

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE
COLUMBIA VALLEY

Encores

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Come Never

On tour promoting their 2009 release *Come Never*, Vancouver vaudevillians, *Maria in the Shower* — featuring valley troubadours Brendon Hartley (seated in middle) and Martin Reisle (standing in foreground) — will make stops in Panorama and Invermere on Tuesday and Thursday nights. See Page 14 for more.

Photo by Lindsay Dakin

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ARTS

Cinefest@Pynelogs

Cinefest @ Pynelogs Film Series "Departures",
Tuesday, March 16th at Pynelogs Cultural Centre.
Doors open at 6 pm - film starts at 7 pm.

Columbia Valley Arts Council AGM

Thursday March 18 - 7 pm at Pynelogs Cultural Centre.

at columbiavalleyarts.com for our current events calendar, or call 250-342-4423.



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The Columbia Valley

PIONEER

Maria in the Shower to play Bud's and T-Bar

By Brian Geis
Pioneer Staff

Promoting their 2009 release *Come Never*, Vancouver-based Maria in the Shower — featuring valley natives Brendon Hartley and Martin Reisle — will bring their vaudeville-inspired live show to Panorama and Invermere next week, two stops on the band's spring tour.

In more than 100 appearances in the past two years, the band has shown a remarkable ability to captivate audiences of every stripe. Often described as a "folk cabaret" and inspired by vaudeville-era performance, the band's music draws primarily on American roots influences (early swing, blues, folk).

"But don't assume too much from this description," Mr. Hartley explained.

There is an element of magic that fills the room when visual and theatrical elements are combined with outstanding musicianship. As you might expect, seeing Maria in the Shower is an experience that leaves a lasting impression. Mr. Hartley said the tour will be the first full promotional tour for *Come Never*.

"We did a short, rather unannounced tour to all of the places where they know us well," he said, "carrying a limited edition of the record. So some of our good friends and a few lucky happeners-upon have the album already."

Already, he said, the record is garnering the band some positive attention.

"Attention here in the city has been really positive," he said. "There is a very good review printed in

the current issue of the *Skinny Magazine*. As for sales, we are long out of the limited run of 200 and, after this tour, we expect to be out of the next run of 500.

Returning to their beloved Columbia Valley — Mr. Reisle grew up in Wilmer and Mr. Hartley on an acreage above Edgewater — the duo will be joined by band-mates Jack Garton and Todd Biffard. Often appearing in period dress, the band's performances are a throwback to the days of dime museums.

"The sounds and performances that have influenced us are vast," Mr. Hartley explained. "Tom Waits — quite heavily at times — as well as Coco Rosie, but, as of late, there have been many more traditional influences, from eastern Europe to the midwest to right here at home. As Jack, our trumpet player and accordionist, recently coined, we are musical archeologists with the study of human origin in mind. We have looked to the past and found songs or lyrics that have been left in history's vault and dusted them off and gifted new life into them. We also love and look for the things in music that evoke an instinctual human response — the moments that keep music free of segregation — and that is why we are able to play songs from the 1920s or '30s and not have people think we are dated or that they are being treated to a musical history lesson. This view is not limited to the sound we produce as we take a very similar approach in the theatricality, and visual aspects of what we present. We try to keep hold of some raw material formation in our navigation of performance and esthetics."

Maria in the Shower appears at Panorama's T-Bar on Tuesday, March 16th, and at Bud's, March 18th.

Thank You!



Jim Scott, Financial Planner with Kootenay Savings MoneyWorks, would like to thank all of his clients for their business during the RRSP season. Jim looks forward to helping you achieve your financial goals.

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