

Garage bands are alive and well

by Michele Thibeau

Garage bands in Halifax seem to have more places to go these days than in years gone by. The Pub Flamingo is the primary spot, but there are other clubs opening up which might let local non-union musicians play. For instance, the Pub devotes Monday night to local talent; any band that wishes to sign up may do so. "Open Mike Night" has spotted a few good acts that have returned.

Richard, a friend of mine from Dartmouth, bought his first guitar three years ago and began to play non-stop. He has been taking lessons for a year and a half now, and has written some original lyrics and music for both guitar and bass guitar. At the moment he is playing with a band of other people in his high school. They practice up to three times a week. After he graduates in June, Richard plans to go to University to study music.

Richard carries his guitar around the house with him constantly, practicing his favourite songs or trying out new pieces for guitar solos in his original music. Occasionally while we are chatting on the phone he will play his guitar in the background, testing my knowledge of guitar parts in favourite songs. Sometimes I get to hear a new song, or while we are talking he'll get an idea and see what I think. That can really be exciting for someone like me who can't write music to save her life. Some of Richard's main influences are bands like Clan of Xymox, Depeche Mode, The Police, Jesus and Mary Chain, Love and Rockets, New Order, and Joy Division.

His music reflects some of his influences, particularly Joy Division and Jesus and Mary Chain. The band plans to perform at a few school functions this year, and carry on a few open rehearsals for friends. They also hope to record their own tape with original music some time soon.

For Richard, music is everything, an outlet for all his feelings. Within music one can find every feeling, emotion and thought expressed, not feel alone, and even gain a certain strength in knowing that someone else feels the same way.

For Barry Walsh, the same basic definition applies. He and Allison Outhit form the core of Flags for Everything, a relatively new local band. Barry too started out in Dartmouth with a guitar from his Dad for Christmas. At first it was a hobby, but now he is a musician. He is back at Dalhousie this year as a part-time stu-

dent, and along with playing music, he has hopes of being a writer. There are outlets today he says weren't available when he started out, such as the Pub Flamingo. This summer, Flags for Everything produced a three-track demo tape at the Centre for Art Tapes, which CKDU has a copy of. The band is hoping to get back in the studio in a few weeks to put out a longer tape once the band members get stabilized. Their potential for being well received has already been seen at their two dates at the Pub Flamingo. They opened for Eugene Chadwick and played with Blackpool, another local band. While Barry realizes that by being a union and top-40 band the money would always be there, he says that is not what they are after. He would rather be on the long waiting list for non-union bands at the Pub Flamingo and play original music. For the Flags, that is what it is all about.

A friend told them they sounded like a cross between Crowded House and the Jesus and Mary Chain. I agree that somewhere in between those very different bands lie Flags for Everything, in their own spot. Barry describes their music as melodic and mellow but with a bit of force in the lyrics. He and Allison write the music together on acoustic guitars and the later change to electric if they need to.

"When you wake up in the

morning with a song on the brain, you've got to get it out," says Barry. He has been working on more music for their next release, which he hopes will be soon. Some of his big influences are Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan and his all-time favourite, Elvis Costello.

I asked Barry if there was one important thing he had learned which, if he could, he would like to bring back to grade twelve and start over with. His surprising answer was a definite "No". He feels he would do everything the same way if he had the chance. To me, that shows integrity in an artist, something that these days seems to be lacking. In talking with him I found that he is reserved in broadcasting his opinions, but he has some worth listening to. So, if in the future you get the chance to see them, go and enjoy.

In Halifax, there are a few places for non-union local bands to play, although there is a rather long waiting list. The Pub Flamingo and, soon, Jaguars plan to go out on a limb for these bands. The garage band scene in Halifax seems to be alive and well despite a lack of performance outlets. With lots of talent and creative energy, bands like Flags for Everything and high school garage bands should go far in the near future, if they search for the audiences they need.

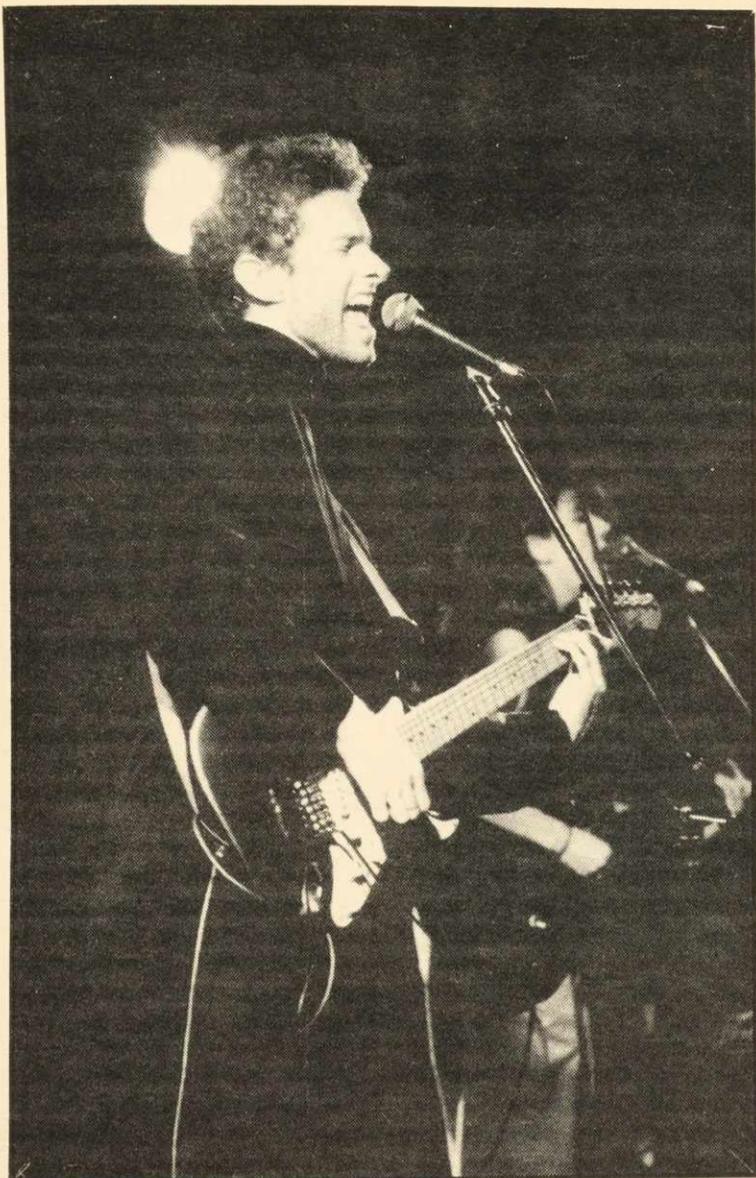


Photo: Eric Brown

Barry Walsh: Open mike jam session.

Getting started on Atlantic film

by Lisa Clifford

This year's Atlantic Festival Atlantique, Film and Video '88 may prove to be the most exciting yet. In its eighth year, the festival will run for six days, from October 11 - 16. An all-Canadian programme, it showcases 36 films and videos.

Workshops featuring filmmakers, critics, and performers will be held daily. These workshops, traditionally geared towards those in the industry, are expected to be of interest to the general public. On October 12 a seminar called *Getting Started* is for people trying to enter the film industry.

One of the highlights of the festival is expected to be the showing of *Finding Mary March* at Scotia Square. Directed by Ken Pittman, this film deals with the search for a lost Indian grave. One of two Canadian films sent to the Cannes Film Festival, *The Revolving Door*, will be shown; other highlights are *Milk and Honey*, a Montreal production about a Jamaican mother's immigration to Canada and *Calling the Shots*, a survey of women working in film.

Often underpromoted regional films will also be featured at the

Festival. Acclaimed Halifax director Bill MacGillivray's *I Will Not Make Any More Boring Art* can be seen at Wormwood's Cinema. Also playing at Wormwood is *The Squamish Five*, a film by Paul Donovan which deals with the Lytton System bombing in Vancouver.

The Atlantic Festival has also marked a return of short works to the theatre which will be screened before most feature presentations. Of special interest to the Halifax residents may be the "short" *Dutchie Mason: A Blues Documentary*, which was shot on location at the Pub Flamingo. Other "shorts" include *The Boland Twirlers* by Angela Baker, a portrait of a Dartmouth baton group, and *My Shadow*, an animated short from Fredericton about a girl and her rebellious shadow.

On the final day of the festival, an awards ceremony will be held. Prizes to be handed out include: best short, best feature, the "people's choice" and a critics' award.

Screenings of the above films and many more will be at the Scotia Square Cinema, the Oxford Theatre, Wormwood's Cinema and the National Film Board of Canada.

The NEW
PALACE

1721 Brunswick St.

METRO'S HAPPENING SPOT

Proudly Presents

Thurs - Sun

Rob Hanna

Tribute to Rod Stewart

All Week - Top 40 Dance Band

Stranger Still

Try the new Caesar's Daily Specials (7-10)

Sun • 4:30 pm - 10 pm

Ladies' Free Admission Sun - Wed

Open 7 days a week • 7 pm - 3 am

Sun • 4:30 pm - 3 am



ENTERTAINMENT HOTLINE

429-5959

FREE ADMISSION WITH THIS COUPON