

The second release by this former leader of The Stray Cats is a hard-hitting medley of music. *Guitar Slinger* presents a variety of songs that takes you back to the early '60s, with a mix of rock, big band, swing, jazz and blues. Much like Colin James and The Little Big Band, Brian Setzer's music is reminiscent of old-style rock and roll and the Big Band era of music. The lyrics are simple, yet expressive, and the music ranges from slow-beat swing to high energy rock. Personal favourites include "The House is Rockin'", "(Everytime I Hear) That Mellow Saxophone" and "Sammy Davis City". If you're a fan of big band music and swing, this is a good album to pick up.



Brian Setzer Orchestra  
Guitar Slinger  
Interscope/MCA

- Jethelo E. Cabilette

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## Look out for Watchmen

MICHAEL ALLEN  
THE BRUNSWICKIAN

The Watchmen will be at The Dock on September 26 to give fans a wave of new sounds from their latest album, *Brand New Day*. The Watchmen have played before 250,000 people over their last 120 shows throughout Canada, United States and Europe. In an interview with bass player Ken Tizzard, we hear from The Watchmen without a CD player.

Your plan was not originally to come out to the east coast, was it?

No, we were going to do the west coast for the first half of the summer and then work on the east coast dates following the European dates. We definitely planned on coming out there at some point on this album. We definitely like to do all of Canada and go out there once a year.

When were the songs of the latest album written? Were they on the last tour or during your breaking period?

It's a combination of things. It's whenever we have time. Personally we are all writers and just write all the time, so when we do have a couple of weeks off we all go to the practice hall and sit down and see who has songs and work on them. We will also all just sort of pick up our instruments and say, "OK, the first chord is G," and Sammy [Kohn, drummer] gives us a B, and we just write and bash it out until we have songs. We have been writing on this tour and we've got six or eight new tunes and a bunch more we are working on.

You have two videos out at the moment, is there another on its way?

Yes, "Zoom" was sent to MuchMusic last week and it will hopefully be playing soon.

The development of the trumpet on "Dance Some More" and the cello on "Kill Of The Day" is different for you. Where did the ideas come from? Is it something new you are experimenting with?

Not really. We had some strings on *In The Trees* with "All Uncovered." On this album the trumpet was one of the instruments that we tried, and it stayed. We tried a lot of different instrumentation on this album. We just got into everything, and whatever sounded good and was played right stuck, and the other stuff didn't. It was just trial and error. I did not even know the trumpet solo was actually happening. I heard we were going to

guitars and really heavy, pounding bass. Almost like a Black Sabbath-type dirge thing. When we got in the studio it just didn't have any life. It just sort of kept dying at the gates. Our producer told us to give it a new feel and just play through the chords to help us just get out of that head space. We laid the song down and some people would say it worked and others would say it didn't. I have no qualms either way. I enjoy playing it.

Do you see the band going back to McLarenFurnaceRoom?

We are beginning to write more rock-type songs now, and they will definitely have a Watchmen stamp on them. I do see us heading in that direction again someday.

Do you expect to follow a strict set on the tour, or will you be playing it more like a jam session?

It depends. Every night is different. Because of guitar tuning and other changes there are certain groups of songs we put

together every night. But on the whole we like to keep a mixture. Also, with the new eight songs, we are playing two a night and rotating them each night - mostly for ourselves to weed out any changes.

How long should it be before we can expect another album from The Watchmen?

That is hard to say. We're going to be writing all through this winter. Definitely next year, but not January, Springtime, maybe. But who knows? It depends on what happens because there are so many factors involved. But hopefully sometime soon!

The Watchmen maintain their own have a web site (<http://www.the-watchmen.com/>). They also try their best to respond personally to E-mail.

**"We didn't close any doors and we didn't force ourselves to open new territory."**

try trumpet and we were doing a photo shoot one day and I came back to the studio and there was this trumpet player there and I first said, "Wow, fuck, that's great." We didn't close any doors and we didn't force ourselves to open new territory (on this album). When someone said, "Let's try something," rather than everyone jumping up and saying "no," we just said "okay" and tried it. I think that is why some of the songs sound so different, too.

It is noticed that one of these songs is "What You Did." Where did it come about and what inspired the writing of it?

"What You Did" is an odd tune. It's one of Joey's [Serlin, guitar & vocals], and the lyrics are extremely intense. When we used to play it, it was like really, really heavy -- fucking like monstrous

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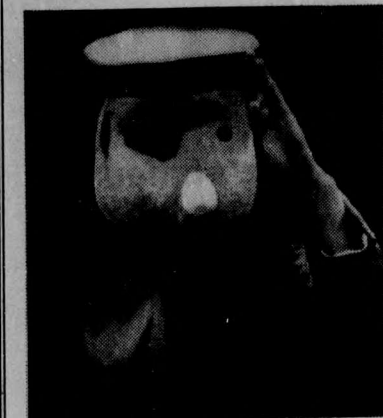
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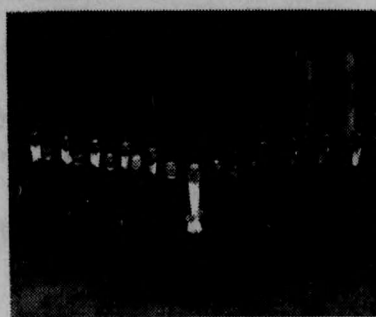
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