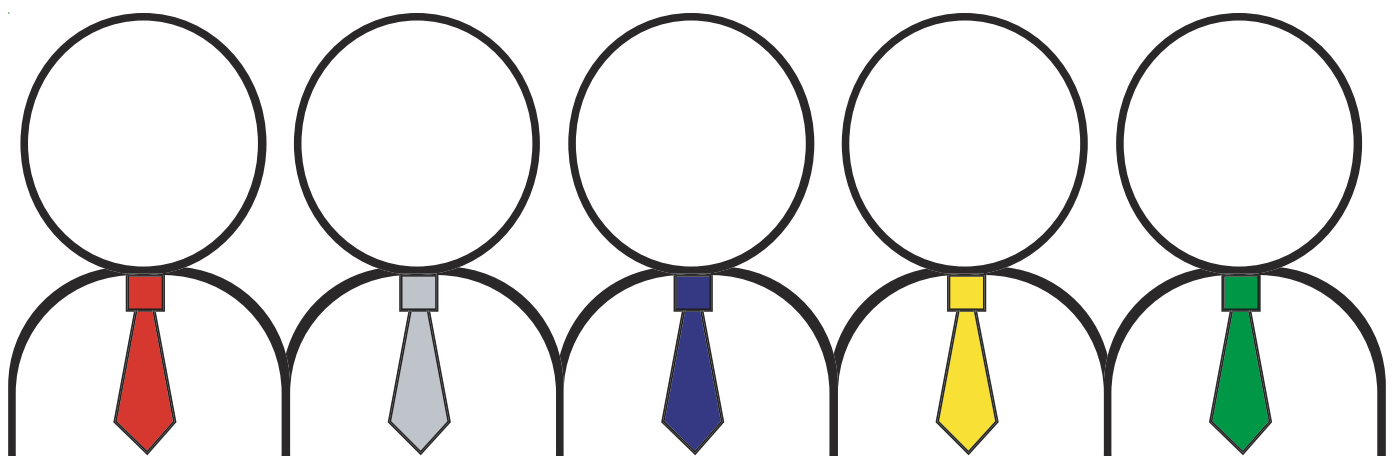


tally hall



PRESS PACK 2006



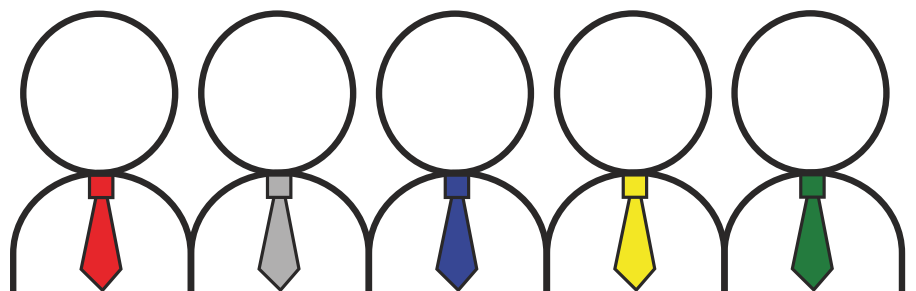
tally
hall

"GOOD DAY"
FEATURED ON
FOX'S

THE OC



ORIGINAL AIR DATE: APRIL 06, 2006



tally hall

ALBUM TITLE: MARVIN'S MARVELOUS MECHANICAL MUSEUM
BARCODE: 78144491001-7 CATALOG NO.: QK!-001
FILE UNDER: POP / ROCK STREET DATE: SEPT 12, 2006
MSRP: \$15.99

TALLY HALL BREAKING NEWS:

- MTV's "YOU HEAR IT FIRST" Feature Announced.
- Tally Hall will be on tour with Puffy AmiYumi (July 2006).
- Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson (August 2006).

NEW MEDIA:

- MySpace** (www.myspace.com/tallyhallcom)
-212,000 views, 445,000 plays, 35,000 friends
www.tallyhall.com
-2 Million downloads of "Banana Man" video
-10,000 visitors/day
www.facebook.com
-2500 friends

TELEVISION / RADIO:

- MTV's "YOU HEAR IT FIRST" Feature Announced.
- "Good Day" thematically featured on episode of Fox's The OC. April 06, 2006.
- "Banana Man" appears on 3 episodes of MTV's The Real World: Key West.
- Appeared on VH1's "Best Week Ever"
- Mancow's Morning Madness (syndicated)
- Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson (August 2006)

PRESS:

"An unexpected treasure." -The Boston Herald

"Finally, something that doesn't sound like every other CD" -Mancow Muller, Mancow's Morning Madhouse

"Sensational!" -Craig Ferguson, The Late Late Show

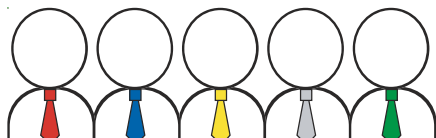
"...as conceptual as it is playful..." -LA Times

AWARDS:

- "Good Day" - 1st place in BMI's John Lennon Scholarship
- "Just Apathy" - Grand Prize, John Lennon Songwriting Contest, 2005

SPUN:

WRFL (U of Kentucky), WVUM (U of Miami, FL), WUAG (U of N. Carolina-Greensboro), WXDU (Duke), WUSC (U of S.Carolina), WRCT (Carnegie Mellon), WCWS (Wooster), WUTM (U of Tennessee), WAKE (Wake Forest), WRIU (U of Rhode Island), WKPS (Penn State), WECI (Earlham), WDOM (U of Providence), WRVU (Vanderbilt U), WSMU (UMass-Dartmouth), WCMU (Central Michigan), WMCN (Macalester), WQKL (Ann Arbor), WIIT (Illinois Tech), WIUS (W. Illinois U), KSTO (St. Olaf College), WITR (RIT), WXYC (U of N. Carolina), WICB (Ithaca), WRFS (Savannah College of Art & Design), WNDY (Wabash), WMUC (Maryland), WPRK (Rollins), KCRW (Los Angeles), WDBM (Michigan State University), WRKC (Wilkes-Barre,PA), WSUM (U of Wisconsin), WIDR (Western Michigan U), WCRX (Columbia, Chicago), WMSC (Montclair U), Mancow's Morning Madness (syndicated), WEQX (Albany)...and more.



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BIOGRAPHY

25 Miles Northwest of Detroit resides one of the world's largest museums of arcade machines, collectible curiosities, and mechanical antiques. The sprawling exhibit houses everything from coin-operated fortunetelling machines of the 1920s to the latest high-tech video games; from model airplanes to P.T. Barnum's legendary Cardiff Giant; from vintage fans to rare neon signs. It is here that **Tally Hall** found much inspiration for their 14-track debut, *Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum*. Both the album and its namesake combine seemingly disparate elements, drawing across decades to form surreal but cohesive collections. In **Tally Hall's** case, the results are quite catchy.

Often recognized by their trademark ties—**Rob (yellow tie-vocals/guitar)**, **Zubin (blue tie-vocals/bass)**, **Ross (silver tie-percussion)**, **Joe (red tie-vocals/guitar)**, and **Andrew (green tie-vocals/keys)**—**Tally Hall** began in 2002 when **Andrew** met **Rob** through friends. **Andrew**, the only member not originally from Michigan, began writing songs when he was eight years old and eventually headed to the University of Michigan to study composition. There he met **Rob**, who attended high school with **Zubin** and joined **Joe's** film production group. When **Tally Hall's** original drummer left the band, they recruited **Ross**, who went to high school with **Joe**.

While **Andrew** was the only member to study music formally, **Rob** and **Joe** proved accomplished songwriters with similar desires to start a band. They worried less about stylistic boundaries than about fulfilling their creative potential. **Joe** describes it this way: "We don't like the idea of limiting ourselves to one genre because there's no point in doing that. If a certain idea requires a certain sound then why limit ourselves?" Accordingly, *Mechanical Museum* is spacious, intimate, hilarious, serious; disparate and seamless all at once. It's the natural result of having three songwriters, four vocalists, and five capable musicians in one band, as well as their common interests in **The Beach Boys**, **Queen** and more recent artists like **Arcade Fire** and **Sufjan Stevens**. "We listen to everything and we try to take ideas from different genres and broaden the span of what people perceive as rock music," says **Andrew**. "The song wouldn't be the same if all of us weren't involved."

Early on, **Joe** filmed a surreal music video for the calypso-tinged "**Banana Man**." The video appeared on the internet humor site Albino Black Sheep (www.albinoblacksheep.com), drawing new fans to the band's website. "We didn't really realize what was going on outside of Ann Arbor," says **Ross**. "Then our website started crashing each month from the bandwidth and it became obvious that there were people outside of Ann Arbor that were listening to the music." To date, the video has been downloaded over two million times.

Andrew's song "**Good Day**"—the first he wrote for the band—heralded further success for **Tally Hall**, as it was not only featured on Fox's hit series *The O.C.*, but also won **Andrew** the **BMI/John Lennon Songwriting Scholarship**, and a meeting with **Brian Wilson**. "**Good Day**" introduces the band by traversing their broad stylistic spectrum within a few minutes. A concise opening piano gives way to momentary rock bombast, before dropping back into a verse newly adorned with expanded instrumentation. By the end of the song we've heard an interlude that would make **Freddie Mercury** sweat through his body suit and a gather-around-the-piano sing-along that references the **Beatles** without imitating them.

Tally Hall has appeared with **OK Go**, **Nightmare of You**, **World Party**, and **Fastball**, among others. This summer will provide more opportunities to catch the band's compelling live show, though they'll also be using the time to write new songs and get a handle on their devoted and obsessive fans. "We've had people travel halfway across the country to see our shows," says **Andrew**. "We just assume that most bands have their fair share of loyal followers. Ours are just a little more...proactive." With so many fans mulling over everything from song lyrics to which members are single, why the modesty? "In the end, if someone likes us because we are funny, then I think we have succeeded in a way. But, if someone appreciates us because they understand us, then I think we will be truly satisfied," **Zubin** explains. "We're not a band that has a lot of pretenses," says **Rob**. "As long as people like the music, that is the main thing we're concerned with, and whatever they take from it, at least they're taking something." Whatever it is that **Tally Hall** is giving, they've got enough to go around.

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Up to their necks in musical styles

Tally Hall's music reminds you of the joke about the weather in the Rocky Mountains: If you don't like it, just wait 30 seconds. The Ann Arbor, Mich., five are sound collagists who segue from barbershop harmonies to Queen-like rock opera to chunky power pop to clever hip-hop — sometimes all in the same song.

Their self-produced debut, "Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum," is dizzyingly cut-and-paste, reminiscent of They Might Be Giants. And live, each member wearing a white shirt and assigned a colored tie, the quintet exudes the good humor of Barenaked Ladies playing a kegger party.

"At times it can get a little bit daunting to get some of the rhythm transitions to work, but it's like we say, if the song starts to get a little bit boring, throw in some calypso," Joe Hawley says wryly. "Of course, we say that, but we try not to be gimmicky. A lot of times, the songs come across as goofy, but we take them very seriously."

Indeed, the band, which performs tonight at Spaceland, is as conceptual as it is playful. Of the ties, Hawley explains, "We didn't want to look like an era. So we went for a look that emphasizes singularity and uniformity at the same time."

Besides, being sharp-dressed can come in handy — as when Hawley, fellow singer-guitarist Rob Cantor, singer-bassist Zubin Sedghi, singer-keyboardist Andrew Horowitz and drummer Ross Federman set out to make a video for the song "Good Day," which appeared on the TV show "The O.C." "We're doing it guerrilla-style," Cantor says. "We shot part of it at Michigan Stadium.... I think the grounds crew thought we were important because of our ties."

Pop goes the world

Is Tally Hall ready for their close-up?



by Johnny Loftus
7/12/2006

Tally Hall guitarist-vocalist Joe Hawley did the natural thing when he heard his band would be touring with Japanese pop stars Puffy AmiYumi. "I immediately went out and bought their GameBoy title," he says by phone from the quintet's home base of Ann Arbor. Yes, Puffy AmiYumi have their own video game (the awesomely named Kaznapped!), as well as a cartoon and an extensive line of branded merchandise, all in addition to their recorded output. Longtime superstars in Japan, the duo play to sellout crowds of cult fanatics every time they tour the United States.

So how did Tally Hall, a quintet of well-spoken dudes from Ann Arbor who haven't really played out all that much, get wrapped up in all this bright pink Puffy AmiYumi chaos? Skill, to start. Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum, the band's debut, has a lyrical and melodic savvy that's craftily at odds with the extreme leanings of their young pop peers. Tally regularly rhyme 10-cent words, and use their instrumental chops to keep the arrangements off balance. But they also know how effective simplicity can be. "Good Day," recently tapped for use in Fox's teen melodrama *The OC*, wraps a hearty Beatles influence around jaunty piano and lyrics sweet enough to melt the sparkly paint hearts of the show's female viewers.

The *OC* hookup is an example of how everything's suddenly coming up Tally. The band has the East Coast Puffy tour to look forward to, as well as an upcoming appearance on CBS's *Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson*. They're also putting *Marvelous* into wider national release this August with the help of their label, Ann Arbor-based Quack!, and will probably be chilling on TRL before summer's end. What's next? A cameo in the sequel to *Kaznapped!*?

"A year ago they'd never played outside of Ann Arbor," Quack! mastermind Al McWilliams says. But last year the label sold 1,000 units of *Marvelous* in an Internet pre-sale, and as Tally's MySpace presence grew, they were able to take those numbers directly to the music biz. "Hard numbers impress them," McWilliams says, "and with those we were able to land awesome management and booking." Cut to Craig Ferguson making a joke about Tally Hall being a nunnery where he was whipped repeatedly as a petulant Scottish boy.

What are the band's expectations of their tour with J-Pop's reigning princesses? "We think it'll be a golden nugget of fun," Tally Hall says during a lively conference call in which their voices overlap one another in a transcription nightmare. Then the phone line drips with knowing sarcasm. "A happy, puffy, fun time, out-of-body experience."

July 18, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit; 313-961-8137. With Puffy AmiYumi.

THE **BADGER**HERALD

Detroit band pays tribute to home

by Meghan Dunlap

Monday, March 27, 2006

The recent release of Tally Hall's first official album entitled *Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum* has proven the band is here and here to stay. The group has five members: Ross, Joe, Rob, Andrew and Zubin. Four of these guys grew up near Detroit, as well as near the historical arcade and curiosity museum, *Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum*, the only remaining part of the mini-mall/food court called Tally Hall. These places clearly hold places in these guys' hearts considering their use in their name, album title and the song "Welcome to Tally Hall."

If the members' biographies are any indication of their personalities, the uniqueness of their music does not come as much of a surprise. Written with the familiar quiriness of their songs, if interested in finding out more about the artists, their bios are worth checking out on their website, www.tallyhall.com. More importantly, as far as musicianship goes, Tally Hall has it all: percussion, guitar, keyboard and distinctive, harmonic vocals.

Tally Hall is described on their website as "a wonky rock band." How characteristic of this unique band to use a term which itself requires a definition. Actually a slang word, wonky "specifically connotes a malfunction that produces behavior (or in Tally Hall's case, music) seen as unusual, humorous or amusingly diverse." Wonky is a truly fitting declaration of the group's intent and ability to stand out amid other up-and-coming bands.

This young and talented group of musicians is paving the way for a new and funky sub-genre of rock. This new direction includes amazing and, at times, complex harmonies, outlandish lyrics and a collage of musical styles and instrumentalism.

Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum includes a number of demo songs that have been rerecorded, and for a first album, the number of tracks (15) is impressive. Also pleasing is the fact that the album does not lose its momentum as it goes along. Their music carries a number of

attractive qualities that are consistent throughout. Their significant incorporation of keyboard into their songs along with the usual guitar and drums shows that these young artists have a strong grasp of composition and arrangement as well as writing and musicianship.

As far as the writing goes, the group capitalizes on the sometimes caustic, sometimes satirical humor and always humor that is both unconventional and satirical. One song is written (in devotion?) to the Olsen Twins. However, not every song is meant to be a joke. The album does include a couple more ballad-like songs with softer, more serious lyrics.

The songs not only vary in subject matter but also in their style and arrangement. Some are a mesh of sounds, including non-singing and some very fast *Barenaked Ladies* style chanting. The guys' range also gives them chances for great harmony pieces, and though it is hard to determine where the band's inspiration comes from, they exhibit some similarities with the Beatles. This can be noted both in their harmonies as well as the sound and arrangement of some of the Beatles' more unusual songs, particularly on the *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* album.

Marvin's Marvelous Mechanic Museum is a regular montage of influences that include country, alternative, punk, pop, buffet style and others as well, thus indicating the reason for a new category of music. This assortment of style makes Tally Hall's music appeal to a very wide and audience; teenagers rave about it to their parents, who in turn recommend it to their friends. By word of mouth alone, Tally Hall's reputation and popularity continue to increase. As long as they can continue to produce fresh and exotic music, the future looks bright for Tally Hall's crew.

For those interested in checking out Tally Hall, they will appear at The Annex in Madison every Sunday in April at 7 p.m. as part of their rotating tour of the Midwest. Ages 18 and up are welcome.

Rating: 4 out of 5



Up-and-coming local band Tally Hall defies defining E1



THE SUNDAY ANN ARBOR NEWS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2006

Tally Hall defies defining

BY ROGER LELIEVRE
News Arts Writer

Music's gain may be medicine's loss.

There aren't very many people who would put a full ride to the University of Michigan Medical School on hold to play in an indie rock band. But Rob Cantor, vocalist and guitarist for the quirky/groovy Ann Arbor group Tally Hall, takes it in stride.

He's not the only one.

Drummer Ross Federman and vocalist/bassist Zubin Sedghi are also on hiatus from higher education, waiting to see how the band does before — or if — they go back to school. Keyboardist/percussionist Andrew Horowitz, two-time Hopwood Award winner and double major in English and composition, and vocalist/guitarist Joe Hawley, an award-winning filmmaker and English major who took home honors from a recent Ann Arbor Film Festival, have graduated from U-M. They all hail from suburban Detroit except Horowitz; he's from New Jersey.

"We are all full-time band members. We do everything related to publicity, booking, Web site, video ... We want to be the next big band from Ann Arbor," said Horowitz.

He might just see his dream come true. Tally Hall, which recently released its debut CD, "Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum," to good reviews, is clearly going places ... on a recent Friday to a sold-out show at Ann Arbor's Blind Pig, and in the near future on a tour that includes stops in Boston, New York City and Washington.

Showing influences from Bach to the Beatles and Brian Wilson, Motown to Eminem, Barenaked Ladies and even Queen meets Harry Belafonte, Tally Hall, formed in 2002, sounds sometimes

PREVIEW

Tally Hall

Who: Rob Cantor, Ross Federman, Zubin Sedghi, Andrew Horowitz, Joe Hawley.

What: Up-and-coming Ann Arbor rock band.

What they sound like: Band members mix and match influences (the Beatles, Eminem and Queen, to name a few) and have a blast doing it.

Where to buy the CD: At live shows, via the band's Web site, and at Borders Books & Music, among others.

Where to hear it live: TH has no Ann Arbor shows scheduled in the immediate future, but if you don't mind a drive, the band will play at Small's Bar, 10339 Conant, Hamtramck, on Thursday. Doors open at 8 p.m.

To find out more: www.tallyhall.com

like the Beastie Boys and other times like, well, frat boys. On stage they're clean-cut and geeky-cute; wearing white dress shirts and signature, color-coded ties, they jump up and down, goof with the audience and each other, and generally make feel-good, danceable party music that delights fans with its constant shift of direction.

Band members call it "wonky rock," but even they are at a loss to really explain what that is.

"It's absurd yet sensical tri-harmonious poppycock," Hawley postulated, "... or a malfunction that leads to something great."

"We all have weird senses of humor, so usually it ends up being something we think is funny," added Cantor.

That's important. "We cannot possibly expect others to have fun with our stuff if we didn't have fun creating it," said Al McWilliams of Ann Arbor's Quack! Media, which started out in 2003 making educational videos for high schools and has now added music/CD promotion to its credits because of Tally Hall.

"Joe, Rob and Zubin were working at Quack!, acting in videos and the like, when they said, 'Hey, you guys should come check out our band,'" McWilliams recalled. "By the end of the show, Quack! was ready to launch the record label arm of the company.

"We are on an accelerated program. We've come farther in six months than most bands do in four years."

He has a simple explanation for Tally Hall's success so far. "They're different and good. ... We couldn't be a mediocre band or even just a good band that sounds the same as everyone else and make it this far so fast."

Fans at the recent Blind Pig show seemed inclined to go along with him. "No matter what mood I'm in, they have a perfect song to cheer me up," said Ann Arborite Mike Anuzis.

Mark Haynes, who is a student at the U-M School of Music, agreed. "It's fun to listen to and the writing is good," he said of Tally Hall's tunes. "They aren't meaningless lyrics and they are funny."

Tally Hall appropriated its name from a now-defunct mini-mall on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills near the area where most of the guys grew up. The title of the CD comes from a place that's still in business, Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum, a 5,500-square-foot gaming arcade/museum in Farmington Hills. The place is so hip, rapper Eminem rented it for his private 30th birthday celebration.

SEE TALLY HALL, C3

MUSIC

TALLY HALL FROM C1

Band will take a major step with its appearance at South by Southwest music showcase

The CD even includes some of the sound effects from Marvin's. Owner Marvin Yagoda (an early '60s U-M graduate) "let us take apart a couple of the machines and stick microphones in them," Horowitz said.

Tally Hall positively exudes youth and enthusiasm. The band's been on Mitch Albom's radio show twice and both times he asked them if they were still in high school. They can barely contain themselves as they sit around a table; they finish each others' sentences, riff on what's just been said and make the kinds of jokes about each other that only close friends can make.

A video for the eccentric, Caribbean-influenced "Banana Man," made by Hawley, attracted some attention a few years ago. Horowitz's tune "Goodday" won a 2004 BMI Music Foundation John Lennon Scholarship Award and an accompanying \$10,000 prize. "More and more things that were a possibility kept poking through. That's when I began realizing it might be something worth investing more time in," Sedghi said.

What's next on the road to fame and, hopefully fortune? "We're trying to find the balance between having a new album and writing a new album," said Hawley.

"Moving to a major label," added Cantor.

"I think Taproot is only the current major band from the area. ... Ann Arbor is such a cultural, musical city that you'd hope that there would be more big bands out there representing Ann Arbor," said Federman. "As far as pop music, it's not as big as it should be."

If the fans at the Blind Pig show recently have their way, that will change.

"A lot of times you don't get a band that has substance and is

also really fun," said Elizabeth Hoffman of Northville.

Adam Rey, host of the "Homegrown" music show that airs Sunday nights at 6 on Ann Arbor radio station WQKL (107.1 FM), also counts himself a member of the Tally Hall fan club.

"I play them as often as I can get away with it," he said. "Everybody at the station is a fan of Tally Hall ... their live show is absolutely phenomenal. (The CD) is not gender specific, and you know what they offer that other bands don't? That CD is all happy - it's music that makes you feel good."

Mark Copeland, music director for WQKL, agreed. He said the band's appearance at the South by Southwest music showcase in Texas next month is an important step to the big time.

"That's huge ... that's the kind of thing where a band like them is going to win over record people. There's going to be a ton of them there, there's going to be A&R people all over the place looking at signed and unsigned bands. ... People are going to stop their conversation and say 'What are these guys doing?'"

"It goes back to the work ethic. You can tell right off the bat. Their album is slickly produced and well marketed. It sounds really polished for a local band with their first shot. I hope they're not insulted by a comparison to They Might Be Giants or Barenaked Ladies, but they are fun and they are good."

Roger LeLievre can be reached at 734-994-6848 or by e-mail at rlievre@annarbornews.com.

BOSTON Herald

January 29, 2006 Sunday

The relatively unknown quirky pop band Tally Hall proved to be an unexpected treasure opening the show. Dressed in coordinated shirts and ties, the fresh-faced Ann Arbor, Mich., band came off like the goofy yet lovable cousin of the Click Five. Cramming an album's worth of musical ideas into a two-minute song, Tally Hall let no genre go untouched. They wore their influences on their sleeve, blending vintage Beastie Boys with snarky new wave and Beatles-y psychedelia with uncommon ease. A hilarious and rocking cover of Biz Markie's infidelity classic "Just a Friend" ended their set on a particularly triumphant note. You no doubt will be hearing of these upstarts in the near future.

By CHRISTOPHER BLAGG

Detroit Free Press

ENTERTAINMENT

MUSIC

Tally Hall is marvelous

December 18, 2005

Band comparisons are usually a critic's cheap way out, but it's hard to say anything valuable about Tally Hall without them. And something valuable must be said, because the young band has released one of 2005's most striking debut albums.



Ⓢ zoom

On "Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum," the quintet's magnificent musical masterpiece, you'll find a vivid sonic array that, by design or happenstance, seems to reference every entry in the pop encyclopedia. Pick a

song -- like the catchy "Good Day" -- and you might hear flashes of Queen next to Ben Folds Five next to Guns N' Roses next to a baroque sonata next to Elephant 6 power pop. And that's in the first minute.

This is pop patchwork at its best, and Tally Hall's flexibility is its path to a place innovative and distinct. The best of these tracks -- "Greener," "Taken For a Ride" and everything else -- manage to become cohesive *songs* despite the jumbled arrangements.

For all the impressive finesse, the brainy Tally Hall is all about the fun. Homages to the Olsen Twins, a surreal "Banana Man," haiku verses -- they mark an irreverence that deftly avoids the realm of goofy, where lesser acts (Barenaked Ladies) get trapped.

By Brian McCollum, Free Press pop music critic

TALLY HALL

Ann Arbor pop-rock quintet

"Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum"

Quack!Media, Ann Arbor

Tally Hall: Straight outta the 'burbs

BY KIM SILARSKI
 FREE PRESS SPECIAL WRITER

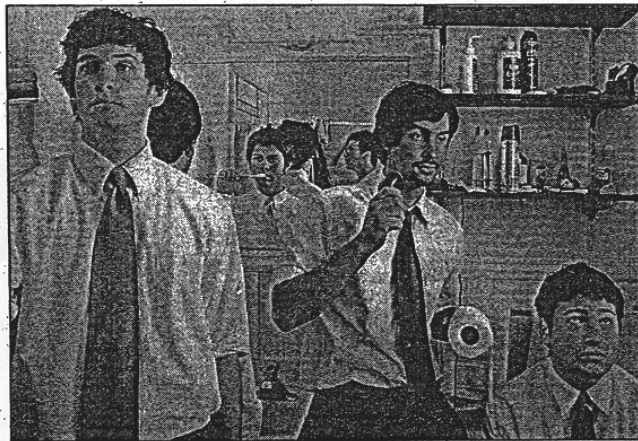
The Ann Arbor-based group Tally Hall may be the only good thing ever inspired, at least in part, by a strip mall.

The self-described "wonky rock band" that makes "odd pop" has quickly morphed from a frat party/ bar band into an intelligent, irreverent ensemble poised for much more — including a new CD and national tour. It's a cliché to say a local band is building buzz, but Tally Hall definitely is.

The fortunes of this quirky, charming quintet took a turn about 18 months ago, when member Andrew Horowitz, a University of Michigan School of Music graduate, scored a \$10,000 scholarship and lunch with Yoko Ono by taking first place in the BMI Foundation's annual John Lennon songwriting contest, with his song "Good Day."

"That's the point when we had reason enough to see we were on the right track and that if we kept at it, we could do something special," says guitarist-vocalist Rob Cantor. "Right now, it's a no-lose situation for the band, but at the end of two years, we'll have to make a final decision about our future." Two years is the amount of time four band members have been granted by the University of Michigan to decide whether to resume their academic careers.

"These guys are one audition away from hitting it big," says ardent fan and animator Keith Alcorn, who created the Oscar-nominated film "Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius" for Paramount. Alcorn, like thousands of Internet users, happened upon the video that guitarist-



JOE HAWLEY

Tally Hall: Joe Hawley, Ross Federman (mirror), Rob Cantor (mirror), Zubin Sedghi and Andrew Horowitz.

Tally Hall

Doors at 8 p.m. Monday
 Opening acts Quixotic and Stephen Leonard
 at 9 p.m., Tally Hall around 11 p.m.
 Temple Club
 500 E. Grand River, Lansing
 517-316-0400
www.templeclub.com
 \$8

Doors at 9 p.m. Dec. 20
 Lager House, 1254 Michigan Ave., Detroit
 313-961-4668
www.lagerhousedetroit.com

"Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum," on the Ann Arbor-based Quack! Media label, is available at performances, www.tallyhall.com, www.amazon.com and online music services such as iTunes.

Find out more about the CD's namesake museum in Farmington Hills at www.marvin3m.com.

vocalist Joe Hawley created for his song "Banana Man" by following links posted on sites frequented by college kids and creative types, such as www.albinoblacksheep.com. (You can watch the video, which has logged 150,000 broadband plays this year, at www.tallyhall.com.)

"These guys are so clever. Their material is so smart and so elaborate. Somehow it all makes sense, but I don't know

why," Alcorn says.

Tally Hall's music is hard to describe. In a single song, you might hear moments of rap, rock or smooth harmonies straight out of the 1940s. Subject matter includes the Olsen twins ("Two Wuv"), romance ("The Bidding") and the band themselves ("Welcome to Tally Hall"). Tunes take unexpected turns, yet the lyrics are easy to follow. You'll hear all kinds of influences — the Beatles, Queen, XTC quickly come to mind — yet the songs hold up under repeated listenings. The "Banana Man" video, a class project for Hawley, is both silly and highly sophisticated.

The lads are supporting their just-released debut studio CD, "Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum," with their first tour, starting Monday night in Lansing. They have dates in Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and will make several East Coast stops including New York City, where they will appear at the Lion's Den Dec. 10 before heading back to Detroit's Lager House on Dec. 20. They've invested in matching stage outfits and generated some interest, but the right

management hasn't cropped up yet.

Michigan roots

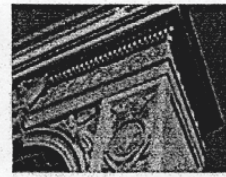
The band's back story is as fascinating as its music. The five — Cantor, Horowitz, Hawley, drummer Ross Federman and bassist-vocalist Zubin Sedghi — came together while students at U-M, though there are two pairs of high school buddies in the band. Three are Michigan graduates, with two of them delaying their admission to medical or business school for two years. The other two are taking a two-year hiatus from working on their undergraduate biology degrees. They range in age from 20 to 23. Four of the five grew up in Oakland County, which helps explain the band name and the CD title.

"Tally Hall was the name of a new mini-mall on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills when we were growing up. At this mini-mall was Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum, this strange, eclectic place we liked to visit," says Hawley. Though Tally Hall the mini-mall is no more, the museum, which features old-school coin-operated games and other amusements, remains a popular attraction. The band got permission from Marvin himself to do some field recording there, which is sampled on the CD.

And yes, the color coding. Tally Hall's onstage uniforms consist of identical black shoes and pants, bright-white dress shirts and vivid solid-color ties, each member with his own color. Even the CD booklet is color-coded. "We wanted a visual element to set us apart. Something that looked classy, not overtly silly," says Cantor. With their sleeves rolled up, these guys are ready to get going.

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Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum

Tally Hall

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Choice cuts: "Good Day," "Banana Man," "Two Wuv"

Tally Hall guarantees their listeners "wonderfully wonky rock," and the boys certainly deliver on this promise. Having already reached iconic status in their homebase of Ann Arbor, the band is now poised to conquer the hearts of power-pop enthusiasts everywhere with their debut album Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum. The record is action-packed with everything from pop ballads to shimmy-inducing reggae to harmonious Zappa-esque rock, exhibiting quirkiness while skillfully avoiding kitsch territory.

Glorious opener "Good Day" dazzles with its schizophrenic instrumentation and complex layered harmonies, elements that no doubt helped it win keyboardist and songwriter Andrew Horowitz the prestigious BMI John Lennon Scholarship in 2004. "Banana Man" just might be the catchiest song of the year, characterized by spontaneous dance breaks and stylistic elements ranging from bongo drums to whistles to everything in between. The wonderfully pop-tastic "Two Wuv," an ironic ode to Mary-Kate and Ashley, showcases a Ween influence with a dash of Pinkerton-era Weezer.

The sound of Tally Hall is one of reigned chaos and polished spontaneity, organized but not rigidly so. The album benefits from the songwriting contributions of each of its members, allowing for a myriad of different glittering tunes. Occasionally, awkward forced rhymes show that lyrics aren't the band's ultimate strength, and a few songs like the aptly-titled "Just Apathy" sound like desperate last-minute filler. But the overall skillful organization of the album allows it to deliver 50 minutes of pitch-perfect orchestrated pop music.

In the end, Tally Hall aren't trying to change the world with wallowing lyrics or heartbreaking Antony-style vocals; they're just trying to create their own space for fun. The beauty of the band is that they make listening to songs about bananas and bee costume-clad Olsen twins sound important and worthwhile. Temporarily shelve your Elliott Smith cryfest mixtapes and dry your eyes, mate! Let Tally Hall's wondrous wonkiness into your world.

—Claudia Quiros