

Saturday night at Bird's

by Jen

I arrived early at Birdland, Saturday night, and caught the first opening band (for once in my life). Whether or not this was a good thing, I'm not sure.

John Masters Quartet, Coyote, Thrush Hermit
Birdland, Jan. 21/95

The John Masters Quartet are a new band, and Saturday was their first gig, so I don't want to be too hard on them but...

Their first couple of songs sounded remarkably like Pearl Jam, then they migrated into a Rollins-esque style. I suppose, if they manage to stay together for long enough, these styles could gel into something interesting, but I, for one, am not holding my breath.

Next up were Coyote. This is a band comprised of ex-Bubaikull members. They sauntered onto stage looking decidedly like Reservoir Dogs, in dress shirts and ties, and played a wickedly aggressive set which was reminiscent of the days of Bubaikull. I first saw this band at September's Pop Explosion, and each time I've seen them, I've thought that they couldn't get any better. Wrong again, as Saturday night's performance was incredible. Rumour has

it that they're talking to a record company, so hopefully they will get something recorded soon.

Finally, just before 2 a.m. (this whole cabaret thing is going to kill me) Thrush Hermit took the stage. It's been a while since I've seen them play, and their stage show has matured in the past few months.

Their set was plagued with gremlins that would have really unnerved a younger band. First was the broken bass string, followed by the faulty cable, and the guitar strap that just didn't want to stay put.

Watching Joel sing into a mic on a stand that had slid down to the level of his knees was one of the more amusing things I've seen in a while. But the things I took it all in stride, filling the gaps with anecdotes and tour stories.

They played an energetic set, and tried out a bunch of new stuff which got a positive response from a packed house. Apparently they've been recording (with Steve Albini no less), so expect a second album from these guys in the not too distant future.

The Artist Profile: What is it?

The artist profile consists of a set of flexible and standardized questions — also known as some horrible things to ask someone with artistic sensibilities or ambitions. Here they are:

1. Name, age, media, and origins.
2. Goals, artistic or in life?
3. Is there one person or thing that is a continuing source of inspiration?
4. Is there something that you idolize, respect or like, be it a movement in politics or art, a philosophy or a person or someone's art?

5. Are there specific messages or themes that you try to communicate with your art?
6. What are you working on now?
7. What was your most satisfying artistic experience?
8. Are there any questions I forgot to ask?

The profile is open to any artist with the exception of those artists covered by the Local Band Alert. Anyone interested should leave a message for me at the Gazette or e-mail me at jbedding@is.dal.ca.

James Beddington



Eeyore's Tale

Local band alert

So, sick and tired of bands that sound like they just formed last night in someone's basement? Then check out Eeyore's Tale. These guys are professionals. Professional training (and lots of it) combined with an energetic stage presence and tight, frenetic tunes. Their sound is, to my knowledge, unique to the Halifax scene. It's funk of the Chili Peppers' type. But the boys on the rear of the friend of Pooh-bear put their own twist on it with their original tunes, including mellow songs that put any top 40 ballad to shame. Their tape is self-titled and available on Barrington. (You know where.) Check them out!

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