

The essence of rock



Tricky Woo and Dawson's Creek

BY NICOLE VILLENEUVE

For even the most casual observer of Canada's indie-rock scene, the name Tricky Woo should already be ringing in your ears, never mind the actual show.

Having their live shows praised as just short of the second-coming by critics, the band says there is no pressure to live up to the press.

"We try to live up to our own standards. It's a corny thing to say, but it's true. The press is interesting, but it's more of an observation rather than taking it to

heart," said bassist Eric LaRock.

Playing the second of two Halifax shows Saturday night at the Pavilion, Montreal's Tricky Woo were indeed all they are cracked up to be — tight, raw, entertaining and L-O-U-D.

Their penchant for nudity and excessive drinking was absent from this particular show, probably due to the fact that it was an all-ages gig and there really was no need to bring the law into the fold.

For such purveyors of rock, it was ironic to see the proverbial

wall between the band and the audience so non-existent. People who knew the words were pulled on stage to shout along, and frontman Andrew Dickson stood with the crowd, guitar in hand, with a searing riff pouring from the amps.

So, what if every bit of press says the same thing, is Tricky Woo simply going through the motions? Not according to the boys: "We have to remember why we're doing this — it's for ourselves, and we stay [true]. So I think if that starts happening, it'll

be time to take a little break," said LaRock.

On the trivia front, Tricky Woo had their song "Let Us Sing" air on the season premiere of everybody's favourite precocious-teens-with-bigfreaking-mouths-show, Dawson's Creek.

"I like Dawson's Creek," said guitarist Adrian Popovich, adding that his favourite character is Joey.

When asked if maybe they both had a little 'Dawson' lingering somewhere deep in that rock 'n' roll soul, both replied with little

hesitation, "I hope not!"

Perhaps lamenting his hasty answer, Popovich adds, "Dawson's a sweet guy, he just has some issues to work out I think."

Yeah, issues. What the wuss needs is a little Woo, that oughta toughen him up.

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If we aren't ska, 'maybe things will change

BY CAITLIN KEALEY

The Undercovers are on the ska label Stomp. But, to my slight chagrin, they are not a ska band.

Hailing from Montreal, the five-piece band, that includes a keyboardist, climbed on stage and played a good, solid hour of rockin' music on Thursday night at the Marquee.

The crowd was seemingly unimpressed until the final few songs which were older, toe-tapping, body-wiggling, and more upbeat reggae.

The band impressed with some very talented vocals, harmonizing skilfully with all three of the singers packing awesome voices. They excited with songs like "Ghettoblaster," a boppy sing-a-long type song that is sure to get your hands keeping

beat on your leg and your body grooving. A fun band to watch, due to their high energy performance and the crowd finally came alive with a cover of a Cure song "In Between Days."

I managed to get a short interview with Tim the lead singer before they packed up and headed to Fredericton.

Gazette — The Undercovers are on Stomp, but how would you define your music?

Tim — A lot of people assume we are ska because we are on Stomp but we aren't at all. We appreciate everything Stomp has done for us but we are for sure different from most other bands on the label. Our first album was more reggae influenced, but we have progressed into a more new-wave band due to our changing

outlook on life.

Gaz — What are the band's influences?

Tim — (hesitation) Elvis Costello, The Smiths, The Cure, The Clash (but we don't sound anything like them), Radiohead, a lot of different stuff.

Gaz — What's coming up for the band?

Tim — We just got back from being on tour with the Planet Smashers and The Kingpins (who are playing at The Marquee on Friday), and we've started recording our next album. After our first album we couldn't go on tour and promote because a lot of the band was in school so things will be different this time. The album is maybe going to be called *Maybe Things Will Change*.

Gaz — What are the best and worst things about playing in

Halifax?

Tim — The best thing about playing in the Maritimes is that people are very friendly, and responsive. It is also very beautiful out here and we are close to P.E.I. — I love Sara Polley. She is a super cool person. The worst? Well it's a long drive and no one has heard of us.

Tim assured me that they will be back soon, so if you want to shake your groove thing, go down and check them out.

You can also get more information about the band from www.geocities.com/sunsetstrip/stage/3700/ or through Stomp Records: 370 Putney Ave., St-Lambert, PQ, J4P 3B6.

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