

Blue Peter at the Super SUB

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The Toronto band Blue Peter provided an expectant audience with an excellent performance, demonstrating their characteristic dynamic energy onstage.

The floor was packed when the band appeared out of a blue mist, giving their entrance a dramatic aura which excited the already tense crowd.

The show opened with their best known hit, "Don't Walk On Past" from their recently released "Falling" album. The majority of the crowd was immediately enthralled and responded enthusiastically to the performance.

The first set was marred by a violent incident between one of the members of the road crew and one of the persons in attendance. Despite the unfortunate incident, Blue Peter performed fabulously.

The arrival of the police raised some questions as to whether the band would continue for the second set, but the audience's cheering and the band's professionalism saw them back on stage for the remainder of the show.

The second half turned out to be even more energetic than the first, with the band drawing a fanatical response from the crowd, which later hailed them back on for an encore.

Blue Peter formed in 1977, deriving its name from an English children's television program. After frequent personnel changes, they finally seem to have arrived on a successful combination. Chris Wardman, lead guitarist, the only remaining original member of Blue Peter, does some writing for the band. Jason Sniderman, keyboards, writes most of the lyrics, basing his work on personal experience.

The group is very creative and the members all contribute to their excellent sound. Because of their growing popularity, Blue Peter is moving on to playing concert halls and touring because the crowds they draw are getting too large for the local clubs.

On their upcoming U.S. tour, Blue Peter plans to play the Eastern Seaboard including Boston and New York. They have no apprehensions about the tour, which should start before Christmas, although their records have not been distributed in the States.

They expect the same overwhelming reaction from American audiences as they have received from Canadian ones. Paul Humphrey, lead vocalist, said, "We are not that well known throughout Canada, yet we always manage to draw enthusiasm from the crowds." The band responds particularly well to lively audiences who project plenty of energy to the members, who then reflect it in their performance.

Their American tour is being promoted by Rock-America and MTV, major rock video organizations.

When asked about the band's feelings about working with MTV, an allegedly racist station in treatment of Black acts, Humphrey said, "We hate racism but we believe the racial barriers are being broken down." They will receive valuable publicity with MTV.

Although Humphrey said he

enjoyed the camaraderie involved in touring, he felt it was more strenuous than recording. He added, "...they both have elements of great excitement and great boredom...you have to balance one with the other."

The band attracts a wide variety of audiences but they enjoy performing for university students and younger crowds who seem to appreciate the music most. "We get all sorts of people in our crowds, from long-haired lumberjacks to ex-hippies to headbanging punks," Humphrey commented.

Paul Humphrey, the most riveting figure in the band, was not an original band member. He was approached by Chris Wardman to sing vocals in the summer of 1978. He highly respects and admires Robert DeNiro, Marlon Brando and Frank Sinatra, whose influence has even been incorporated into Humphrey's performance. Although he prefers music from the 40's and 50's, the band plays a lively, danceable beat which is very up-to-date and appealing. They try for a maturity in texture when creating their music which they seem to have achieved.

Next year, Blue Peter hope to make more videos for their upcoming album.



Blue Peter Making Waves for SUB Crowd.

Blue Peter outshines The Tenants

by Gary P. LeBlanc

Last Saturday's Super Sub was a smash success featuring two rising Toronto bands. Though the event was sold out in advance, there were some tickets available from 'scalpers' in front of the SUB.

The Tenants were the first of two bands to play. From the outset there was something missing in the air. One would think that the McInnes Room would be electrifying with the Tenants riding the crest of their recent chart success. The Drummer was the only member really putting out a great effort, pounding his way through each song. The rest of the band was rather dry and unconvincing.

Wandering down to the Garden, it seems the real top billing of the evening was there. It was so packed, people were

unable to dance anywhere near the stage. Funny, overcrowding was Blue Peter's only complaint about playing clubs back home. This band is hot! They blew the audience away with the conviction and originality they've been developing steadily since their inception in 1977. This trip to Halifax marked Blue Peter's completion of their first cross-Canada tour, for which they've chosen to concentrate on recent material, especially their new "Falling" album.

Vocalist Paul Humphrey is a wonderfully theatrical front man. A visual comparison to David Bowie wouldn't be farfetched but Frank Sinatra is more up Humphrey's alley. Flashy 50's style white suit and mannerisms made it impossible to categorize him. This goes for the rest of the band also, as all are devoid of

clichés. This year's addition of Jason Sniderman on keyboards filled out the sound and allowed guitarist Chris Wardman more freedom to embellish and be creative, which worked out well. Bassist Rick Joudrey and drummer Owen Tennyson provided a dynamite rhythm section. With the buzz they created in the cafeteria, Blue Peter has certainly widened their growing following out to the east coast.

The Vox Violins were badly overshadowed by the other bands. The performing pair stuck to a traditional vein, sometimes reminiscent of the late Cano. Their music was much better suited for tamer conditions, such as a coffee house. The party atmosphere at the SUB infected almost all in attendance and hardly any wanted to slow down that much.

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