# Oliver's Army Are On Their Way

A Touch of Oliver step up live activity over the next week with two showcase gigs at the Speakeasy. The Cranberry Saw Us provide support on Saturday while former Groove frontman Paul Healy, making a rare solo appearance, kicks the show off on Tuesday. It's also worth noting that admission to Tuesday's bash is free, gratis and for nothing which should have even the most miserly of rock fans flocking to the O'Connell



The Cranberries loitering with intent.

Following their appearance at the 2FM 'Lark In The Park' during the summer, they decided to lock themselves away in the rehearsal room and showed they've been investing their time wisely when they emerged last week to blow Dungarvan hotshots The Wishing Stones off stage at the Savoy.

Delivering the goods on tape has never been a problem but the Olivers always seemed rather shaky live with

lead singer Diarmuid O'Sullivan, in particular, looking like he had to don incontinence pants to get through the set. That's all changed now with Diarmuid developing into a commanding frontman and the rest of the lads tightening up considerably. Highlights of Wednesday's show included a version of 'Asshole' which positively bristled with anger and 'Candy Bottle Green', a roughly polished pop gem that

bores its way into your consciousness like a turbocharged Black & Decker. 'Why?' and 'Bedroom' also tickled the old tastebuds and I think it's fair to say A Touch of Oliver are finally beginning to realise the vast potential they've long hinted at.

#### Berry Good\*

This also seems like an opportune moment to put The Cranberries latest four track tape through the mincer. Blessed with a lead singer

who's capable of melting even an Eskimo's heart, the fruity ones have been building up a sizable following with their hauntingly atmospheric doodlings which sound like a blissful union between The Cure and The Sundays. Part the attraction is their youthful innocence, The Cranberries give the impression they're only just beginning to discover what life's all about and Dolores' endearingly naive lyrics are enough to bring a tear to the eye of an old fart like me who waved farewell to his teens when she was still at primary. 'Nothing Left At All' kicks things off, a thoughtful song very much in the 'Linger' vein with seductively effective multitracked vocals, delicate guitarwork and rumbling feedback courtesy of producer Pearse Gilmore. Pearse also makes a guest appearance on 'Pathetic Senses', the interplay between himself and

A Touch of Oliver strike a time honoured U2 pose!

Dolores working a treat and producing an end result that's not dissimilar to something you'd find on the Cocteau's new 'Heaven Or Las Vegas' album.

The Cranberries spent a lot longer on this demo than their 'Water Circle' debut and it shows. The deft touches of percussion and sparing use of synth and other studio SFX give the cuts much needed depth and show that, in some ways rather sadly, the band are growing up fast.

'Reason' possess a harder

edge, a bittersweet love song crossing into Com menacing feel to it. Dolores might only have left school during the summer but, judging by the lyrics, has already had more than her fair share of broken hearts. Either that or she's just a miserable so and so!

'Shine Down' is another delightfully melancholy tale of woe with much gnashing of teeth and tearing of hair. Her voice has just the right degree of 'did-li-ai-dai', unmistakably Irish without

ide audience appeal rful costumes, an in Gumboot territory Cranberry tells me the tracks are going leased as a cassimonth and they'll be me story". A tall ord ing a major headling cide. I don't want y geview, they've suc them up prematurely, still a lot of work to be but methinks Britain's population should orgely extinct in Irela here pronto!

Bryan McMahon

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\*Yeah, Iknowit'say weak headline but making up a pun about bernes!

## Shaun To Be Wild

Dublin's Point Depot will no doubt resemble a giant pharmacy on Tuesday December 4th. when the Happy Mondays jet in for the latest leg of their charmingly monikered 'Pills 'n Thrills' tour. This will be the Madchester favourites, who make Guns'n Roses look like a pack of Girl Guides, first visit to Ireland and it's expected thousends of shamrock waving sherbet-dab sniffers will pack into the venue for the anticipated 'happening'. The band struck pay dirt earlier this year when their

scallydelic version of John Km gos' 'He's Gonna Step On You went Top 5, closely followed their own 'Kinky Afro'.

Support will be provided by way. 'back from the dead' folkie Dom van, now resident in Galway, and word has it that Mondays in singer Shaun Ryder will be ining Johnny Marr and New Order Barney Sumner on a cover ut Sunshine Superman's classic ours'. Tickets are available! week from all the usual out

ranied by his parent tama unfurls as th afferent characters. The play climax lorgin with the Chaff

ae nearing their fit mice, bumping a

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down, no nonsense mindless boogle as rock legends Status Quo hit the Croom Community Hall on November 17th. Still fronted by the seemingly ageless Francis Rossi and Rick Partitt. the 12 bor boogle merchants have enjoyadanon stopstring of hits daling back to

Prepare yourself for a night of heads Here We Quo!



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LATE SHOW FRI/SAT

(u 12s acc)

HEFIELD



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PROG: 2.25 (u12's acc )SAT./SUN.

Pray they never have to rescue

802:225, 5.25, 8.25,15's LATE SHOW 11.00 FRUSAT MARLON BRANDO

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