

# Talkin' Moist

BY ANDREW SIMPSON

The Gazette (ed. all of us) spoke by phone to Jeff Pearce, bassist for Moist — a band which continues to be one of Canada's most successful young groups. Moist, along with Jeff and his friend Neil Young, will be playing at the Halifax Metro Centre on November 5th.

**Gaz:** What have you guys been up to?

**Jeff:** Well, we're touring right now with Neil Young and we've been doing that since the 22nd of October. Before that, we were just sort of prepping for the road, and before that we were making a video and before that we were making a record. We really haven't had any time off at all, it's been pretty non-stop since we went in the studio last summer (ed. to record their new album, *Creature*).

**Gaz:** It seemed like you guys toured forever after releasing *Silver*.

**Jeff:** Yeah, we did I think.

**Gaz:** So when did you find the time to put *Creature* together?

**Jeff:** We came off the road permanently, a little over a year ago and at that point we were living in Vancouver and that's when we really sat down and started writing...we have tried writing on the road but we usually just come up with little bits and pieces of songs, you know, melody lines and bass lines of songs and stuff.

**Gaz:** Does touring so hard take away from the creative process in any way?

**Jeff:** No...There is always that risk, I guess. But for us touring is totally a fun experience and a lot of the songs on the new record are written about the things that we saw and the places we've been to. So in a lot of ways touring can be very inspiring, it gets us out of our home country, out of our home town, away from the things that we've always known and gets us experiencing a bigger section of the world, I guess.

**Gaz:** Do you think after touring for so long you might have lost some of the momentum you built up with *Silver*?

**Jeff:** I'm not really sure. I know that in a lot of respects it would have been nicer for us to have come out with the new record a lot sooner, but we were really busy and we really wanted to spend a lot of time touring in places like England and Europe and the States and a lot of other cool and interesting places like Thailand. And for the band the time between *Silver* and *Creature* was a good time to develop a better understanding of what we are like as a band.

**Gaz:** Are you pleased with the response to the new album?

**Jeff:** Yeah, I'm really...tickled by it actually. People seem to be really liking it and that's really exciting for me. I've seen a lot of really good reviews and a lot of people seem to think that the band has really grown a lot and that *Creature* is a much more mature album than *Silver* was.

**Gaz:** So should we be expecting another monster-tour from Moist?

**Jeff:** Oh yeah, after this tour is done we are going to take about four weeks off, because we really

haven't had any time away from each other. But starting in the third week of January we are pretty much going to be hitting the road for about a year, non-stop.

**Gaz:** I've heard you guys have done quite well in Europe.

**Jeff:** We did quite nicely in England, actually, we had a top-20 single there. As a result we were able to play some fun things, like the Reading Festival there.

**Gaz:** Why England as opposed to anywhere else in Europe?

**Jeff:** We didn't really try that hard for the rest of Europe, we spent most of our time in England.

**Gaz:** So you focused on England?

**Jeff:** Yeah we did, the rest of Europe are not so much trend-setters, they are often inclined to follow behind what is going on in England and what is going on in America. And so it was more important to us that we concentrate on England. It's hard with touring you know, because we can't really go everywhere. Part of the reason that we've been so successful in Canada is that we have toured back and forth across this country about seven or eight times and each time we played bigger and bigger shows and if you try to do that everywhere there is just no way...but we thought if we tried to sort-of do that in England then hopefully, not for *Silver*, but further down the road, people will have heard of-us and it will be easier for us to go and play there.

**Gaz:** It seems like apart from being musicians, you guys are pretty good businessmen too.

**Jeff:** (Silence)...I really hope it doesn't seem like that. Music is first for sure, but there is definitely strategy involved in touring.

**Gaz:** Moist is coming to Halifax with Neil Young. Have you ever played with him before?

**Jeff:** Just the four shows we've played with him so far on this tour, and the one we're playing with him tonight in Winnipeg.

**Gaz:** What is it like playing with a rock icon?

**Jeff:** It's extremely cool actually, I mean everybody who learned to play guitar in this country is in some way influenced by Neil Young. It's great that he has been around for four decades and managed to stay relevant in every one of those four decades — you can't really say that about anyone else. He is totally a rock icon, and every night he goes out and just does his thing — there's no gimmickry behind it. One of the funnest things about this tour is being able to see a whole bunch of Neil Young shows.

**Gaz:** You've played out here in Halifax a few times before haven't you?

**Jeff:** Yeah, we've played a couple times in the McInnes at...

**Gaz:** Dal.

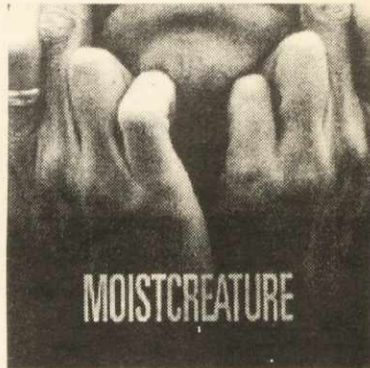
**Jeff:** Yeah.

**Gaz:** Is it ever discouraging playing to a room full of drunk university students?

**Jeff:** The main thing for us on the road is that every night is different, so one night we might be playing to a whole bunch of drunk students on a frosh night situation, when you sort of feel like you're secondary to the tap at the back of the room. But the next night we might be playing an open-air all-ages show with 5000 kids, so it all works out. We like to have things mixed up a little bit.



*Creature*  
Moist  
EMI



Following the success of the release of their debut album *Silver*, Moist are back with a follow up. Having toured like crazy for the previous three years, they have found time to go into the recording studio and come out with another album. *Creature* is a pleasant progression, seeing the band change song styles.

The problem with the second album by a band is that it will always be compared to their first release. This is true of *Creature*. David Usher and company have come out with a much more melodic, slower, less rocking album than *Silver*. This, however, takes nothing away from the sound of the band. There are no catchy "sing along songs", instead the tracks are more mature like "Resurrection", "Gasoline", and the single "Leave Me Alone".

Moist experiment with differ-

ent instruments, introducing trumpets into the title song "Creature" and a cello on the moody "Tangerine". These songs stand out as the best tracks on the album.

Moist have managed to do something which very few other Canadian bands have been capable of doing, and that is to be known abroad — especially in Europe. They firmly have their feet in the door of the Canadian market, and at this stage, they can only improve.

STUART MCMILLAN

**BIRDLAND C A B A R E T**

**Thursday October 31st**  
**HU NOO + GUESTS \$3**

**Friday November 1st**  
**MARDI GRAS NIGHT \$4**  
JOHNNY FAVOURITE & The SWING KINGS + The AVENGERS 7

**Saturday November 2nd**  
**SLAINTE MHATH**  
**CD RELEASE PARTY \$4**

**Thursday November 7th**  
**BIG CITY BLUES \$3**

**Friday October 8th**  
**Booming Airplanes**  
**+ MILO \$4**

**Saturday November 9th**  
**ELEVATOR TO HELL**  
**+ Rome Plows + Earth A.D. 5\$**

• OPEN 'TIL 3:30 AM EVERY NIGHT •  
2021 Brunswick St. at Cogswell • 425-0889

**BIRDLAND ON-LINE:**  
<http://www.textureweb.ns.ca/birdland>

**ATLANTIC OVERSEAS TEACHING INSTITUTE**



*Teaching  
English  
Overseas*

*So many opportunities await.  
Enjoy the challenges and remember,  
half the fun is in preparing for your  
adventure!*

- TEFL Certificate Course led by a dynamic team of practicing ESL teachers with experience abroad
- M.Ed. (TESOL) Curriculum Advisor
- A practical, hands on student centered approach
- Small classes allow for individualized attention
- Successful placement of our students is a priority for AOTI - in the past 6 weeks 15 of our students have received placements in Korea, Venezuela, the Czech Republic and Poland
- 2 week evening (Monday -Thursday) course  
Course start dates: November 4, 18, & Dec. 2  
or 4 consecutive full day Saturdays (9:30-4:30)  
Course start dates: November 30

**Atlantic Overseas Teaching Institute**  
1106 Barrington St Halifax NS B3H 2R2  
423-4767 Fax: 425-7445 E-mail: aoti@istar.ca