

MR. Faded Glory
By
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1988, Alaskan Way South Street, Seattle, the faint sound of a change can be heard coming through the light bearing gaps of the OK Hotel. Inside under the ray of spotlights stand the members of the band *Mother Love Bone*. Jeff Ament, Bruce Fairweather, Greg Gilmore, Stone Gossard. Centre stage stands a man wearing black leather boots, star patterned trousers, a Laker's jersey, shades and a funky hat, he has a smile. The man's name is Andrew Wood. A joyful charismatic showman, leading his magnificent melody makers forth.



Soon Mother Love Bone's name will be printed and displayed on flyers, covering the streets of Seattle, telephone poles, shop windows and handouts. Their playground being The Vogue, Central Tavern and Paramount. Within this period *Mother Love Bone* will pen lyrics and perfect their well-oiled musical affair. They will gain the attention of Polygram. As November '88 draws to its end the future looks bright on the horizon of the Northwest.

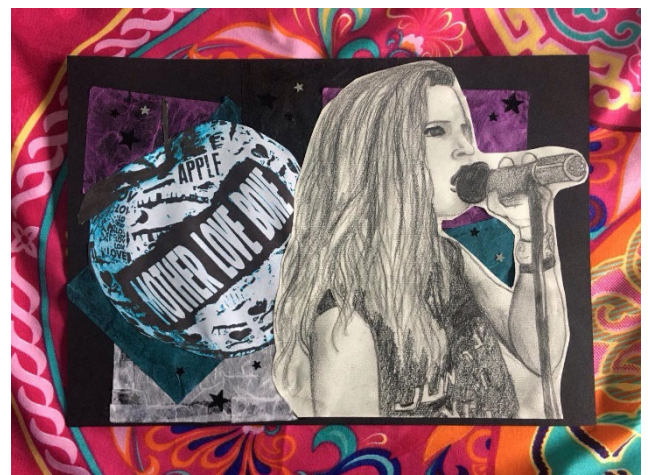
1989 the Seattle sound begins to bloom as their EP *Shine* is released in March, on *Mother Love Bone's* own label *Stardog Records*, a part of their deal

with *Mercury Records*, a subsidiary of *Polygram*.

Shine made the rounds as did heroin, smothering the streets. It was not just the rain that darkened the skies. Andrew Wood has his longest relationship with drugs, but he still shouts “Love rock awaits you,” rehab awaits you.

Shine is well received, the EP consists of a vigorous style and sensual variety, a driving force, enough to throw you into a frenzy, capturing the essence of the band. There is one song that stands alone in all its glory, *Chloe Dancer/Crown of Thorns*, a heart gripping ballad. Poignant piano accompanies Andrew’s angelic vocals to both fade away. The journey through melodious shifting, a beautiful butterfly flourishing into its final stage of beauty, then delicacy wilting away.

Flamboyant and outlandish are among many words describing Andrew Wood’s onstage persona. Spring saw *Mother Love Bone* tour across the country. Time to begin work on their debut Album *Apple* in the late months of ‘89. Over the year spent together the band and Andrew’s prolific lyrics and fun disposition blended together. The multi-talented members who form *Mother Love Bone* are elevated.



1990, with hope and an air of excitement, the band prepares for their release of *Apple*. Ready to set sail across the world on their rambunctious vessel named *Mother Love Bone* the band awaits to leave Seattle. Andrew’s relationship with

heroin is worsening. Rehab has run its course and the fairy-tale ending is about to become a sad tale.

16th of March Andrew Wood is in a comatose state on his bed, over-dosed on heroin. In hospital he leaves us days before the release of *Apple*.

Devastation setting over Seattle in the wake of his death. What could have been? The band had so much to give. Now *Chloe Dancer/Crown of Thorns* heavily plays on rotation. In the words of Andrew Wood 'You ever heard the story of Mr. Faded Glory.'

