



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Bat House guitarist Shane Blank plays during a previous show. The cosmic, psychedelic quartet will play with Burden the Bear at 8 p.m. Thursday, June 2, at Rozz-Toxx, Rock Island.

## Bat House blends psychedelic rock with Miyazaki influence

Boston-based quartet will play Thursday show

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Boston-based Bat House drove south in their van from Minnesota, past the farmland and occasional meadow.

"It's kind of like a Miyazaki film," someone exclaims from their seat.

The band was headed to Des Moines for a tour stop before packing everything up again and heading back to Minnesota for two more sets before playing Thursday, June 2, at Rozz-Toxx, Rock Island.

"Our routing got a little weird because we ended up with a really good show in Chicago," said Nicole Pompei, the band's drummer. "So we kind of had to loop around a little bit."

Bat House consists of Pompei, guitarists Shane Blank and Ally Juleen, and Emmet Hayes, who plays bass and performs vocal duties.

The influence of Japanese animator and director Hayao Miyazaki permeates the cosmic, psychedelic rock music filling Bat House's energetic and ethereal repertoire.

"If anything I think it's more relevant now than it was ever," Blank said. "It is important to take influence from non-musical influences. Everyone that plays music obviously listens to music, but finding influences in other things that aren't music allow you to push that boundary a little further."

Fellow guitarist Juleen said the group can relate to Miyazaki's "vast colorful worlds" when writing.

"It can get pretty wild but we always try and keep it colorful, move through these various atmospheres," she said. "I think we hope we can create music as colorful as Miyazaki films: all the different characters, the mythology, and stuff like that. The creativity really resonates without us."

(If you're curious, she



Guitarist Shane Blank, bassist and vocalist Emmet Hayes and guitarist Ally Juleen perform.

ranks "Princess Mononoke," "Spirited Away" and "Howl's Moving Castle" among the band's favorites Miyazaki films.)

At the mention of fellow Japanese animation director Satoshi Kon's 2006 film "Paprika" the band fills the van with exclamation and excitement.

"Oh yeah, we've recently seen 'Paprika.' That's up there also. That's crazy. It blew us away. That's a next level film."

Aside from their love of animated films, the quartet also attended Berklee College of Music, Boston, which brought all four musicians from across the U.S. together.

The group members hail from all parts of the U.S.: Pennsylvania, Los Angeles, Florida and Las Vegas.

"We were all friends," Pompei said. "We started jamming and messing around. Things meshed pretty well pretty quickly. We all get along super well so it kind of took off from there."

The group's ability to work together and play a technical style of post rock lends itself to playing live venues, instilling an energy into the crowd with their frenetic rhythms.

"I feel like we're not very conscious of playing psyche rock," Blank said. "The music that we initially started writing is very different than the music that we write now. I can't say we picked psyche rock more than it picked us in a weird way."

The group is working on their debut studio album slated for release this summer. They'll record a

### If you go

**WHO:** Bat House, with Burden the Bear

**WHAT:** All-ages show, of cosmic and psychedelic post rock

**WHEN:** 8 p.m. Thursday, June 2

**WHERE:** Rozz-Toxx, 2108 3rd Ave., Rock Island

**HOW MUCH:** \$5-10 sliding scale

**ON THE WEB:** bat-house.net

large portion of the album over a three-day span at the Converse Rubber Tracks studio in downtown Boston.

"After that we've basically been recording guitars, vocals, synths and all kinds of hand claps and what not at our house in Allston (a neighborhood of Boston)," Blank said. "We're pretty much just mixing it now. We have to record a few more ear candy things, but for the most part right now it's kind of in the final stages of mixing which we're also doing out of the house."

Bat House looks forward to their first trip to Rock Island.

"We've never been there," Juleen said. "We're really excited to see all these people and it'll be a new spot to play music in."

■ **Online:** Watch Bat House perform "Virdian City," or listen to their song "Patterns," or listen to guitarist Emmet Hayes talk about the group's dynamic, go to [qctimes.com/bat-house](http://qctimes.com/bat-house).