you get there early, because they're playing first. ■

Lachrymator, The Swarming Hordes

No, you won't be paying to be sprayed with pepper mace. Though their name refers to tear gas and similar irritants, Lachrymator (pronounced LACK-ruh-mayt-or) is anything but a tear-inducing rock machine—unless you will be crying tears of unadulterated, heavy-metal joy! These four talented gents rediscover the sound of metal without vocals (instru-metal) and offer it to all of you humble servants of the metal machine. (JMR)

The Blackbird, 3728 NE Sandy Blvd., 282-9949. 9:30 pm. \$7.

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METAL—Heed my warning metal fans, do not miss **Lachrymator** or you'll miss the most tight, melodic, and intense instru-metal band I've seen in Portland (rivaling the Champs). Go early. Ridiculously, they're the openers. KS
Satyricon, 125 NW 6th, 243-2380, 9:30

LACHRYMATOR

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MONSTER MUSIC lachrymator

So often with heavy metal, it comes down to song titles that evoke just the right combination of swords, sorcery and potent B.C.-grown dope. Lachrymator wins with bad-ass titles ("We Have the Dragon"—devise a sweeter metal-song name than that, infidel!), as well as music that makes one wish to see one's enemies driven before one, hear the lamentations of their women, etc.

Blackbird, 3728 NE Sandy Blvd., 282-9949. 10 pm. Cover.

LACHRYMATOR - 2 - Song CD-R

Review by: Rob Wrong (StonerRock.com)

Self Release

I went to the High on Fire show and got this CD from these cats who played the first slot, completely blowing the band after them to shreds IMHO... This 3-piece unit is right along the lines of the Champs- 2 guitars and drums. The music reminds me of really good driving music- or video game music. Lots of super-intricate angular single note riffs (rather than chords) and precise time tempo changes. You could just say that they are a great "instruMetal" band. If you get the chance you should check out these guys. They are a local little favorite of mine.