

The Plastercine Replicas: Breaking the Queen st. mold

By DAVID BINSTED

The Plastercine Replicas' music has been described by *NOW* magazine as "crystalline guitar with a sweeping romanticism on the side," but after hearing their performance at the Rivoli last Friday night, this title seems just a little too sweet.

The band's music relies on the two guitarists, Chas Salmon who handles most of the vocals, and Stephen Stewart who plays a jagged pop/rock rhythm guitar.

The Replicas have been together since 1984, and over the past four years they've played almost every Queen Street club, developing a solid following of two to three hundred die-hard fans. In 1985, the band put out a four-song independent EP, which sold out immediately. "Getting that first pressing is important," says Stewart, "it gives you studio experience, and (the public) something permanent (to remember)."

The Replicas record company, Raining Records, is currently work-

ing on 10-12 song LP for the band, set for release in mid-May. Production begins this Monday at their 16-track recording studio, and it is hoped that with this release, the Replicas will be able to expand their audience beyond Queen Street. There will be an initial 5000 copies pressed for distribution throughout Canada, United States, and Britain. Unfortunately, however the promotion budget for the release is \$10,000, a sum guitarist Stewart calls "a drop in the bucket."

Also scheduled for release is a video which will be directed by Phil Cates, with Doug Coe doing the cinematography (Coe is best known for his work on the motion picture, *I've Heard The Mermaids Singing*, which recently played here at York.)

The groups' promotion company is Umbrella Management, headed by James Stanley and Brian Fitzgerald, and these two young men are excited about the Replicas immediate future. Each week they spend more than 40 hours booking gigs, working

record deals, and at Friday's performance at the Rivoli, they worked the door.

The opening act, the Dandelions, took the stage at 10:15 p.m. and played to a sparse crowd of about 30 people. The bassist remained in permanent stupor for the whole set, while Rogers Cable TV cameraman ran around capturing, what they referred to as an "historic event."

After politely thanking the Dandelions for their brief warm-up set, the Replicas took to the stage before a standing-room only crowd.

Chas Salmon takes centre stage slinging his guitar and belting out the lyrics like a man with a mission, while Stewart and Brendan Cavanply their trade electric, giving the crowd their money's worth.

The Replicas hold a belief that "only the ones who hustle will get ahead," and through perseverance and a lot of sweat, The Plastercine Replicas have a good chance to break out of the Queen Street mold.

A R T S C A L E N D A R



MAN-EATING SKIRT: "Sub-Urban Tango" (above) is a choreographed piece by guest York alumni, Tedd Robinson. Robinson and Christopher House are among the York dance alumni, faculty and students featured in Spring Dance '88, a dance extravaganza performing two nights at Harbourfront's Premiere Dance Theatre. See Arts Calendar for details.

GALLERIES

Fourth Year Design Show until March 18 at the Samuel J. Zacks Gallery (109 Stong), 12 noon-5 p.m.

Dance to the Tension of a World on the Edge, paintings and works by 4th-year visual arts student Blake Evans. Founders College, March 21-25; opening on Monday, 5:30 p.m.

Visual Variations—A selection of African art from the Agnes Etherington Art Centre on display March 24-May 1 at the AGYU (N145 Ross).

Out of the Dark, creative photography by Founders student photographers. Founders College, March 16-18.

Group Exhibition of student paintings, IDA Gallery (102 Fine Arts), March 21-25.

Tug of War, director of the Women in Art series, Ann MacGillivray, presents an exhibition. Winters Gallery, March 21-April 7; opening Monday, 6 p.m.

SEMINARS

Women in Art Series presents Linda Lewis from Ryerson in a talk and discussion, "Women in Design

and Communications." March 22, 12 noon-1:30 p.m., Purple Lounge (3rd fl. Fine Arts).

Graduate Program Seminar. Guest lecturer T.B.A. March 23, 2-5 p.m., Purple Lounge (3rd fl. Fine Arts). Call Ruta at Ext. 2081 for info.

"Workshop on Listening Assessment and the Musical Ear — A Presentation on the Tomatis Method" with Prof. Austin Clarkson of York U. and Paul Madaule of the Listening Centre. March 23, 12:30 p.m., McLaughlin Hall (DACARY). Free.

THEATRE

The Grad Theatre Season starts with an on-campus run of Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*, directed by David Rotenberg. March 22-26 inclusive, 7 p.m., Atkinson Theatre. Tickets \$10 adults and \$5 students. Phone 736-5157 for info & reservations.

FILM

The Environmental Studies Students' Association presents *Days of Heaven* (counted among Excal typesetter Stu Ross's top 10 films), the story of three young Chicagoans who leave for a sedentary agricultural

life on the western plains. Stars Richard Gere, Brooke Adams, Sam Shepard. Unbelievable photography! March 17, 7 p.m., Room 306 Lumbers Bldg. Donations to Sierra Club for the preservation of the earth's tropical rainforests.

DANCE

York Dance Department presents "Spring Dance '88," a concert featuring faculty, alumni & students. March 18 & 19, 8 p.m., Premiere Dance Theatre. Phone 973-4000 for info.

MUSIC

Student Recital Series, Nancy Berman, piano and Timothy Woodger, percussion. March 17, 7:15 p.m., McLaughlin Hall (DACARY). All welcome.

CHRY Lunchtime Jazz with the Tim Posgate Trio. March 22, 12 noon in the Vanier Jr. Common Rm. Free. Cash bar.

Student Recital Series with Helen McHale, trumpet, and Tom D'Amerio, tenor. March 22, 3 p.m.; and with Aditi Gowri, violin, 7 p.m., McLaughlin Hall (DACARY). Free.

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