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MUSIC

Led by Niagara singer, Mexico's Peninsula makes mellow inroads

Rosalie Eva brings her band back home for three Niagara shows

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Mexican band Peninsula — led by former St. Catharines singer Rosalie Eva — will play three Niagara shows in seven days, starting June 28 at Camp Cataract in Niagara Falls.

Carmella

By John Law Reporter

The question can't help but make Rosalie Eva smile, because she's still amused by the answer: Just how does a St. Catharines singer end up being the front woman for a Mexican band?

Turns out she was hanging out in Niagara Falls 21 years ago when she met Mexican singer/guitarist Javier Arizpe through a mutual friend. They stayed in touch for a few years and formed a duo in Canada in 2010.

At the same time, she was working as a dietitian in Niagara Falls when she formed another band with some friends. Though trained as a pianist, she took up bass for a band called Everybody's Girlfriend, making their debut at the In the Soil festival.

She eventually moved to Mexico to form the spacey, pop/rock band Peninsula. And on June 28, she returns to where it all started with a gig at [Camp Cataract on Queen Street](#).

The show will include The Black Flies, Thunderclap and Rita & the Daydreamers.

The homecoming will also include a show at Firemen's Park July 1 as part of the city's [Canada Day celebrations](#), followed by a date at [The Warehouse](#) in St. Catharines July 4.

"It will be nice to reconnect with some of the friends we have here in Niagara," said Eva.

A chance encounter 13 years ago led to the mini-Niagara tour. Arizpe walked into a book store on Queen Street when he met local musician CD Onofrio. After talking books and poetry, Arizpe was invited to a poetry reading, where he connected with other local musicians.

Jump ahead and Onofrio's band, A Sea of Gold & Burgundy, is opening for Peninsula at the Warehouse show.

"Sometimes chance meetings blossom into beautiful relationships," said Eva.

The Canadian tour also has a Toronto stop slated for June 27.

While Mexico is Peninsula's home base (and her permanent home now), Eva said the band loves taking its sound to new crowds and seeing the reaction. A 2023 trip to Japan drew crowds unlike any other.

"The audience in Japan, they're very attentive," she said. "I guess I'm used to crowds in North America where people will talk over the music, and they're just there to socialize. Whereas in Japan, it was full focused on the band."

Back home, Eva said she can't wait to make new converts. Fans of Metric and the Cranberries will find plenty to like about Peninsula.

"It's like a Sunday afternoon, sipping coffee, fiddling with guitars is usually when the songs come out."

The Local Shindig at Camp Cataract, presented by [Mainly Niagara](#), starts at 7 p.m. Admission is free.



John Law is a Niagara Falls-based reporter with the Niagara Falls Review, primarily covering arts and culture.

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