

Blast on the Bluenose



PHOTO: SCOTT NEILY

by Scott Neily

On Saturday the 19th, Privateers Warehouse presented a lively music festival, the Blast on the Bluenose, showcasing a variety of Maritime talent. The bands boarded the Bluenose II early in the morning and left at 11:00 a.m. for a quick tour of the harbour. This left Toronto's Shuffle Demons to entertain onlookers with their jazzy three-piece sax sound. Their music was well enjoyed by the unfortunately small crowd — many people were at the airshow — especially the performance of their hit "Spadina Bus".

The Shuffle Demons finished off their set at noon with the arrival of the Bluenose. The Berra MacNeils, a traditional group, kicked off the show with their local favourite, "Berra's Privateers". This led to some excellent tunes by the three women of the S.S. Boogie Band, who provided music in their lively jazz/rock style.

MacGinty followed with a selection of music that could be described as traditional country rock. Their version of "Under the Boardwalk" was especially enjoyable. Although a sprinkling of rain threatened to dampen the spirit of the festival, MacGinty managed to hold the attention of most of the crowd, while a few faint-hearts scrambled for the safety of a cool beer in the Lower Deck.

Opening group the Berra MacNeils stepped in after MacGinty with several traditional numbers. Their well done fiddle music and shanties were quite appropriate to the weather.

Cheryl Lescom, backed up by the All Star Band, took over the stage next and captured the crowd's attention with her rock/soul sound. Her excellent voice reminded me of vocalists Aretha Franklin and Annie Lennox.

Recording artist Terry Kelly followed with his country-tinged style of rock. His professional experience proved to be

one of the highlights of the festival. His song "Mama Likes to Rock & Roll", which will most likely be his first single off his next album, has an Alabama feel to it (the group, not the state), and could possibly be a big hit.

Doug Mallory had a tough act to follow after Terry Kelly, but he ably demonstrated that his musical talent is far from small. His jazz/rock sound entertained the crowd, and compelled many spectators to forego their early departure and stay for the rest of his set.

Sharon Timmins' set nicely complemented Doug Mallory's, but her unique vocals provided a different sound than the previous jazz/rock music. Her cover of Bruce Springsteen's "Fire" was especially well done.

Bob Quinn's set wrapped up the festival. His light rock tunes were appropriate to the ending of such an excellent show. As the crowd dwindled away, many reappeared at the Middle Deck to hear more music by the Shuffle Demons, or at the Lower Deck to hear the traditional songs of Strathclyde.

Valdy back into it with A new bunch of songs

by Scott Neily

Canadian folk music legend Valdy will be performing at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium on October 9th. He visited Dal last Tuesday, his first time, and seemed to enjoy himself greatly. "It's vital. I played a lot of universities in the Seventies, but not in the Eighties. I want to get back into it, because university audiences are usually pretty eager and alive."

Valdy is now on what he calls "Valdy's Bunch of New Songs Tour of the Maritimes, '87," with stops in Liverpool (2nd), Shelburne (3rd), Annapolis Royal (4th), Saint John (5th), "the toughest gig in history," Glace Bay (7th), and Pictou (8th). Indicating that a new album will be out this spring, as yet untitled, the subject matter is going to be "a lotta peace-oriented songs, a couple of love songs, and a thank-you song to the politicians in Ottawa and B.C." With a song called "Lunch with Ollie", Al Cross on drums and David Woodhead on bass, the album will have a more-contemporary feel to it; "you could say rock — these guys can kick ass!"

Still considering himself a folk musician, he describes his musical progression from his first album, *Country Man*, to today as "erratic. That's the nature of folk music. I play with a number of different styles. Folk music is

reflective of what's going on in the street. I define it as the music most consumed by, most listened to by, and most performed by the people, which includes just about every form of music."

When asked about the lyrical content of his songs, Valdy said, "I don't think of myself as a poet. I'm a singer/songwriter. Everything I write comes from something I've seen or experienced, or things people have related to me. I don't do a lot of fiction. It's taking matters that are paramount in people's minds and translating them into song. My mandate is to continue to provide high quality entertainment, and when appropriate, to enhance social and environmental responsibility and awareness."

Valdy is often described as one of Canada's best loved and most respected performers. "I have fun doing what I do. That's as infectious as yawning. I think that's what makes a big difference. I enjoy it. I'm always apprehensive

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