

# 826LA GOOD TIMES

## MUSIC EDITION

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'Cause nothing's cheaper

### Wil Dog Visits the *Good Times* Staff

#### OZOMATLI'S "CITY OF ANGELS" IS A TOUR OF LA

**T**he Ozomatli album *Don't Mess With the*

*Dragon* has a cool song called "The City of Angels." It is awesome because it talks about Los Angeles and about different places in LA, including Silver Lake, Fairfax, Bell Gardens, Carthay, Crescent Heights, and Hollywood. The song is also about Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie being on the front page of the newspaper and "Brad Pitt cheatin' front page reality." "The City of Angels" is more of a rap song than an ordinary song.



The 826LA journalists work with Wil Dog (c.) from Los Angeles band Ozomatli.

Places that Ozomatli performed this album are India, Nepal, Tunisia, Jordan, Egypt, on the TV show *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, the jazz festival in New Orleans, and at the Bonnaroo music festival in Tennessee.

**BY ALANIS**

#### HISTORY OF OZOMATLI

**W**il Dog came to visit

826LA to talk about his band, Ozomatli. The thing I remembered most of all is that he plays the bass. I remembered that because my dad plays the same instrument. Wil Dog has played

music at Dodger Stadium.

The band started 14 years ago in downtown LA. They protested for more pay as part of the Conservation Corp. when he was a teenager. They lost but got control of a

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# Songs: In Our Own Opinions



## BECK IS LOOKING FOR HIS “GIRL”

The song “Girl” by Beck was released on *Guero* in March 2005. The song is

about a guy talking about a girl that he likes. I didn’t like the video because the story doesn’t go with the song that he is singing. The song is about a girl, but in the video, it only shows a car, a map, a brochure, a hot dog stand, and the TV screen dividing in half. Beck is walking through LA, and in the video, they don’t even show the girl that he is talking about. They show men playing instruments most of the time.

BY MIGUEL



## BECK’S “LOSER”

It’s funny, and it has a good beat. In the lyrics, he says “I’m a loser baby” in Spanish.

He sings the chorus backwards: “*Soy un perdedor* / I’m a loser baby, so why don’t you kill me.”

The music video made me feel like I was in juvenile hall because it sounds like when you walk inside jail.

It’s also funny when the cheerleaders dance silly. The video is set in the forest of LA. It’s funny when the guitarist is on the roof playing the guitar, because that’s what I would do. The song is about how he’s a loser and why won’t you kill him.

Beck used to be in a comedy show, and he cut his hair.

BY BIANCA



## The Kings and Queens of CASTLEDOOR

Echo Park/Silver Lake band Castledoor’s album is called *Shouting at*

*Mountains*. This is a good name for it because it makes you think of happiness. My favorite songs are “Skipping Stepping Stones,” “Fifth Tambourine” and “Dumpster Diving.” The music in “Dumpster Diving” sounds happy, but the words are romantic. They’re about a date diving in a dumpster and finding stuff. That sounds like a weird, stinky and dirty date to me. The video for this song is awesome, because at first I thought they were going to be dressed like hobos, but actually they dress fancy and take care of each other. They brush their teeth, but then they jump in the dumpster and fly in this universe, and they land in front of their instruments and start to sing. I like the guy’s voice. It’s a good voice, and a romantic voice. It would be good music for your iPod or your car because it makes you sing it out loud. “Fifth Tambourine” seems sad, actually sad and happy at the same time. My favorite part of this song is the drums. They’re pretty good. Their songs feel long. I like the squirrel on their poster. BY ALANIS



## RATINGS SYSTEMS



Wins four Grammys



Ready to play at Los Globos



Barely made 2nd round of “Idol”



In the trash with Oscar the Grouch

# MUSIC WORD SEARCH

L U N A E H F O T C C T  
H D O Z O M A T L I O V  
S D T T V O A T T X N C  
L O S E R T E W O A A T  
Q G N C S R O L A U N R  
U T E G Y P T D R U M S  
W I L M N F R E E L D S  
B E A T S P R E T T Y A  
O H L A G A L L I N A B

Words to find (look forwards, backwards and diagonally).

1. Ozomatli
2. TV
3. Free
4. Egypt
5. Dog
6. Aztec
7. Loser
8. Song
9. Conan
10. Beats
11. Bass
12. Wil
13. La Gallina

## OZOMATLI Q&A

**Q: What was it like winning a Grammy?**

**A:** They won their first Grammy in 2002 for *Embrace the Chaos* (Best Latin Rock/Alternative Album). Everyone told them they were going to lose. They went to the Grammys

at the Staples Center. Emilio Estefan announced the name of the winning album in Spanish—*Em-brah-zeh de Cah-ose*—and they didn't understand until the end. Then they went crazy and couldn't believe it. They took pictures with the Grammy there, but then it was taken away from them because there is only one Grammy award for every winner to use. It was later mailed to him. Wil Dog gave it to his mom.

**Q: What made you be in a band?**

**A:** He said when he was little, he was a troublemaker and didn't think he could do well in school. One day his principal said he did a good job in math and was very proud of him. That made him want to do better, and he helped out at a community center. They formed a band to make money for the center. He played bass because he thought it would be the easiest to learn.

**Q: How did you come up with the name Ozomatli?**

**A:** Someone that's not in the band anymore named them. Ozomatli comes from the Aztec calendar, and it is the god of dance.

**Q: What was it like when you threw out the first pitch at Dodgers Stadium?**

**A:** They did a music video that they showed on the screen, then threw the pitches to people who won a contest. It was further than they thought.



## 826LA Good Times Staff

**ALANIS** is 10 years old. She is intelligent and likes to play her PSP and Nintendo DS. She goes to Logan Street School. She would like to play drums and electric guitar.

**ALEX** is 10 years old. He likes math. He has a PSP. He goes to Micheltorena School. He would like to play drums.

**BIANCA** is from Echo Park and has lived here for 11 years. She likes to kick it, shoot pool, cook, watch TV (*Sweet 16*, *Carlos Mencia*, *Yo Momma*, *Quiero Mi Quince*), listen to music, go to the park and El Centro Del Pueblo, watch the Lakers and the Dodgers and text her friends. She would like to play percussion.

**JOSEPHINE** is 7 years old, in second grade at Charles H. Kim Elementary School, and lives in Echo Park. She likes to play soccer, basketball, baseball, bowling, dodgeball, and handball.

**MARSDEN** is 10 years old and in 5th grade. He loves video games. He goes to Dahlia Heights. He would like to play drums.

**MIGUEL** is 14 years old. He goes to Fairfax High School, and he likes to play soccer. He would like to play electric guitar.

**NICKIE** is 8 years old and in the 4th grade. He goes to Dahlia Heights Elementary School.

**OSCAR** is 10 years old. He likes to play soccer and video games. He also likes to watch TV. He likes tacos, hamburgers, pizza, and homemade food. He used to go to Logan Street School, but when he went to fifth grade, he changed to Micheltorena Street School. He would like to play drums and guitar.

## WIL DOG

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community center for two years. They started the band to raise money for that building. He said he wasn't that good in school. He speaks Spanish. It seemed like he liked kids. The band was named after an Aztec symbol of music and dance. Ozomatli's music to me is awesome. I think it's awesome because their music is in Spanish.

**BY JOSEPHINE**

## ABOUT WIL DOG AND HIS BAND OZOMATLI

Wil Dog came and told 826LA about his rock band Ozomatli. He has been playing the bass for 17 years and started playing the bass when he was 19. Wil Dog is 36 but looks younger. Wil Dog was friendly and cool. He doesn't have piercings and crazy hair and is cooler than those people who actually wear that stuff.

The band won a Grammy Award for Best Latin Rock/

Alternative Album for *Embrace the Chaos* in 2002. Everybody told them that they were going to lose, even their managers and their record company. Emilio Estefan was the announcer. He announced the winner in Spanish, but they didn't understand. They went crazy when they won and couldn't believe it.

They toured around the world and also rode on camels in Egypt. I think they must have had fun.

**BY OSCAR**

## Join 826LA *Good Times*

Published every six weeks, *826LA Good Times* is a production of the journalism workshop at 826LA East, which meets Mondays, 7:00–8:30 p.m. in Echo Park.

We're looking for students, ages 6–18, interested in journalism of all sorts, as well as adult volunteers who can help students write a good story.

For more info on *826LA Good Times*, please write to us at [thegoodtimes@826LA.org](mailto:thegoodtimes@826LA.org)

## song reviews

“CAN'T STOP” was in English. The music video was hard to understand because it was too fast-paced for someone my age. They kept singing “a new day” and “shake, shake, shake.” A man was trying to see a woman and give her flowers. The man was trying to see the woman in all these crazy ways, such as with a hamster wheel, a balloon, and a helicopter. In other words, I sort of liked it. **BY MARSDEN**



“LA GALLINA” was cool even though most of the words didn't make sense to me. The music video was nice. The most surprising part was when there was a chicken in the video. Some of the band members are dressed as chickens, and there was a real



“Can't Stop” and “La Gallina” are both from Ozomatli album “Don't Mess With the Dragon.”

chicken. Most of the things in this video were pretty funny. “La Gallina” means hen (female chicken). Ozomatli means god of dance, fire, new harvest, and music. I think the band name describes their music. **BY NICKIE**