

Home Stand

Minnesota rockers Tapes 'n Tapes enjoy the comforts of home

By Luke Taylor

What do Tapes 'n Tapes do differently for a daytime festival gig versus a nighttime club show? “Sunglasses,” jokes drummer Jeremy Hanson. “We don’t wear sunglasses inside.”

Performing indoors or out, Tapes 'n Tapes have plenty of experience. They’ve toured heavily over the past five years, playing clubs of all sizes as well as major festivals like Reading, Coachella and Lollapalooza. Guitarist and lead singer Josh Grier says festivals usually require bands to play a shorter set. “So we try to craft it to be the best experience for the people we’re playing in front of,” Grier explains. “And when it’s in the middle of the day and you have such great bands after you, you kind of have to step it up and bring the rock.”

That’s precisely what Tapes 'n Tapes will do on Saturday, June 18, when they kick off Rock the Garden, the outdoor music party hosted by 89.3 The Current and Walker Art Center. RTG’s 10,000 tickets sold out in a bit more than 24 hours. “It’s amazing to get this type of ex-

posure in Minnesota and just be able to play in front of so many people, including people who presumably have never heard us before,” Grier says. “And it’s such a diverse line-up. I think it’s going to be a lot of fun.”

Tapes 'n Tapes’ latest album, *Outside*, dropped in January. Möhammad Choudhery of Consequence of Sound calls *Outside* “a solid third album and a return to form.” Grayson Currin of Pitchfork says Tapes 'n Tapes “have never been as crisp or as confident as they are on *Outside*.” And The Current’s Barb Abney says *Outside* has it all, including “storytelling at its best ... screaming guitars and Josh’s infectious vocal stylings — all in this one record.”

Although Tapes 'n Tapes’ previous album was recorded in New York, *Outside* was recorded in a Minneapolis studio, close to the comforts of home. “Everybody just felt refreshed every day, came in with a positive attitude and had a really good time,” Grier says. “It was a more fun, relaxed experience.”

Grier and friends have also found it advantageous to share hometowns with The Current; in addition to Rock the Garden, the band will feature at The Current Road Trip show in Austin, Minn., on June 4. “We were a band before The Current started, so it’s been interesting to see how the music scene has changed and just how the station has supported a lot of local bands,” Grier says. “It’s definitely exposed us to a new audience of people. It’s been good for us.” ●



Tapes 'n Tapes are (L to R): Matt Kretzman, Josh Grier, Jeremy Hanson and Erik Appelwick.

Photo by Andy Willsher

Tapes 'n Tapes play The Current Road Trip in Austin on Saturday, June 4, and at Rock the Garden on Saturday, June 18. For more information about either event, visit TheCurrent.org.