

# NEW HAVEN Advocate

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## Head Like a Kite

With Queen Killing Kings. Tuesday, June 6, 9 p.m., at Café Nine, 250 State St., New Haven. \$5. 789-8281, [cafenine.com](http://cafenine.com).

The songs on Head Like a Kite's debut album, *Random Pictures of the Home Movie*, are solid. There are hip references in the catchy guitar lines. There are cool vocals. There's some chordal bass playing. (New Order, Can and Dismemberment Plan have all been this way before.) These are tuneful, memorable, tastefully arranged songs.

But there's more. Dave Einmo, the singer and multi-instrumentalist mastermind behind this Seattle indie band, wants to take its recordings to a meta-musical level, and to make the live show a multi-media event. Einmo integrates sound samples from 1970s Super 8 movies (hence the album's title), sometimes blending those samples with the music and sometimes cutting the music out entirely to bring incidental bits of dialogue to the fore. Electronic flourishes give the album the impression it was recorded, then deconstructed. Songs stutter or stop on a dime to make way for knob-twiddling swooshes, then resume as if nothing happened.

Live, Einmo is accompanied by a drummer and by a pair of video projectionists, running reels of Super 8 films, including ones which were mined for the album.

*Random Pictures of the Home Movie* is both art and commentary on art. How organic is performance, and how static is a recording? it asks. It's also a rock show, of course. Just try not to let your brain fold in on itself before the night is over.

—Brian LaRue



Head Like a Kite is ever so meta.

(in this case, "Iko Iko," by the Dixie Cups). The poseur pseudonyms (the vocalist is Ida No, the drummer Dusty Sparkles, the producer Johnny Jewel).

The post-disco '80s are back, in the precious form of Glass Candy. This is the style which Bowie aped in his *Cat People* movie theme, and which was savagely mocked by punk acts such as Suicide and the Contortions. Glass Candy, which has a New York nihilist attitude but hails from the West Coast, apparently packs its own form of punkish spontaneity: a blurb on [troublemanunlimited.com](http://troublemanunlimited.com) suggests that "some [are] seduced by the more chaotic elements of the performance, while others [are] left disgusted by the seemingly inept ability of the group to function as a whole"—and that commentary's coming from the band's own label!

Chromatics, also produced by Johnny Jewel and sharing the BAR bill on Wednesday, are far more intriguing, verging into new-classic territory with experimental effects, mood swings and performance-poetry passages. You can hear both Yoko Ono and Suicide in Chromatics' measured harsh vocals and lilting synths.