

ARTS

The dog bites again



E. Fritshaw

by Dave Lake

Too Dark Park
Skinny Puppy

A small frail dog searches about for answers to an unpleasant world. The dog becomes more and more unsettled until finally it utters a loud YELP! The dog personified is Skinny Puppy.

Having recovered from their attack of rabies, their bark is again as good as their bite.

With the release of their seventh album *Too Dark Park*, Skinny Puppy have set out on a North American tour that saw them play the Concert Hall on Nov. 10th and 11th.

Playing before a sold out crowd on the Saturday (and a smaller, but still enthusiastic crowd on the Sunday), Skinny Puppy proved once again that they are a force in the mind numbing assault of "Industrial" music.

The show kicked ass throughout, as they covered past glories and concentrated on their new release.

Their music was enhanced by the impact of their stage show. From slides, videos and films, to

the onstage theatrics of Nivek Ogre, the crowd was bombarded with images designed to keep them thinking.

These images complete the message for Skinny Puppy, without them there is a feeling that words aren't enough to put their ideas across.

"I feel that us sitting around and exchanging language is like a computer sending out only one bit of information at a time," said Dwayne Rudolph Goettel, keyboardist for the band. "Words are just symbols, we're talking about things that go far beyond what words mean in a situation."

It is not just the fact that Skinny Puppy uses multiple images get their point across. The harsh impact of these images also drive the point home for the audience. They have used videos filled with violence (especially shootings), autopsies, animal experimentation films and the likes.

For vocalist Nivek Ogre, these images are extremely important. He mentioned that the use of negative imagery serves to reinforce the negative aspect of an idea. They hope to stir a strong emotional response in their audience and get them to act positively in an attempt to change these images.

"When we're talking about environmental issues, or animal issues... you can't help but grab for those images... we're using things that affect us," Goettel concurred.

To experience Skinny Puppy to their fullest it is necessary to see them onstage. Unfortunately, their recorded works don't always give the same sense of urgency as the stage show.

Since *Bites*, which was released in 1984, and *Too Dark Park*, Skinny Puppy have been unable to consistently maintain a definite defined edge.

Although the next three albums contained some powerful

songs overall, they didn't seem to compare to *Bites* as a whole.

Their next album was *Rabies*, a project that they did in conjunction with Alain Jourgenson of Ministry.

Working with Jourgenson was that the true sound of Skinny Puppy didn't come through at all. The album ended up sounding like what Ministry did on *The Mind is a Terrible Thing to Taste*.

When *Rabies* came out, numerous rumours were being spread that Skinny Puppy were on the verge of breaking up. Although these rumours were in fact not completely true, there was some fact in them.

The band was going through one of those periods where interest in the band had hit a low.

Cevin Key and Goettel were involved in numerous outside projects at this time; Tear Garden (Key and Edward Ka-spell of Legendary Pink Dots), Hilt, Cyberactiv and some other projects that have not yet been released.

Ogre had left to work with Ministry (he in fact toured with them) and was resentful of Key and Goettel's work with Bill Leeb.

Leeb had worked with Skinny Puppy in their early years and there was much tension when he departed.

Not only does *Rabies* reflect this uncertainty in the band, it also does not reflect the band's actual sound. They did not put in the same effort on this project as on previous ones and the band sees this more as a side project than a release with which they were wholly satisfied.

With the release of *Too Dark Park*, Skinny Puppy seems to have put this past behind them.

Content-wise it is as strong as *Bites*. Overall this is the best album they have put out.

Skinny Puppy will continue to put forward an angst-ridden sound, filled with expressions of anger and violence. For their fans though, the future looks positive.



E. Fritshaw

Ogre thrills but Hallowe'en was last month

Hi folks,

I'm Azed.

You've been waiting
for my interview a
couple o' months
now.

Well wait no
longer, next issue
we'll meet again. I'll
be the dude with the
shades on.



compiled by Trevor Campbell

GALLERIES

From Nov. 26-30, the I.D.A. Gallery, in the Fine Arts Building, Phase 2, presents *How is it that We Come to Know Things*, a two part

installation/investigation by Angela Somerset and Stephen Doyle.

The Art Gallery of York Univer-

sity (N145 Ross) presents *The Wedding: a Ceremony, or Thoughts About an Indecisive Reunion Revisited*, from Nov. 14-

ARTS CALENDAR

Dec. 14. Gallery hours are 10am-4pm (Tues-Fri) and 10am-8pm (Wed).

The Winter's Art Gallery, located at 123 Winter's College, features Sion Irwinchild's sculpture installation on Dec. 2-7.

OPEN JAMS

On Mon. Dec. 3 the Calumet College Common Room presents its *Strawberry Jam* at 8:30pm for all you musicians who don't like peanut butter. Come out and join in