

TRIBUNE ENTERTAINMENT

# city limits

by STUART CLARK

## Mixing It With The Best



Just to illustrate the point, Pearse was chatting to me while mixing the latest demo from The Cranberry Saw Us, a local bunch who've emerged from the rehearsal studio with a new lead singer called Dolores and a full set of fresh material. I can't give you the full post mortem till I hear the completed tape next week but a sneak preview of 'Sunday', a remarkably original Cure meets Kirsty McColl work-out, totally blew me away.

"The Cranberries are typical of what's happening at the moment. They haven't played many gigs but they've come in and recorded four great tracks. The Stilted Men are another band who are on their third or fourth demo and Dave Fanning seems to love them. The side of the business which needs developing now is Xeric Records, hopefully we can make a bit of money out of it! We started 18 months ago with Private World, released 'The Reindeer Age' compilation earlier this year and since then



An N.M.E. hack, who was admittedly rather tired and emotional, told me after last week's 'Lark' that Limerick probably has the best crop of teenage bands in the country and, you know what, I'd have to agree with him. The city may lack an outfit of, say, the Hothouse Flowers' or Something Happens' stature but the amount of new talent crawling out of the woodwork is quite frightening. Hardly a week passes by without some spotty faced individual accosting me in O'Connell Street with a demo tape and, what's more, at least 75% of them are very listenable. Unfortunately, while the groups are beginning to get the recognition they deserve one of the main catalysts of the recent explosion, Xeric Studios, remain unsung heroes. Xeric founder and resident engineer/producer Pearse Gilmore doesn't seem in the least bit perturbed though.

"I don't mind if we're not that well known among the local fans because, as far as they're concerned, our role isn't particularly important. They want to go along and see bands and if they like what they hear that's what matters. I'd be worried if the musicians themselves weren't aware of the studio and its facilities but that's not the case".

As understatement goes that ranks alongside saying Shane McGowan could do with a trip to the dentists. Xeric has played

host to virtually every young, and not so young, Limerick hopeful in recent years including Tuesday Blue, Toucandance, The Hitchers, A Touch of Oliver, They Do It With Mirrors, The O'Malley's, Up The Downstairs and The Tear Collectors. They've also worked with nationally known names like The Stunning, A House, Burning Embers and The Louise Morrissey Band but have generally found it difficult to attract the major names from Dublin.

"We never expected U2 to start coming down to Limerick but at the same time we were hoping to get a few more high profile groups in. It's a gradual process and I'm pleased with the work we've done recently with Phillip Donnelly who's produced and played with people like Nanci Griffith and The Everley Brothers. He's mixed a couple of tracks here that he recorded in the States and has been trying out other ideas for his solo album. He's comfortable with the set up and is going to bring in a Mayo singer called Sean Heggarty who does American sounding Country rather than the usual Big Tom sort of stuff. He's also keen to fly over someone from Nashville which would really put us on the map".

Tuesday Blue demoed a lot of material at Xeric, does Pearse regret the fact they never managed to crack it and maybe carry

the studio along on their shirt tails.

"There was never any talk of them recording their second album here but, yes, it'd be nice if one of the Limerick bands associated with Xeric did well and boosted our profile. It's going to happen eventually because there are some very talented people around".

have done the Peter O'Malley single 'Poltin' and The Hitchers 'Fruit' cassingle".

Xeric unleash two more gems this month. The first is 'Inspiration', a new 45 by Galway based Too Much For The Whiteman, and the second a Trad collection from Clare's Micho Russell, 'Under The Cliffs of Moher'.

"Micho is a remarkable man. He's 76 and from Doolin and has been playing the flute and

tin whistle since he was a child. He's traveled all over the world - Germany, France, Holland, England, America... We're releasing the album on cassette and CD and I'm trying to tie up distribution deals with West Germany and the States where they love that kind of stuff. We don't mind when work with as long as the good!"

## SWEDE CORN

Swedish body builder Dolph Lundgren obviously dreams of following in Arnold Schwarzenegger's extremely large footsteps but while his biceps might match up to

Arnie's he certainly doesn't have the same acting muscle. DARK ANGEL (18) is an unbelievably cliched work-out which rips off just about every action and sci-fi flick

you care to mention. Grace Jones' former toy boy is a maverick Houston cop forced to team up with a straight

but individual lumberjack life. His colleague Dr. Ash consumed with grief at the loss of a beautiful female

## The Latest Films

placed FBI agent in a bid to rid the city of an evil drugs baron. This thoroughly unsavoury human being actually turns out to be an alien who's been sent to Earth to corrupt the planet's youth, even though they seem to be doing a pretty good job of it themselves. Anyway, Dolph eventually manages to outwit the extra terrestrial with a combination of brains and brawn. Now, the brawn I can believe but the brains are an entirely different matter...

patient, agrees to let her remove her head and add various parts stolen from a local morgue. Needless to say the experiment goes horribly wrong with their hallucination bringing new meaning to the expression 'cut your own throat'!

Re-Animator was, in every sense of the word, one of the eighties' biggest grossing horror movies and did wonders for the sale of diced carrots judging by the proliferation of said vegetable in cinemas the length and breadth of the country. Unfortunately, as is so often the case, RE-ANIMATOR II (18) lacks all of the original's style and panache and has to rely on some stunning SFX to shore up the storyline which is so weak it belongs in intensive care.

Perhaps I'm still depressed over England's exit from the World Cup but this week's new film is lamer than Roseanne's pony after a 12 mile gallop. I had high hopes in RE-ORCHID (18) but unfortunately Mickey Rourke's cult producer Zelig is don't even come close to recreating the charm which made his first laboration, '9 1/2 Weeks' such a major draw. Rourke plays the role of a business shark who will do anything to get rich. This time he's involved in a bid to develop a new vegetable...

Dr. Herbert West discovers a rare ammonia fluid which can not only bring the dead back

## Here Come The Mirror Men



THEY DO IT WITH MIRRORS

Wacky popsters They Do It With Mirrors are back in action this Saturday with a late night headliner at Cruises Hotel in O'Connell Street. I was also bribed with Tequila Slammers over the weekend to tell you that the band will be flogging their new 5 track demo and snug fitting t-shirts at the bash which includes support from the Cranberry Saw Us. Barely out of short trousers, the Cranberries are guaranteed to be world famous in Ballinacurra by Christmas and there's also a vicious rumour that a well known radio presenter, newspaper columnist and English sex god\* will be spinning 'the planets that matter' on the night. Make sure you bring along some rotten tomatoes and a sick bag just in case.

\*Some of these claims may be a little misleading.

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