



FRUIT COCKTAIL

Even by today's standards, when a band can be in the charts only months after forming, The Cranberries are rising fast. Four teenagers from Limerick, on the west coast of Ireland, The Cranberries got together during 1990 to play an extremely pretty type of pop that has already earned rapturous comparisons to Sinéad O'Connor, The Cocteau Twins and a noisier Everything But The Girl.

The band recently performed in front of 3,000 people in Cork and already The Cranberries look set to be massive.

"It's definitely a shock," says guitarist Noel Hogan (brother Mike plays bass, while friend and ex-hairdresser Fearg Lawler is on drums), who left his electronics course to join the group. "It's a bit baffling too. We expected a good reaction, but not as good as this. We also thought it would take a lot longer to happen, maybe two or three years. But we're

not complaining."

Much of the attention on The Cranberries has been focused on singer Dolores O'Riordan, one-time *Beano* and *Dandy* reader ("I've never read books," she says, "you should develop your own philosophies on life") and a former waitress in a Chinese restaurant.

Her extraordinary, octave-leaping voice is crucial to the group's highly melodic compositions, three of which can be heard on the *Uncertain EP*, out this month. However, Dolores insists that there's nothing special about her.

"I'm fairly normal, really," she says. "I'm a happy person, I like thinking and going for walks. I'm not influenced by big, mad things, just nature, I suppose. Our music comes from inside, it's a little magic between the four of us. It's perfect for what I want to express about the world. There's a lot of love out there."

PAUL LESTER