

# Blitzen Trapper and their new 'Furr' coat

SELENE ANGIER  
 selene.angier@metro.us



**Where bands might choose to shift direction from album to album, inspired by a new sound, Blitzen Trapper prefers genre-jumping within each record.**

Often the end result can be schizophrenic or too kitchen sinky, but in the hands of Eric Earley, the sextet's singer and main songwriter, it's an effortless hyperpop-and-twang grab-bag along the lines of Supergrass, Frank Zappa and newer entries like Illinois and Southern-glam man David Vandervelde.

"You should hear an artist's personality before you hear their 'genre,'" Earley says. "People like Beck, like Radiohead, they switch things up and you can still hear that it's them. ... If you can allow your personality to poke through, then your stuff is unique."

Blitzen Trapper's coming-out party was their third record, "Wild Mountain Na-

tion." Self-released, the album topped 2007 year-end lists and earned them a deal with Sub Pop. "Furr," their latest disc, was already in the can.

To Earley, "Wild Mountain Nation" and their second record, "Field Rexx," are more punk in sound — along the lines of Pavement and Sonic Youth.

"With 'Furr' I shifted back to more of my roots — folk music, or at least songs where lyrics are at the forefront," he says.

Earley spent most of Janu-

ary in the studio and is halfway through the next album. He warns of more sublime hodgepodge: Mountain, Cat Stevens, and "certain Jethro Tull-like tracks I've been holding onto."

"I'm certainly not a hobbyist. I don't make music because I just like making music," he says with a laugh. "For me, it has to do with pushing forward, and letting [the sound] change and doing something I haven't done before."



Blitzen Trapper singer Eric Earley, front, seeks to trap new sounds of painted wilderness.



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