

## Big Step for Quickstep?

by DONNA STEPHENS

Recently the Montreal based band *Quickstep* was in the Fredericton area. They performed last week at the Chestnut and at the College Hill Social Club on the previous weekend under the name of *The Promise*. Apparently the band is using two names on the advice of their manager, who hopes they can shake their bar band image in order to get some attention from record companies.

Their live performance consisted of cover tunes by artists such as Tears for Fears, Billy Idol, Simple Minds, and Corey Hart just to name a few. They do however, place strong emphasis on their original material which is primarily written by lead guitarist Dino Pugliese. Lead vocalist Derek Paterson is also responsible for much of the writing and the pair are currently working to combine their writing skills.

The original material that I heard them perform was quite good. If you like to dance their songs are definitely for you. Many include saxophone accompaniments that when combined with the interesting voice of Derek Paterson truly set this band apart from the typical night club line-up.

*Quickstep* is a strong, vocal band who have certainly "paid their dues" to the music business. They are a solid act and are definitely ready to make the transition from the bar scene to the recording studio. Their stage presence is very good and their love of performing seems to overflow into the audience leaving one with no other choice than to have a good time.

The following is an interview conducted with several band members of *Quickstep*:

**THERE HAS BEEN SOME CONFUSION ABOUT THE NAME OF YOUR BAND. COULD YOU PLEASE CLARIFY THINGS FOR US?**

Well, first of all there is no break-up. Secondly, we are still called *Quickstep* and will always be *Quickstep*. The name was changed for one date we did in Toronto for some major record companies.

**DEREK, YOU ARE PROBABLY THE MOST VISIBLE MEMBER OF THE BAND BECAUSE YOU DO MOST**

**OF THE LEAD VOCALS, BUT WHAT OTHER ROLE DO YOU PLAY IN THE BAND?**

Well I try to set a pace or a mode, if you will, with the band. If we go into a certain club and right away the audience isn't jumping in or for some reason the guys aren't up to the show I try to bring everybody up and around. They watch me in front and see how I'm adapting and they sort of follow me. I'm also doing a bit of writing now. I'm starting to get together with Dino and were collaborating on some songs.

**IS IT SAFE TO SAY THAT YOU REALLY ENJOY YOUR WORK?**

Oh yeh, this is all I know how to do. And when I'm up there I try to have the best time I could possibly have no matter what the conditions.

**DID YOU HAVE ANY FORMAL TRAINING IN VOICE?**

Well, I did take some training for a little while back a few years ago, but I found it wasn't allowing me to do what I wanted to do. There were too many regulations and things you had to follow to be a perfect vocalist. So I just use the training that I had and a bit of my own stuff, mix it all together. And this is what you get.

**DINO, YOU DO THE GUITAR LEADS FOR THE BAND AND ALSO THE BULK OF THE WRITING. DO YOU FIND THAT BEING A GUITARIST FIRST MAKES IT MORE DIFFICULT TO WRITE SONGS?**

Only if you try to write songs as a guitar player. When I'm on stage I'm a guitar player but, I have to step away from that when I write songs. I have to write the guitar leads as if someone else was going to play them.



QUICKSTEP

photo Viola Shyu

**ARE THE SONGS YOU WRITE EVER BASED ON YOUR OWN EXPERIENCES?**

Hardly ever. It's just how I feel about other peoples experiences. I learn from their mistakes. I don't see how many songs you hear could be based on real life experiences unless you've had one hell of a messy life and in that case you shouldn't be up there singing anyhow.

**BECAUSE THE WRITING IS AN ONGOING TASK DO YOU FIND IT DIFFICULT TO CONTINUALLY WRITE WHILE YOUR ON THE ROAD?**

It's difficult getting new ideas and I find that they usually come at the strangest times. Like you could be sitting there eating a hamburger and

have this great idea come to you. you don't always have you gear around and it can be difficult to remember the ideas until you have the time to work on them.

**WHAT OTHER PERFORMERS HAVE INFLUENCED YOUR MUSIC THE MOST?**

Well, one thing we try not to do is listen to other peoples music and say that's good we can use that. Basically, we play top forty and we play dance music every night of the week. So we do try to create an overall feel for it in our songs, but to say we take an artist and strip his songs down and try to do something like that one artist, well, I don't think we do that. We try to have a bit of originality. The main thing is

not to be influenced by one particular artist.

**DO YOU FEEL THE BAND IS READY FOR SUCCESS?**

Oh yeh, definitely! It's our turn up at bat.

**WILL THERE BE AN ALBUM OR VIDEO OUT IN THE NEAR FUTURE?**

'86 is the year that people will be hearing about this band. We just need the contract.

**CAN THE FREDERICTON AUDIENCE PLAN ON SEEING YOU ANYTIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE?**

Yeah, definitely within the year. Fredericton has been really good to us and we plan on coming back as often as possible.

## Dried Up Comedy

By Danny Samson & Jim Ellis

Hey kids! Here's a fun game - find the National Enquirer personality in *Head Office* whose career isn't non-existent, washed-up, or on the way out. Hint: His agent was sniffing glue when the producer of this movie called.

(This week's question was going to be: What part of this movie was funny or original, but we wanted to give you a chance.)

Here's another hint: The

person in question wasn't at all funny. (Okay, that's a lousy hint because it doesn't narrow it down in the least. The only person in *Head Office* that was even the least bit funny was Don Novello - of Father Guido Sarducci fame - and his part was too small to matter.)

Need another hint? His part had only the remotest bearing on the movie's plot. (Okay! Okay! That really only eliminates the star of this movie, Judge Reinhold of *Beverly Hills Cop* fame. The plot had to follow someone, and for whatever reason, his character got picked.)

Still stumped? It wasn't Ed-

die Albert (remember *Green Acres*?), Rick Moranis (remember *The Great White North*?), Don King (remember his hair?), or Jane Seymour. (She remember Faye Dunaway in *Network*, but she forgot all those expensive acting lessons.)

Give up? It was Danny DeVito, who, after raving incoherently for the first ten minutes of the movie, jumps out of the window on the hundredth floor, allowing him the possibility of getting another part in the next thirty years.

We hate to be dismissive, but this really was a rotten movie. The machiavellian goings-on within an evil

multinational corporation are a dried-up subject for a comedy. So are fanatical Latin American dictators, spilled food, and jokes about laxatives. The cameo performances of DeVito and Moranis were too obviously tacked on to the main story, as were a hundred other failed attempts at humour.

Every character, joke, and twist in the plot was either borrowed (incompetently) from other movies, or was unbelievably (and at times offensively) stereotypical. All this made *Head Office* one of the worst movies we have ever seen. Enough?