


Vanessa Heintz
From left, Indo-Ninja and Outdo-Ninja will play the Bug Jar, along with guest ninja Donkey Punch (not pictured).



**NINJA ACADEMY WITH
MT. ST. HELENS VIETNAM BAND**
WHEN: 8 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27
WHERE: Bug Jar, 219 Monroe Ave.
COST: \$6; \$8 for ages 18 to 20 with ID
MORE INFO: 454-2966 or www.bugjar.com

NINJA ACADEMY

Drum-and-bass duo's shows always seem to draw older, drunk guys. It's weird

STORY BY **JINELLE SHENGULETTE**
Special to Metromix

Ninjas are trained in espionage, sabotage ... and percussion? Enter Ninja Academy, an instrumental rock duo from Los Angeles that proves all you need to rock are some drums and a bass.

Drummer Outdo-Ninja and bassist Indo-Ninja also have proved themselves masters of disguise in the traditional ninja sense by not offering their real names or ages and being careful not to be seen without their full ninja get-ups.

We spoke to both members of Ninja Academy — performing Sunday, Sept. 27, at the Bug Jar — about their forthcoming full-length release, guest ninjas and drunken fans.

Are you bringing any guest ninjas on this tour?

Outdo: We are going to tour with our guest ninja, Donkey Punch. He's a martial artist, so he does nunchucks and various martial art things while we play. He left the band briefly because he went on other missions, but he's coming back for this tour.

I hear you had a bad experience in Boise, Idaho. Tell me a little about that.

Outdo: That was three, four years ago, maybe.

Indo: We didn't even have the hoods yet; I think we had some sort of a mask ... and we went up there and played in this sports bar.

Apparently, some drunk guy stood up and ... he was calling us terrorists, and he said he was going to shoot us and shit.

Do you think he was serious?

Outdo: I think he was a serious drunk.

Indo: Not a happy drunk.

Outdo: He didn't do anything to our set, so whatever.

Has anything like that happened since?

Outdo: Not like that. We've had a number of drunk guys dancing at our shows. It's always older, drunk men — it's weird.

Indo: We have video footage.

Outdo: Yeah, we have to compile that.

Indo: But you know what I'm talking about, there's at least one of these guys at every show: the too-old-to-be-in-the-club guy.

Outdo: There was one time in Salt Lake City on the last tour where there were four kind of good-looking women who seemed almost like on the prostitute edge ... seriously. There was this one dude who seemed like their pimp, and one was kind of flirting with Indo or maybe both of us, and this guy was like, he started a little bit of shit ... but maybe they weren't prostitutes; maybe they were just four girls and a boyfriend. But it's all cool if prostitutes want to come (to our shows).

Indo: [Laughs] You never shared that theory.

You guys played at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theater. What was

that like?

Outdo: That was a lot of fun ... (Tim Meadows of *SNL*) was a guest that night. We performed a song and then they kind of riffed on it. ... It was a great experience; we played to a full house ... I guess we are kind of theatrical and comedic, but we're more about music.

Tell me about your next full-length release.

Outdo: We're planning for a January release. The album is finished and mastered, so we're working on the artwork and stuff like that ... and the seven-inch disc that's out now is kind of a preview to the album. We recorded (the full-length in), like, 10 days straight of eight-hour days.

Indo: Most bands do two, three months and take their time, but we did it (in) 10 days straight — no breaks, no lunch, nothing.

What else is coming up for you guys?

Outdo: We're working on this pilot, and we're going to try to pitch it to TV ... It's gonna be about us and the secret exploits we get into.

Indo: We wanna do a show maybe on an Adult Swim environment where it's about a band and they get into adventures, kind of like a *Spinal Tap* and *Tenacious D*.

Outdo: And every show will have an antagonist, where we have to assassinate him with our music.

Anything else?

Outdo: Come see us at the Bug Jar. We will melt your faces, and Donkey Punch will assault your eyes. ♦