

Calgary rock

This Fear
The Rip Cords
September 1
Yardbird Suite

reviews by Geoff Brunborg


On the one hand, you have the local bands who try to develop their own unique image: facecrime, Truth, NEO A4, etc. On the other is at least one band that blatantly copies the visual style of one particular, well-known group: This Fear. Not only is their name "inspired by" a Simple Minds song ("This Fear of Gods"), but they play Simple Minds covers (somewhat rushed at that), and the odd instrumental, just like you-know-who sometimes do. Wait — there's more.

This Fear is led by a singer who has Jim Kerr's stage movements down to a T: point your foot this way, then that way, bob your head, drop your hand now and again, and hold your microphone as you would your cereal spoon. All of this is really unnecessary; in fact, it's a hindrance because all five members seem to be generally proficient at what they do, and their original songs don't sound a whole lot like Simple Minds songs.

Actually, it was impossible to tell what they truly sounded like because of a bad sound mix ("Their synthesizer sounds like a kazoo!" one innocent bystander shrieked). However, I can tell you that they sounded much too loud. They must've had their amplifiers turned up to eleven, which is totally unnecessary for a room about the size of the average basement.

Fortunately, the volume was the only major fault with Calgary's very own Rip Cords. Visually they are, well, interesting: balloons all over the stage and dance floor, an ironing board for a synthesizer stand, and a lead singer sporting daringly untrendy waist-length hair, hovering behind her odd array of percussion instruments.

Their music tends to center on a moody sound, but at times they sounded like mainstream barroom material, while at others tended toward a more jazzy feel as on their CJSR hit "No Danger". Here's hoping they come back soon, or at least, release some vinyl.

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The Album Playlist is based on Airplay — a combination of programmer preference and listeners' request. Tune in every Sunday at 12:00 for the **Alternative Countdown** - the favorite albums, EP's singles and tapes.

Top 30 Albums

1. **Hugh Masekala** — Techno Bush (Jive/Quality)
2. **Various Artists** — Ten From Texas (Elektra/WEA)
3. **Fred Frith/Henry Kaiser** — Who Need's Enemies, (Metalinguage)
4. **K.D. Land & the Reclines** — A Truly Western Experience (Bumstead)
5. **Jay McShann** — Just a Lucky So and So (Sackville)
6. **Yo** — Good Tidings (Deadbeat)
7. **Linton Kwe: Johnson** — Making History (Island/MCA)
8. **Singers and Players** — Leaps and Bounds (On-U-Sounds)
9. **Bobby McFerrin** — The Voice (Elektra/WEA)
10. **Rainy Day** — Rainy Day (Rough Trade)
11. **Carmel** — The Drum is Everything (London/Polygram)
12. **The Time** — Ice Cream Castles (Warner Brothers/WEA)

13. **Humphrey Littleton** — Humphrey Littleton in Canada (Sackville)
14. **David Sylvian** — Brilliant Trees (Virgin/Polygram)
15. **Sonny Terry** — Whoopin' (Alligator/WEA)
16. **Sacred Cowboys** — Sacred Cowboy! (Fringe/Quality)
17. **David Burgin** — Wild Child (Flying Fish)
18. **Ian Tyson** — Ian Tyson (Columbia/CBS)
19. **The Church** — Remote Luxury (Warner Brothers/WEA)
20. **Phillip Walker** — Tough As I Want To B (Rounder)

EP's Singles, Tapes

1. **Screaming Bamboo** — World of Tomorrow (Dad's Favorite Records)
2. **Bolero Lava** — Bolero Lava (Mo Da Mu)
3. **The Northern Pikes** — The Northern Pikes (Black 'n'Round)
4. **The Ripchords** — Final Step (Tape)
5. **The Sound** — Shock of Daylight (A&M)
6. **U—Men** — U—Men (Bomb Shelter)
7. **Direktive 17** — Direktive 17 (Macbeth)
8. **This Fear** — Dreaming of a Nation (Tape)
9. **B.P.A.** — By-Products of America (Hospital)
10. **Wilfred N. and the Grown Men** — Riding Double (Zonik)


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- A package of four Edmonton Transit Monthly Passes.

2. **It is a selective, time-limited sale.** True False
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