



Santa Cruz Music and Nightlife

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Upcoming Events in Santa Cruz

Thursday, December 3



J. Tillman

at the Brookdale Lodge; \$10.50; 8pm

J. Tillman, the mad genius behind Fleet Foxes' dizzyingly complex vocal arrangements, strikes out on his own for a set of spindly, spare folk. Reminiscent at times of a blues-infused Iron & Wine, Tillman's solo work bears only the most cursory resemblance to Fleet Foxes' overwrought arrangements--there's a hint of lap steel here, glockenspiel elsewhere, but it's primarily a vocal- and acoustic-guitar-driven affair. It's late-night

bedroom music that is bracingly personal and hand-made, a shaggy-dog side project that rivals Tillman's day gig for sheer depth of feeling.

Friday, December 4



Five-Eyed Hand

at Crepe Place; \$10; 9pm

The multi-instrumentalists in local jam band Five Eyed Hand have a dizzying area of tools and styles at their disposal, ranging from synthesizers to banjo to electric violin and beyond. This versatility allows the band to try their hand at a wide variety of styles, including jazz, psychedelic rock, funk and chill-out-tent-worthy soundscapes. The band is able to pull all of these styles off equally well, and often within the same song. This

set at the Crepe Place is a release party for the band's long-awaited debut studio CD, the self-titled Five Eyed Hand.

Friday, December 4



Aza

at Don Quixote's; \$15; 8pm

Fattah Abbou and Mohamed Aoualou moved from Morocco to Santa Cruz and brought 3,300 years of culture with them. Then, building off of decades of their own personal musical experience, they began Aza and recruited five other members to fill out their sound. The result is a band based in North African beats with boatloads of desert soul. This powerful combination has helped bring the music of the Amazigh, also called the

Berbers, to audiences across the globe, preserving a fading history. With many interesting instruments, such as the sentir and the oud, paired with moving vocals and a highly danceable beat, Aza is sure to cram Don Quixote's with culture.

Saturday, December 5



Gift of Gab

at Moe's Alley; \$15 adv/\$18 door; 9pm

Best-known for his role as a member of standard-bearing underground hip-hop duo Blackalicious, Gift of Gab is a master of affy-tapple-sticky rhyme schemes that turn in on themselves with the elegance of a moebius strip. In his solo career, Gift of Gab hasn't departed too radically from the work he did with Blackalicious, evolving nominally to keep up with the times. On his latest release, *Escape 2 Mars*, Gift of Gab delves into

a more electronic-music-influenced sound, which provides a fittingly futuristic sonic backdrop for his highly evolved flow.

Sunday, December 6



All That Remains

at Catalyst; \$20 adv/\$22 door; 7pm

All That Remains is bringing their own brand of melodic metalcore from Massachusetts to the Catalyst on the Napalm & Noise tour with co-headliners The Devil Wears Prada. One of the original founders and singer of Shadows Fall, Phil Labonte left to start a new band, and thus All That Remains was formed. In the decade after its conception, All That Remains has released four studio CDs, selling over 486,000 copies. And while

listening to the band's heavy-hitting yet melodic metal one won't wonder why. All there is to do is smash your air guitar, raise a fist and mosh along to the growl of All That Remains.

Monday, December 7



Dan Hicks & His Hot Licks

at Kuumbwa; \$25 adv/\$28 door 7pm; \$20 adv/\$23 door 9pm

The good-natured acoustic swing of Django Reinhardt meets the vaudevillian growl of Leon Redbone in the music of Santa Rosa phenom Dan Hicks, who's maintained his original style over 40 years of performing. For his songwriting, showmanship and sharp wit he's earned praise and adulation from such luminaries as Elvis Costello and Rickie Lee Jones. Tonight Hicks blows into town with his two-woman backup lineup, the Hot

Licks, on his rambunctious "Holidaze in Hicksville" tour. Special guest is Bob Dorough, the guy who brought us "Schoolhouse Rock."

Tuesday, December 8



Roy Hargrove Quintet

at Kuumbwa; \$23 adv/\$26 door; 7pm & 9pm.

The path from bebop to hip-hop is a well-trodden one, and it was walked long before Roy Hargrove showed up with his shiny trumpet and hipster wardrobe. But the deftness with which he blends hard horn notes a la Roy Eldridge with streetwise lyrical musings of A Tribe Called Quest and Erykah Badu can easily be called "unprecedented." Not to mention the man blows a soul and funk horn as well as anyone in the business, and

staffs his quintet with solid musicians that could easily headline their own shows. Two-time Grammy winner Hargrove is the new face of jazz trumpet and top notch get for Kuumbwa.

Wednesday, December 9



Ice Cube

at Catalyst; \$35 adv/\$40 door; 9pm.

It's been 21 years since N.W.A. released *Straight Outta Compton* and revolutionized hip-hop. Back then, who knew group members Ice Cube, Easy-E and Dr. Dre would become household names in American music? The most versatile of the bunch, Cube has made as a big of a name for himself on the silver screen as the hip-hop stage, acting, writing and producing in 28 films, from classics like *Friday* to bombs like

Anaconda. And though Ice's hardcore gangster image has melted somewhat in the heat of the mainstream limelight, his music—through eight solo albums and five collaboration cuts—has kept its hard-nosed, booty-wiggling appeal.

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