

Change of Heart

A duel of global proportions: Nick "It ain't good 'till it's real bad" Oliver and Luis "Audience-Basher" Cardoso duke it out for the Cosmic Championship Award for Excessive Public Displays of Enjoyment

Nuclear armageddon has occurred. Out of the radioactive rubble emerges the illegitimate children of HENRY ROLLINS (if he were born in the 70's), THE CHARLATANS UK (or at least the keyboard player), MOTORHEAD (before they discovered methylamphetamine as the wonder drug of a new generation) and ELVIS COSTELLO (if he sang out of his throat, and not through his nose).

Well, not really, but almost. CHANGE OF HEART rocked the Social Club Wednesday night to a stand still... and then to a fever... and back to a stand still. A broad variety of original and influenced styles shone through a colourful set spanning almost two hours. Something tells me these guys each have a copy of SWEET's "Desolation Boulevard" in their respective record collections. Tattered and on vinyl even, I'll bet. Even though the band has been around for a long time before the Seattle phenomenon became widely known, some of the better, more positive aspects of this particular brand of grungy, straight out rock music were apparent in the band's character. That is not to say that their sound is derivative of groups like NIRVANA, SOUNDGARDEN, and PEARL JAM, because it's not. CHANGE OF HEART really are one of those funny groups who aren't really that original, but then again they don't sound like anyone else either. (I hope they can take that for the compliment it's intended to be).

Flamboyant drumming (not to excess, mind you, the plague that dooms bands to instant hell) coupled with keyboards so subtle, I had to look to make sure he was even touching the keys, made CHANGE OF HEART a sound to behold. The bass groove, also subtle, but so subtle I couldn't tell it was there, was kind of funky, but also kind of jazzy with that sort loving care the Grandma always provides, blended with a guitarist with a sound and a dynamic range so fluid that he could and did go from 0 to 140 km/h in a chord change.

JUSTIN LIVESAY, a newcomer to Fredericton took the stage in the bold effort of opening for CHANGE OF HEART by himself. Thrashing away on his guitar to songwriting reminiscent of BRUCE COCKBURN and NEIL YOUNG and vocals sounding uncannily like Geoff Mann of SPIRIT OF THE WEST, this is one performer who I'd like to see performing with a band backing him up, but I'll live with his solo performances for now, if I must. I just want to see him play again with the unrestrained candor, emotion and energy marking him as the next local performer to watch for. Get him again, Social Club, and do us all a favour, pay him well.

I will once again point out the low attendance to yet another great band playing to an audience who could, for the most part, care less. It's not the Social Club, because I have seen shows well attended there, and it's certainly not the quality of the music, CHANGE OF HEART are no spring chickens to the music scene. The atmosphere was even right enough for the stage dive this writer has ever witnessed in the Social Club (and they weren't even thrown out!). It's definitely not the cover charge of \$2. That's less than the price of a drink, tip included, of course. So what is it? The beer is already the cheapest in town along with all the other benefits, like location, the Social Club provides. What more do you need? I've given you enough excuses for next time.

-NJO

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-Nick Oliver
"most impressive considering the handful of people scattered about the club"
-Luis Cardoso



Change of Heart w/ special guest Justin Livesoy
College Hill Social Club
18 March 1992
review by Luis Cardoso

More fresh talent Wednesday night at the Social Club, and chances are, if you're reading this you missed it! Toronto-based Change of Heart, touring in support of their soon to be released fourth lp *Smile*, put on a smashing show to a small but enthusiastic audience that, fueled by buckets of Bud, milled about the stage bobbing their heads to the skin-tight music surrounding them.

The evening kicked off with an impressive 40 minute set by Justin Livesoy, who hails from Auckland, New Zealand. A perpetual traveller, Livesoy has been in Fredericton long enough to impress the powers that be at the Social Club with his performance at Monday night's Jam Night festivities. Last night he played a strong set of original material interspersed with an interesting choice of covers that included Jethro Tull's *Fat Man*; how often do you hear that one, kids? Scheduled for the opening slot, Toronto's Scott B. cancelled, leaving a void that was more than adequately filled by Livesoy, who not only has a strong, compelling voice, but plays the acoustic guitar masterfully.

After a twenty minute switch Change of Heart took the stage with a prolonged wail of guitar feedback and distortion. They played one energetic hour and a half set followed by a two song encore; most impressive considering the handful of people scattered about the club. Those who came, however, saw one of the tightest bands to emerge from Toronto's punk heyday in the early eighties. Unlike the Asexuals, however, Change of Heart have maintained their edge. They alternated between the fast, furious, verging on hardcore romp, and the extended Black Sabbath-inspired punk-metal jam. Wow!

Drummer Glen Milchem was most impressive. Last seen drumming with Andrew Cash's band in the Ballroom earlier this term, Milchem was able to demonstrate his furious manner Wednesday night. Filling out the rhythm section was Rob Taylor, whose bass guitar licks layered the attack over the punch of Milchem's drums.

Keyboards in a punk band? Cool! Bernard Maiezza made it seem natural. His synth washes and fills fattened up an already intense sound, every once in a while pushing it right over the precipice of the bearable. And everyone loved it.

Lead vocalist/guitar player Ian Blurton made sounds that had me scanning the stage for the second guitar player I had obviously missed; maybe behind the pole? But no; it was all Blurton. His guitar shrieked, wailed, sang, and whispered, often at the same time, while he sang and danced.

For those of you that missed the show, too bad. But hey, it's more room for those who support live entertainment to move around the Club comfortably in. People have been complaining for years about the lack of live entertainment in Fredericton. It's not Toronto yet, but this year's Social Club shows have presented some of the most exciting Canadian live acts, and amazingly enough, some alternative live sounds too.

Tonight sees Wild T and the Spirit gracing the stage in the Ballroom. Wild T used to have a Hendrix tribute band that played the Chestnut years and years ago.. He started writing his own material, landed a record contract, and an album and video later, he's back in the Ballroom. Hopefully he'll have an audience.

*It's Springtime and Every
Young Man's Fancy Turns To Mud!!*



Friday, April 3rd
7:00pm
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