

# Jazzberry Ram at the Marquee

BY MA'MAN JAY CLEARY

Jazzberry Ram exploded at the Marquee this week-end to a packed house, as fans crowded the stage for the good time sounds of university-kid rockin'.

Hailing from Vancouver, Jazzberry Ram is a funky-rock-hip-pop band known all over Canada for their unique and captivating live

show. Lead singer and guitarist Drew Steward was very animated, rapping to the audience about the over 2000 km they traveled to come play Halifax.

The intensity of the performance literally blew-up the sound system as the sound board exploded mid-song.

Jazzberry made the best of the usual situation by leading the crowd

into a campfire rendition of Bryan Adams "Summer of '69". As the circuit breakers were reset the band rekindled the club with energetic performances of more knock-down hits and managed to blow shit again. What more could a kid ask for?

It was evident that many of the audience had seen this band before as they sang along to all the funky live favourites such as "Landmine," "Lady" and "Bumble Bee" — a remarkable feat for a band who has received very little radio support.

But over the span of six years, Jazzberry has built quite a cult following by touring all across Canada. The band has toured Canada extensively nine times and made numerous forays into the USA. They have been drawn to the East Coast, for the last four years, packing Maritime university campus bars. Since their inception in 1994, the band has managed to stay on the road at least six months of the year. The band never missed a beat, as drummer Colin Stobe laid down the headbopinbeats, while brothers Drew and Stephen Stewart sang sweet harmonized vocals and bursting melodies on their guitars and pianos, and bassist Allan MacInnes laid down thick Ska, Funk and Punk basslines.

A Jazzberry Ram show was long overdue, as the excitement of the audience pinacled with a over-



photos by Jon Elmer



whelming rendition of the Doors "Peace Frog." The show also unveiled Jazzberry's fresh approach to some of their classic songs. The well-traveled band had a built an improvisational approach in the set at the recent performance.

The band is a very tight unit that had the audience lost in their high-spirited songs that make you

want to scream and shout. Touring extensively for a few months, they were recently joined for their Martimes dates by Halifax's Dr. Yellow Fever and the Jive. Jazzberry and the Jive performed along side at the swanky student appreciation festivities on Saturday. FYI kids: You can find out more at [jazzberryram.com](http://jazzberryram.com) — you dig?

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