

Burt Neilson — shakin' St. Patty's day

BY JAY-DOG CLEARY

Last Friday, large groups of people braved the cold, chilly winter night to experience the dance-floor grooves of the Burt Neilson Band. The spirit of the night was high, as droves of Haligonian youth packed into the Attic in anticipation of one of Canada's most talented improvisational live bands (read: Jam Band).

For what seems now like only a brief moment, BNB played a musical marathon of over 3 hours, which shook the audience as if every note was passing through their bodies. The ability of the group to feed of the energy of the audience was overwhelming as the band wove a tapestry of colours and moods, with a seemingly endless balance of tight instrumentation.

The highly involved group fed the crowd a funky mix of Bluegrass, Folk, Rock and Jazz in the spirit of the jam. The dance-floor surrendered to the soulful grooves which drove the colourful crowd into a trance-like state.

Formed in 1997 at Lakehead University, The Burt Neilson Band evolved out of a weekly musical project (and co-

pious amounts of marijuana) which eventually took on a life of its own.

They have been touring across Canada ever since taking their Jam-Rock all over Canada. The traveling band's core strength is the song-writing chemistry of guitarist Mike Filipowitsch and keyboardist Jeff Heisholt and the balanced interplay between the six seasoned musicians.

Each member of BNB has their own thread in the musical fabric of the band, making beautiful music of the moment.

BNB is currently touring in support of their new album, *Orange Shag Carpet* on their own independent label Red Beard Records. Although there has been some line up changes since their powerful self-titled 1997 debut release, the new album features new drummer Gavin Maguire and former horn player with One Step Beyond.

They have now recorded versions of live favourites "Chevron" and "Funkin' Shoes," which documents the maturing of the young band. BNB intense touring schedule has helped the band evolve and musically master their craft, in a few short years BNB has developed their own unique and original sound.

The albums come very close to paying homage to the live expe-

rience of Burt Neilson, only because the Burt Neilson Band is about playing live. The band will be touring this summer across Canada and plans to venture into the United States.

As the eve drew to a close, fans could not believe the heart felt fun of the night. The word is out, get on your dancin' shoes because BNB is on the freeway to soothe your soul.

FYI: *Orange Shag Carpet* is exclusively available at their live show and through their homepage, www.geocities.com/burt_neilson or you can also get free songs from www.mp3.com/burtneilsonband — but you knew that right?



HOT NEW WAX

Mogwai — EP + 2

(Matador)

This record is so good its taken me two months to get the nerve up to articulate, lest I fail to do what may be the best **Mogwai** release to date justice, because when you take the seasoned spaced-instrumental-post noise that **Mogwai** created on *Young Team* some three years ago and add the fact that they keep getting better with each subsequent release — including *Come on Die Young*, which may well be the best release that happened to the music world in 1999 — then the recipe is delightful as the band takes a little more soundscaping moodiness without the shuddering climaxes of previous into *EP + 2*, perhaps just a little reminder from Glaskow boys that they still run the show round here — the only reason this isn't a 10 is because when they release their next record what'll we do then? — Jon

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