

Mates of State @ Metro

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Mates of State

Where: Metro

When: September 30th, 2011

Reviewed by: Lindsey Shaw

I'm really into Young the Giant lately, namely, and on repeat, their YouTube "Strings in Open Session," where they sing the song a capella near the ocean. It's captivating. I used to really love the group Stars. At 24 they spoke to my break up at the time, lending comfort throughout my duress. Opening band Yawn and headliner Mates of State's performance at the Metro on Friday let my favored musical entities collide.



Once Yawn retired their sand shakers and defining voice boxes, Mates of State prepared to perform on a stage garnished with fake green and red plants. Still epitomizing that bubble gum pop-meets-grit I used to let permeate my studio apartment, they commenced with a few plucks, some tings and a hard hit of the drumsticks. "Let the color schemes arrive / Everything's gonna get lighter / Even if it doesn't get better," they belted while the stage lights throbbed and sweat beaded on their brows. I had forgotten how much I loved them.

Continuing to pleasantly rattle our eardrums, Mates passionately and seamlessly delivered their psychedelic-laced love songs, and I realized they've paved the way for groups like Silversun Pickups and Matt and Kim. Then they sang "For the Actor" just to compound their already impressive position.

With their youthfulness encapsulated in Kori's platinum blonde bangs and Jason's dark wash jeans, their sophistication emitted through gripping vocal chords and faultless instrumental execution. And it was all punctuated by the swaying of the crowd.

Going on to sing "The Re-Arranger" and "You are Free," their spunky, hipster, blow-pop wielding sound was cemented in time, as I and others were brought back to a place of love gained and lost, yet always revered. Perpetuating the jovial live journey, the couple shared a song from their new album *Mountaintops*, "Team Boo," and you could tell, they're just having so much damn fun.

Erratic, bubbling over all the time with liveliness and fun, they're irreverent only to a point, as their songs are message soaked and provide bounce to jolt you out of whatever there is to be melancholy about. This is all translated perfectly during their live performance.

Winding things down to all the fans' dismay, Kori asserts this is their favorite show on their tour. "We should be more like Phish — they bring their crowd with them where ever they go," she says, to which Jason replies "or we should just move to Chicago and play here every night..." They burst into "At Least I Have You" followed by "True Love Will Find You in the End," leaving us not only with acoustic reverberations and flashing lights but with an unforgettable promise that we're all going to be OK.

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