

Creative architecture

Big Dumb Buildings is a new music project hatched by Gregg Standridge and Brian Eads. Their first recording is titled "Concrete Cages." A CD release party is scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m. tonight at Mainsite Contemporary Art Gallery, 122 E. Main St.

"Me and my buddy Brian Eads played here together in the 1980's in a band called Inspector 12," Standridge said. "We wanted to do something else together, writing music and hanging out. It has been an exercise in composition, taking ideas as far they can go, making them comical or interesting in some other way."

The album's 16 tracks have themes all built around structures. Titles include "Igloo," "Studio A in the Backyard," "Walt Disney's Castle," "No-Tell Motel" and "Bavinger House."

"The songs on the record don't follow any one genre," Standridge said. "There's some fun country stuff but it would also remind you of listening to Dr. Demento with a lot of wacky comedy."

Eads and Standridge enlisted a hefty crew of musicians to help. Danielle Tipton, Kevin Webb, Charley Reeves, Sam McCool, Ben Carter, Eli Wimmer, Tim Gregory, Cody Clifton, Dean Brown, Shaun O'Brien and Julie Hall are in the credits.

"We started working on this three years ago," Standridge said. "It has always been a back burner project because of other stuff going on."

Big Dumb Buildings have planned a remarkable event for debuting these songs live. It won't be a typical concert. For one thing the show has a title which is "Big Dumb Buildings, the greatest legend there never was."

"We hired Norman artist Craig Swan to be our curator who is coordinating a multi-media event," Standridge said. "We're bringing in visual artists Ellen Moershel, Brian Dunn and Medeia Starfire who will be doing art based on our songs."

A folklore narrative has been concocted that imagines Big Dumb Buildings being a popular band going back to the 1960s. Musicians Mike Hosty, Michael Bendure, Jeff Richardson and aforementioned Tipton and Carter of SK Love will be playing "tribute" covers from "Concrete Cages."

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“There will probably be some stage banter about how Big Dumb Buildings was a huge influence in their lives or that someone may be one of our illegitimate children,” Standridge said. “I’m not really sure what some of them will do. We gave them the CD and they have free rein to cover some songs and probably play some of their own songs.”

Seating for the performances will be set up in the gallery. The rest of the space will have art exhibits related to this tongue-in-cheek mythology. Artists will be live screen printing T-Shirts with the “legendary” band’s faux logo at the event. Bring your own or buy one there for five bucks. All attendees will receive a free “Concrete Cages” CD.

“It’s a pretty crazy concept,” Standridge said. “The idea is for it to be light and funny. I’d met curator Craig Swan who was live sculpting at the Midsummer Night’s Festival and we came up with this ‘greatest legend that never was’ scenario.”

It promises to be a unique event with participation by a multitude of talented people. No direct Norman comparison comes to mind. Standridge is taking a leap of faith with so many folks involved and he hasn’t always been sold on the joys of musical alliance.

“At first I was petrified to collaborate with anybody,” he said. “It may have been that I felt like I had to do it my way because I was the only one who knew how to do it.”

He learned it’s actually a blast. Also, he’s learned a lot working with others in terms of letting his creative juices flow.

“Melding in with others such as Terry ‘Buffalo’ Ware and John Hadley causes some great stuff to happen,” he said. “Working with those guys can rein me in from being too idiotic sometimes.”

If You Go

What: Multi-media event with Big Dumb Houses CD release party

Where: Mainsite, 122 E. Main St.