

THE CRANBERRY SAW US "Water Circle" (Demo). It doesn't happen very often but once in a blue moon a new band comes along and you say to yourself "this could be the start of something big". Latest Limerick hotshots The Cranberry Saw Us are still a long way away from a record deal but if they can develop some of the deft little touches on this, their second tape, could be serious contenders by Christmas. The Cranberries got off to a bit of a false start last year when they were formed pretty much as a vehicle for the songs Niall Quinn didn't feel were suitable for his own band The Hitchers. The arrangement was never intended to be permanent and when Niall was forced to quit due to other commitments the rest of the lads were left with the long and often frustrating search for a new lead singer. They weren't really sure what they were looking for but when they stumbled across Laurel Hill sixth former Dolores they knew they'd found it. A total newcomer to the local rock scene, the lass sounds for all the world like Kirsty McColl's younger sister and has a

deliciously unaffected, almost *innocent* style which wouldn't seem out of place on an All About Eve record.

The opening cut, 'Sunday', is the band's trump card. Boasting a naggingly infectious hookline and lush keyboards, it's a beautifully understated pop song dominated by Dolores' multi-tracked vocals. 'Linger' is more of the same, this time showcasing Noel's Cure-ish guitar work and Fergal's sparse but effective drumming. 'A Fast One' begs comparison with Wicklow Indie darlings The Would Be's and is already one of the highlights of their live set. 'Chrome Paint' is the only disappointment. The moody, atmospheric song calls for a hint of menace but Dolores' tasteful warblings are just far too *pleasant*.

You tend to get very cynical in this job but The Cranberry's youthful exuberance is contagious and in some ways, after hearing 'Water Circle', I hope they never grow up!

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