

Paul Weller, the essence of cool returns

By LUKE O'NEIL, Sun Correspondent
Lowell Sun

Hear

PAUL WELLER: There was a time when our kid Paul Weller was the coolest man in the UK. Hell, he still might be. At the very least we have him to blame in large part for the resurgence of everything Mod that blew up a while back and is still lingering in almost every band that has come out in the last year. You probably love at least 10 of the songs he did solo and with the seminal punk band the Jam, like "Town Called Malice" and "That's Entertainment" whether you know it or not. Older and wiser now, Weller brings his peacock hairdo and sharp suit to the Avalon on Sunday.

Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston, Sunday, 6 p.m., all ages, \$26.

LEZ ZEPPELIN: If you picked up the June issue of Spin, or have been paying attention to the minutiae of the rock world zeitgeist of late, all-female cover bands are (sort of) taking over. AC/DC she covers, of course, AC/DC, Cheap Trick has a decidedly more feminine take on Cheap Trick, and -- my favorite -- Violator repurposes the music of Depeche Mode. This Saturday, perhaps the grandmother of them all, the furious rock goddesses of Lez Zeppelin take the stage of the Middle East. If you're wondering how well they rock, and what they look like, please stay home. This band is for real (as for real as a fake band can be that is), and they slay. Zeppelin always seemed a little girly underneath all that machismo anyway, didn't they?

The Middle East, 242 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, Saturday, 9 p.m., 18+, \$15.

M.I.A.: I know I told you to go see her a few months ago, but you didn't go, did you? If you have any interest in challenging but fun music that might make you think if you can stop dancing around for a second, then don't miss your opportunity to catch M.I.A. this time. The Sri Lanka/British MC mixes elements of her native country's traditional music with the grime/two step of the UK and the lyrical bravado we've come to expect from our homegrown hip-hop. Plus she sprinkles in some social commentary about things you probably didn't even know you should be caring about.

Paradise Rock Club, 969 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, Friday, 8 p.m., 18+, \$20.

See

Variations on a Theme, by Sol LeWitt & Paula Robison: Even without the art, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum would be one of the more interesting, tranquil places to visit in the city. Beginning tomorrow, Sol LeWitt, a big name in conceptual art (gonna have to take that one at face value) will collaborate with internationally acclaimed flutist Paula Robison. He draws, she wails on the flute, you drink it in and stroke your chin. For info on times and more about the museum, go to www.gardnermuseum.org.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, Boston.

Grizzly Man!: Director Werner Herzog's documentary about a man who lived too close to the grizzly bears he loved and studied is nothing short of breathtaking. Timothy Treadwell was eventually killed by the Alaskan behemoths, but not before he filmed hundreds of hours of video footage. Herzog has pieced together a heartbreaking and informative tragedy using the found tapes that lead up to and include (although it's not shown) Treadwell's death. The Sundance prize-winning film is at the Kendall Square Theater. For times and more info go to www.landmarktheater.com

Kendall Square Theater, 0 Kendall Square, Cambridge.