

LOOK, MOM I'M ON T.V.!

~
**John
Rogers
Comes To
UNB**

By Steve Mason

Carolyn Rogers is very excited about next weekend, and for a good reason. As Executive Officer of Youth in Transition, a non-profit organization dedicated to establishing homes for homeless sixteen to nineteen year olds, she is eagerly looking forward to the arrival of world famous comedian, John Rogers (no relation). Having finally managed to procure an office in May, five years after the organization's formation, Youth in Transition are bringing Rogers into the area for three nights as a major fundraising campaign. His shows, running next week from the 22nd to the 24th, include a Thursday night performance at The Dock Pub and Eatery, a Friday night performance at Base Gagetown, and a final Saturday night show at the SUB Ballroom here at UNB. All shows start at 9:00 p.m. and are six dollars each.

Rogers is no small time comedian. He's appeared in Comedy Festivals worldwide, including three years at the renowned International Just for Laughs Festival in Montreal and a special appearance at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. He's also performed both on A&E's An Evening at the Improv and Comedy on the road. But perhaps the highlight of his career came just last summer when he performed on Showtime's Just for Laughs special with such comic heavyweights as Brett Butler from "Grace Under Fire", Dick Cavett, Bobcat Goldwithe and being introduced by Kelsey Grammer of "Cheers" and "Frasier" fame. Grammer apparently commented after Rogers'

performance "Wow, he's pretty good, isn't he?" Quips Rogers: "That was big for my Mom."

Since then, he has become a very hot item indeed. Approached by most ma-

ship material." So he's been busy commuting between his home in Ottawa and California, and in fact is headed back to Hollywood immediately after performing here. "Yeah, that's not too much jet

edy you don't put a lot into society. You make people laugh, which is nice, but there's no real sense of accomplishment. So when you can do a show for a good cause like Youth in Transition, why not? If just you going out and performing a couple of shows will help some people, in this case kids who need some help, and raise money for them, then how can you not, quite frankly?"

Yes, John Rogers seems tailor made for success. While showing his down to earth, conscientious side, he also peppered his speech with humorous musings on everything from being on the road ("At first you're like 'I'm Adventure Man! I can go anywhere! All my possessions fit in one bag! Ha ha ha ha! About a year later you're like 'You know, I want a dresser -- is that so wrong?'"") to moving away from Montreal ("We decided to get out BEFORE THEY PUT UP THE FENCE!") Not only that, he has a degree in theoretical physics from McGill. (He switched into stand up comedy after completing a comedy writing course in Montreal and deciding, hey! This is a bit more exciting than physics! The combination of humour, sensitivity, and relaxed, personable personality gives him a leading edge comedy circles. Not to mention he avoids the use of profanity, racism and sexism in his routines.

Be sure to enjoy John Rogers live next week while supporting Youth in Transition. Tickets for the September 24th Saturday night performance can be bought at the Help Center in the SUB, and Tickets for the September 22nd Thursday night show are on sale at The Dock on 375 King St.



John Rogers

for US television networks, he finally decided to sign a deal with CBS to develop a pilot episode and to hopefully get a show on the air by the fall of '95. The show "will be based on my stand up and on the persona I do in my stand up... a lot of my marriage and relation-

lag!" he comments sarcastically.

So why Fredericton? You'd think that with all the demand and attention Rogers faces, he'd stick to metropolitan areas and more profitable ventures. He sums up the reason himself: "I lead such a leech-like, slimy existence ... with com-

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MUSIC REVIEWS MUSIC REVIEWS

Hold On
Alan Frew
(EMI)

1994 marks the solo debut of Alan Frew's CD, *Hold On*. The lead vocalist from Glass Tiger fame has struck out on his own in a surprisingly good way. This is due to the remarkable team work of Alan Frew, John Jones (who worked with Duran Duran's comeback record and Beatles producer George Martin) and a host of talented others. Artists such as Lisa Dalbello, Mick Fleetwood, Jim Cregan and Kevin Savigar (Rod Stewart's guitar and piano player) contributed to the production and co-writing of several lyrics.

Hands, to the balladeer-like Falling At Your Feet, *Hold On* leads us through one harmonious trip to another. We can certainly look forward to hearing more music from Alan Frew in the future.
-Jetbello E. Cabilite

Rarities Vol. 1
Various Artists
(Geffen/MCA)

These days, alternative compilations are becoming quite the trend. They fall into a few discernible categories: Tributes to singers or groups (*Sweet Relief*, a benefit for Victoria Williams, *Kiss my Ass*, a tribute to KISS); benefits for specific causes (*No Alternative* for AIDS); and collections of old or new unreleased material from the big name alternative groups and singers that listeners can't get enough of (*The Crow* and *Singles* soundtracks).

Rarities Vol. 1 falls into the latter category, and by all accounts it is one of the better members. It consists of old, unreleased songs from such groups as Teenage Fanclub, Counting Crows, Sonic Youth, Cell, Hole, Weezer, Beck and yes, Nirvana. Unfortunately, it is the Nirvana tune "Pay to Play" which is the low point of the album. It is simply an early demo of Nevermind's "Stay Away", a little rougher around the edges and with "Pay to play" substituted into the chorus. It's nothing special, and certainly not a rarity. It seems fairly obvious that its inclusion on this album is merely to boost sales, which it surely will. An unheard of song written by a dead rock hero always attracts a crowd. The rest of the album more than compensates for this commercialism. The variety of the music included ranges from the screeching grunge of Hole's "Beautiful Son" to the calm atmospheric "Allegory", Murray Attaway's contribution. For lovers of real experimental music, there's Sonic Youth with "Compilation Blues". One of the standouts on *Rarities* is the Counting Crows singing "einstein on the beach (for an eggman)". It shows a different side of the band, one that is more upbeat, more "pop". Fortunately, it is also very catchy and likeable.

It is extremely pleasing to see the inclusion of a Canadian band, Sloan, on the album, singing "Stove/Smother", a fusion of two songs written by Moncton's Eric's Trip. It's an interesting and captivating recording, combining drum loops with sprawling piano melodies, and also a great plug for Canadian talent.

Rarities Vol. 1 is definitely a successful venture, and smart enough to recognize that by including all genres of non-mainstream music, it will attract a wide listening audience. Also, reading the liner notes is almost as fun as listening to the songs themselves. They consist of comments and, in the case of Courtney Love and Beck, agonised poetry by the artists, about the tunes. Fans of something different, check this one out.
-Steve Mason

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