

# Cinnamon Toast Records makes vinyl fun

by Jen Horsey

Do you own a turn table? The advent of CD technology was supposed to give vinyl its final shove into the dustbin, but somewhere along the way, indie bands decided that vinyl was the format to get their material out on. Hey, it's affordable and way cooler than tapes, right?

In Halifax, releasing vinyl singles got a lot easier in August of 1992, when a bunch of friends got together, and in the true indie spirit, pooled together their funds to release a red 7" by Bubaiskull on a singles label that they named Cinnamon Toast Records.

Now in their third year, the label has made the brave move into CD territory, with the release of their compilation entitled *Trim Crusts if Desired*. But this does not signal the end of vinyl releases for Cinnamon Toast.

"I think we're going to continue to put out vinyl until no one will every buy a record anymore," says Lee Anne Gillan, one of the Cinnamon Toast crew.

One of the reasons that the folks at Cinnamon Toast like vinyl so much, is that it's a lot of fun. The records that come out on Cinnamon Toast are far from boring, and if you've never seen vinyl that is any colour other than black, I'd recom-

mend that you check out one of their 7" records. From red to marbled purple, each record is a surprise.

And it's not only fun for the consumer either, artists like it too. Says Lee Ann: It fun, and pop and throw away. Especially if you don't have enough money for a cd, vinyl's a really fun way to get your music out."

Currently, there are five members of the singles label, Lee Anne Gillan, Walter Forsythe, Miro Wiesner, Shawn Duggan and Colin MacKenzie. There is also one employee, Greg Ash, who is working with the label as their Administrative Assistant, on a co-operations grant. They have also recently found

mon toast for all.

For these folks, it is their dedication to music that keeps them in the business of putting out vinyl.

According to Lee Anne, "You'd be crazy to start a record label if you wanted to make money." But they aren't losing money either, so they are able to continue putting out new music — taking the money that comes in from the last single, and putting it right back into the next project.

What's up next for Cinnamon Toast Records? In the works for the near future are singles with Coyote and Ottawa's Furnaceface. Also, watch for a second cd, this time with

ment of local talent. Artists on the compilation include: Thrush Hermit, Quahogs, Jale, Les Gluetones and Hardship Post.

I personally like the vinyl better,

but that's an aesthetic choice. It just looks cooler. And, in case you're wondering, that thing on the cover of the cd — that's an old fashioned toast clamp. Who knew?

## Pleasant Dreams

by James Beddington

Halifax's Shakespeare by the Sea festival is in financial risk after the government refused the festival support. This summer, Shakespeare by the Sea is proposing to produce *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Point Pleasant Park's Fort Oglivie. The producers are now faced with raising nearly \$100,000 to stage the production.

Slated to perform in this production is Canada's star Brent Carver, currently playing the starring role in *Richard the 3rd* at Edmonton's Citadel Theatre. Also due to appear in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is Dinah Christie, two time

winner of the ACTRA award for best variety performer.

Christie and Carver will be performing at the fund raising benefit called *Pleasant Dreams*. Other performers who will appear in the benefit will include Jest in Time, Laura Smith, The Rose Vaughan Trio, MaryColin Chisholm, Mike Petersen (a puppeteer who will use Brent Carver's feet as puppets), Linda Brooks, Paul Aucoin, and Andrea Leigh Smith. *Pleasant Dreams* is being held from 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. this Sunday, March 5 in The Windsor Room of The Prince George Hotel. The cost is \$30 per person. There will be finger food and a cash bar.



## Returns

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"Waiting All Day."

I hope that the next time I see Eric's Trip it's either with reduced sound levels at Birdland or at a club not "blessed" with the wattage that Birdland seems to have at its disposal.

Unfortunately, guitarist Chris Thompson seemed to be having no luck with his microphone level — for "Frame" it was too low and on "Feeling Around" it was too high. But it was good to see more of his songs being incorporated into an Eric's Trip set. As his solo Moonsocket side project becomes more well-known, his talent for songwriting is becoming more widely recognized.

Speaking of side projects: the recent hiatus has not been an unproductive interval for the band. Lead singer/guitarist Rick White has his vinyl-only "Elevator to Hell" record coming out on Sub Pop at the end of this month. Julie Doiron continues to write songs and perform as Broken Girl, and will have a recording issued by Murderecords. There is a new Moonsocket seven-inch single on the Sappy Records label (run by Julie) in stores, and drummer Marc Gaudet's fearsome twosome, Purple Knight, performed recently in Halifax at the Oasis, with the other three Trip side-project bands.

But now Eric's Trip are back in business as a band, and they will be recording a single for Sub Pop in about a month, to be followed by a third album on that label in August or September. Expect the next album to be less revealing and introspective than last year's (comparatively) mellow offering *Forever Again*. Rick and Julie have confessed in interviews that last fall's release made autobiographical revelations in its lyrics that were perhaps a little too specific. Also, the next album is likely to be more amenable to the Trip's aggressive live sound, as the songs from it will see a lot more road exposure.

themselves an office space which they share with both Murderecords, and the local branch of Denon Records.

The name "Cinnamon Toast Records" was Shawn Duggan's idea, and he likens the records to comfort food. In fact, at every Cinnamon Toast release party, you can guarantee that there will be someone who spends the evening toiling over a hot toaster to ensure that there is cinna-

Rebecca West.

The first cd, *Trim Crusts If Desired* is now available, and has been selling well since its release shortly before Christmas. It is anticipated that there will have to be a new pressing of it soon. It's a great cd if you are someone who doesn't have a turn table, but still want to get to know what's been going on with the Halifax indie scene. It is a nice assort-

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Wed. Mar.8	<b>P.F. STATION ROOT OF PASSAGE, J. MASTERS</b>	\$3
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Fri. Mar.17	<b>RHYMES WITH ORANGE THE KILLJOYS, THE GRACE BABIES</b>	\$5
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