



American Gun

Yes Yes Y'all!

The Yes Yes! Festival

Art Bar: Sunday, May 25

T rue, summer doesn't officially start — astrologically speaking — until the summer solstice, in which the sun has reached the farthest point north of celestial equator. But for a good percentage of the populace — that is to say, those among the *Free Times* readership whose calendars can be broken down into semester-sized chunks or those with children who can say such — Memorial Day marks the official beginning of summertime fun. So while the Memorial Day weekend is commemorated with beach trips, cookouts and the Indianapolis 500, so, too, does the Art Bar celebrate this ersatz solstice with the Danielle Howle-curated Yes Yes! Festival, the lineup of which centers on ripping roots-rock, stupendous singer-songwriters and bitchin' bluegrass.

Howle tapped local alt-country s#lt-kickers **American Gun** to headline this year's festival. The quintet is still riding high off of the February release of *The Means and the Machine*, which has been receiving rave reviews in rags both local, (the *Charleston City Paper* posited that American Gun might be the "next S.C. band to break out of the local circuit"), regional (*Connect Savannah* says the band is "one of the finest underground Americana groups in the Southeast") and national (*The Means and the Machine* was a featured review in the final issue of *No Depression*). American Gun's raucous live show is the perfect way to close out Memorial Day; the band plays the indoor stage at midnight.

Working backwards, **Danielle Howle** closes out the outdoor stage at 10:45 p.m. The undisputed matriarch of Columbia's music scene, Howle has hopped from alt-pop to folk to rock to country and several other places in her long and storied career; expect Howle to pull out all the tricks from her bag at this Memorial Day soiree. (Plus, whom would you rather see outdoors on a simmer-

ing night in the Vista? No one, that's who.) Frequent Howle sideman **Dave Michelson** takes the indoor stage at 10 p.m.; Michelson's also manned the six-string for Petrillo Relents and The Nervous System, but tonight he'll be taking center stage and belting out some of his strong, sultry folk originals.

Speaking of bands riding high off of album releases, **Devils in Disguise's** *Honky Tonk Liftoff* showcases the band's love of Gram Parsons' cosmic country, and the quartet brings its sweltering country-jam tunes to the outdoor stage at 9:15 p.m. **Mac Leaphart** will sing a few folksy tunes on the indoor stage at 8:30 p.m.; the former Five Way Friday frontman claims on his MySpace site that he still doesn't know what he wants to do when he grows up, and he parlays that youthful energy into soulful story-songs that recall the likes of outlaw singer-songwriter John Prine as they do mainstream artists such as Tom Petty and John Mellencamp.

Troubadour-about-town Bentz Kirby thinks Buffalo Springfield is the best American rock 'n' roll band, so it's no surprise that his **Alien Carnival** project — which also features Chris Lawther of Loch Ness Johnny and Josh McGill and Jason Marshall of The Dirty Lowdown — builds upon Buffalo Springfield's harmony-rich folk-rock. **Alien Carnival** hits the outdoor stage at 7:45 p.m., following a 7 p.m. indoor performance by recent Columbia transplant **Monk**, who plays a delirious brand of Dylan-esque folk. **The Papa String Band** provides a double-shot of energetic newgrass on the outdoor stage at 6:15 p.m., and golden-voiced **Stephanie Lawson**, whose YouTube-posted covers include songs by Death Cab for Cutie and Neutral Milk Hotel, gets things started on the indoor stage at 5:30 p.m. **ff**

The Art Bar is located at 1211 Park St. Doors open at 5 p.m., and admission is \$5. Master chef Joe Turkaly will be on site, cooking up gourmet grilled cuisine and serving it for \$5 a plate. Call 929-0198 or visit artbars.com for more information.