

Express Sounds

by Jim Gellatly



The great divide

ALONG with bands like The Lorelei and The Dreaming, Aberdeenshire five-piece The Last Divide are responsible for making the North-east a hotbed of musical talent.

These three bands, along with a couple of others, share an ear for a good old-fashioned folk-tinged melody — creating the nearest thing to an "Aberdeen Sound".

Of the afore-mentioned groups, The Last Divide are

probably the most travelled, having already completed two highly successful Scottish tours since forming just over a year ago.

They release a new EP tomorrow night when they play Aberdeen's Lemon Tree. The title track — 'Who Is Truly Scrumptious?' — is already a firm live favourite, and along with the excellent Ethel 'E' Real and Shine, it's a pretty impressive release. Check 'em out!



▶ THEY'RE IN THERE SOMEWHERE: The Last Divide. Great band, shame about the picture.

GELLATLY'S GROOVERS

The Young Gods — Gasoline Man (Play It Again Sam)
Manic Street Preachers — Theme from MASH (Columbia) L7 — Morster (Siash)

The Soupdragons — Alone in Chains — Would Please (Big Life)
Alone in Chains — Would Please (Epic).



▶ THE CRANBERRIES: see them in Wick this weekend and Aberdeen next month.

Berry berry tasty

ONE of the most promising new Irish bands are in action on Saturday — in Wick of all places.

Recently signed to Island records, The Cranberries have earned some pretty impressive write-ups in the dreaded national music press. One critic was prompted to pen, "no band since The Smiths have sounded quite so spectacularly vulnerable".

The Cranberries open their UK tour with the gig at the Assembly Rooms on Saturday night. As part of the Wick Festival of Music

and Poetry, the concert provides an ideal platform for the band to showcase their debut album.

The three day festival takes in various spectrums of the arts at the Mercury Motor Inn, including a local bands night tomorrow, recitals and discussion from Iain Crichton Smith and Sheila Douglas on Saturday afternoon, and an evening of comedy direct from ITV's Funnycam on Sunday.

The Cranberries also play Aberdeen Alternative Festival on October 20 when they play with The Mekons at the Lemon Tree.

TOP UK rockers Thunder have included an Aberdeen date in their forthcoming tour.

The band — fresh from playing a storming set at Donington — play the Music Hall on Saturday, October 3. They've just released their second album — *Laughing On Judgment Day*.

▶ The *Down Side* are back in action in their home town tonight when they play Memphis in Aberdeen. Doors open at 10pm with the added attraction of indie/alternative sounds on the dance floor.

THE poor old Wonderstuff. Following my comments on Miles last week, the backlash of the Brummie boys continues this week with a review of their recent Music Hall gig with Kinky Machine courtesy of Express Sounds reader MR CHERRY...



▶ KINKY MACHINE: welcome in the N-east any time.

Forgo Wonder, get Kinky

IT'S doubtful whether many in the sold-out hall realised they were witnessing true greatness. Kinky Machine preened, posed and pouted their way through a raucous half hour of pure pop mayhem.

Displaying an impressively wasted physique, singer Louis confronted the assembled airheads with a classic display of '70s Jagger/Iggy Pop arrogance and style. Their first single, *Going Out With God*, was of course quite beautiful.

The usual Aberdeen apathy prevailed — Kinky Machine virtually ignored by a crowd either too stupid, or too loyal to the headliners, to understand. The Wonderstuff took to the stage with

absolute rapture, and thumped into their set. As an impartial observer, I was hoping to be entertained. Unfortunately, the Wonderstuff left me reeling with a vacuous display of pompous ignorance.

It's not the music — bland standard indie-pop — but the astonishing smugness displayed by a band secure in the knowledge that their fanatical fans would let them away with anything.

Spitting at the crowd, slagging every band he could think of, and exuding an appalling "look at me I'm famous" attitude, Miles Hunt is everything self-respecting music fans should hate. Kinky Machine walked it, and they didn't even have to try.

As an alternative

THE 10th Aberdeen Alternative Festival kicks off next month with, as they say, something for everyone.

Running from October 15-24, the impressive line-up includes chart stars Sunscreen (Bonkers, October 20), Gil Scott-Heron at the Music Hall on the 21st, and Van Morrison at the Music Hall the following night.

For his gig, Van the Man teams up with Maceo Parker's JB Horns for the first time since the '70s. This unique pairing of two legends was put together at Van Morrison's request, and should provide a once in a lifetime experience for fans of quality soul and blues.

In addition to the usual exhibitions, comedy and traditional music, the festival presents one of the strongest line-ups of local



▶ VAN THE MAN: see him in October

rock and pop, with the excellent facilities at the Lemon Tree being fully utilised.

The full festival programme and tickets for the events are available from the Aberdeen Box Office and various venues.



▶ SHAPPED UP: by Kenny Rothnie was Cathal Coughlan of Fatima Mansions.

ABERDEEN'S Lemon Tree Arts Centre is currently showing an exhibition of rock photography by Kenny Rothnie.

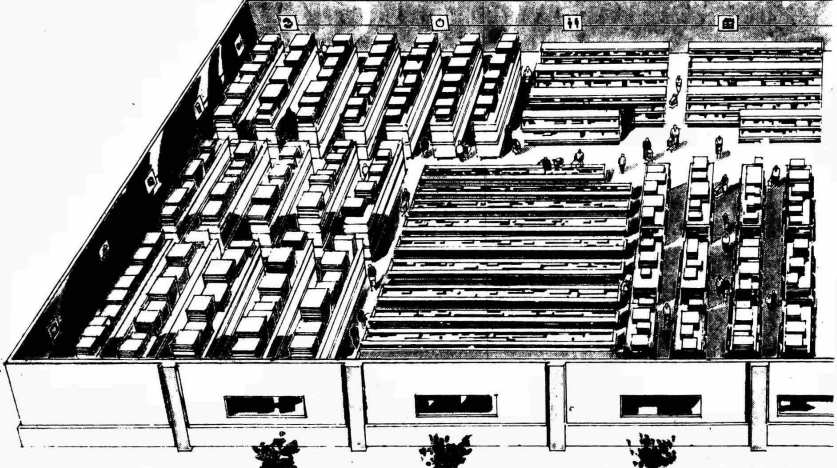
The snapper recently returned to his native Banchory, having spent two years in London where he specialised in the Indie Rock circuit. Black and white shots in the impressive display include The Pixies, Gallon Drunk, Buffalo Tom and Fatima Mansions (pictured).

The exhibition runs until the end of the month, and prints of the work are also for sale.



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