

Cranberry Nice

by Louisa Petsitis

Emerging from the dingy, industrial town of Limerick, Ireland comes a voice that rings so clean and clear that no bell could compare. Not since Elizabeth Frazier or Sinead O'Connor has a wail been so alluring. Dolores O'Riordan's heavenly chants and sweet harmonies, has jet propelled **The Cranberries** to instant stardom. The group has soared straight past the boundaries of college music, through alternative, and straight to pop with just one album, *Everybody Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We?*

so many layers of vocals, it's hard to tell which is the dominant one. "Dolores may have to record four or five various tracks depending on the song," describes Lawler.

With all of the sudden fame, one can't help but wonder if the young band (members average age is twenty-one) has outgrown their humble, small town beginnings. Not a chance. Though **The Cranberries** may be two feet off the ground soaring, they are as down to earth as ever. Whenever they do get a small hiatus, they spend it at home. "We go home [during breaks] and rest."

After the cancellation of the **Duran Duran** show



The Cranberries

So what exactly are they doing that everybody else is? Feargal Lawler, drummer, explained that the album name came about when the band was watching t.v. in their native home of Limerick. "We were sitting around watching television, and we were needing money, and this Irish band was playing and I believe it was Dolores who said 'look everybody else is doing it, so why can't we', the 'it' being getting their music out, getting it played." What they're really doing is opening a new door for American pop music.

The Cranberries brand of music stems from the ancient art of Gregorian chanting and church music. Lawler explains, "The band grew up listening to stuff like **The Smiths** and **The Cure**... but Dolores didn't listen to pop music. She was brought up in the church so a lot of the music she sings is very spiritual." Not only is her singing very elevating, but intricate too. Most of the songs on the album have

at the Palace on account of **Simon Lebon's** broken vocal chord, **The Cranberries** returned to perform to a sold-out audience on November 5th at Saratoga Winners. O'Riordan was shy, and grateful, and brilliant. Though the crowd was elbow to elbow, surprisingly there was no pushing or moshing. On my way home that evening, while humming "Pretty," all I could think about was how beauty had calmed the beast.

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