

Halifax in the mood to be turned on

Different stages, styles to rock the Halifax On Music Festival

BY GREG MCFARLANE

With over 60 artists and 15 stages, the Halifax On Music Festival is gearing up for its most ambitious year ever. The festival is held between September 25th and

While On Music and its predecessor, the Halifax Pop Explosion, have always been known for showcasing unknown and up-and-coming artists, this year's festival has gone beyond that by varying the styles of music being played. With bands like Piggy, the Urban Surf

Kings, Ciao Bella and rappers Choclair and Kardinal Offishal, the festival is expanding its audience.

"Halifax On Music wants to represent where Canadian Music is at as a whole. To include hip hop, electronica and genres like that is important, and bands like Choclair,

Kardinal Offishal and Stinkin' Rich are leading the way," said Melissa Buote, who is helping to organize the festival from her Proper Productions office. Buote

also said that the reception the Rascalz received during last year's grand finale performance prompted organizers to expand its hip hop roster.

And while the festival still attracts bands from afar, such as headliners the Rheostatics, it is heavily anchored by Halifax musicians. But the list of musicians goes beyond the typical cast of indie-pop and grunge 'Halifax' bands.

Much of the diversity found within the festival originates

from within the city.

"(This year), there's almost twice as many artists," said Buote. "We've managed to help the people from in town.

"There aren't as many bands in Halifax that are wielding national appeal, so it is important to make sure people know we still have a kick-ass scene here."

Other bands at the festival include Hamilton's Tristan Psionic, Ottawa's Punchbuggy, New York's Mooney Suzuki and Winnipeg's b'ehl.



Joel Plaskett, an HOM performer. Photo by Danielle Boudreau.

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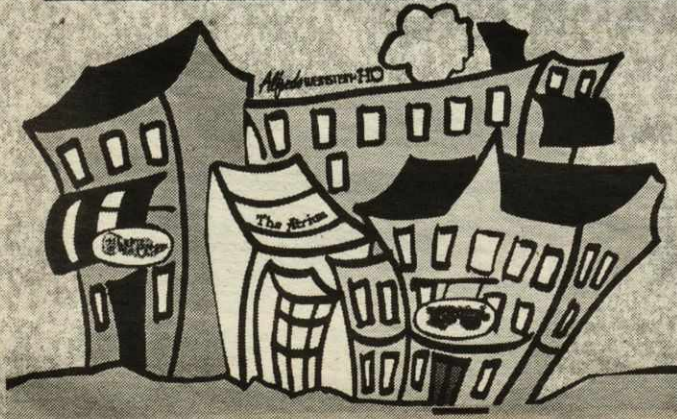
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