

Rap artist aims for positivity

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Staff Writer

On Sept. 18, the indie hip-hop duo, Atmosphere, will grace the ears of Boise with their performance at the Knitting Factory at 7 p.m. Using producer Ant's beats as weapons of mass communication, rapper Sean Michael Daley, otherwise known as Slug, has been telling stories of the world's harsh reality for decades. Slug delivers a rhythmic message that encourages listeners to get up on their feet.

Atmosphere has already carved its name deep into the foundation of the hip-hop industry with a lengthy history of musical accolades and continues to make waves with their 2014 album, "Southsiders." Many of us will have the pleasure of hearing their new album live this Thursday.

Some Boise State students are excited about the concert, including junior kinesiology major Eric Fisher.

"I'm pumped," Fisher said. "Slug keeps getting better and better, and 'Southsiders' live should be great."

In a quick interview with The Arbiter, Slug had a lot to say about Atmosphere's upcoming show and his own musical endeavors:

The Arbiter: What is one thing the people of Boise can

expect at your show?

Slug: I don't really believe in setting expectations when it comes to art, so I guess the main thing that you can expect is that I will be there.

The Arbiter: In this album you seem to show that you have settled down a little bit from your usual work. How has this new feeling of domestication influenced the way you write and what you write about?

Slug: I don't think it's more or less difficult. For me writing is writing. It's something I do. It's not a chore. It's not a pain in the ass. That remains the same when it's time for me to escape from what's on my mind, with whatever I'm juggling.

The difference, maybe ten years ago, I would go right to writing about my dramatic friends and my alcohol addiction and, you know, my worries about who my ex-girlfriend was sleeping with. But now those aren't really things that are in my world anymore.

Now my escape is trying to escape from my kids screaming or my wife being disgusted with me because I wiped a booger on the bottom of the fucking drawer. The escape still feels the same, except now I am escaping from healthier things.

The Arbiter: I read an interview with you saying your

newer work is purposed partly for challenging young listeners to do something with themselves.

Do you feel as if you are responsible for getting some of the younger generation up on their feet?

Slug: I don't know if I feel responsible, I just want to spread love. I don't mean that in a hippie way, I mean that in an actual like loving way. I feel—regardless of what you are, a carpenter, a gardener, you know, a customer service person or whatever—it's our responsibility to spread hope and love.

Human babies are so dependent on people. I think it shows us codependency, and we try to ignore that and prove to be independent. But if you look at the nature of ourselves, we are meant to be codependent on each other. That is our strength, not our weakness.

The Arbiter: In "Arthur's Song", you talk about carving your way into the world and leaving your mark. What type of mark do you hope to leave as your legacy?

Slug: I'm hoping I can influence people and want people to see that we were striving for making people think, even though a lot of our music isn't very optimistic.



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A lot of my music is pretty gloomy and reminds people that they have problems. A lot of music likes to take your mind off your problems and escape your problems. But we make a certain type of music that reminds people that they have problems.

Within that, I try to instill a sense of optimism inside there. That's what we stand for: being able to be okay even when challenged with so many obstacles.



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—Sean “Slug” Michael Daley ”