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Sled Island set to storm Calgary

Hundreds of acts grace 30 city stages this summer

By **LISA WILTON**, SUN MEDIA

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The Breeders, who had a huge hit in the '90s with Cannonball, will headline this year's Sled Island Music & Arts Festival it was announced yesterday.

"They've never played Calgary before," said festival organizer, Zak Pashak. "I'm really excited about this whole line up. I know it sounds like a PR line, but I really think it's going to be a great festival."

Other acts confirmed for Sled Island include post-punk revivalists Liars, insane Israeli garage rock trio Monotonix, Vancouver blues-rock duo The Pack A.D., New York synth-rocker Andrew W.K., electro group Holy F---!, Quebec indie darlings Malajube and Canadian metal band, Anvil.

Anvil -- best known for its 1983 hard rock hit Metal On Metal -- is enjoying a major comeback thanks to the critically acclaimed documentary, Anvil! The Story of Anvil.

Several Calgary bands will be featured at Sled Island including Azeda Booth, The Sub-linguals, The Dudes, and Women, the latter of which has started making waves in Europe.

"Women played 120 shows around the world last year," Pashak said. "They're great ambassadors for Calgary."

Curated Colin Newman, a member of influential art rock band Wire, Sled Island boasts 200 bands performing at 30 different venues around town. Newman was unable to attend yesterday's unveiling at Broken City, but he said in a statement that those who were disappointed the lack of big names were missing the point of the festival.

"For me Sled Island is the perfect city festival in the way it mashes up sound and visual culture and liberally sprinkles it through the downtown area to the extent that every available space either has a show or an exhibition or a performance," he said. "It's all there to be absorbed."

Pashak backed up Newman's statement by saying, "The bands people have never heard of are some the coolest bands at the festival."

Pashak also said Sled Island will move its main concert site from Mewata Stadium to Olympic Plaza.

"Mewata was great last year, but now we're in the middle of downtown so it's great for us," Pashak explained.

"It's by a C-Train station so there is lots of access and it looks cool surrounded by all the buildings."

Festival passes are \$99 for the four-day event and are available online at www.sledisland.com

A full line up of bands and artists will be announced on June 1 on the website.

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