

MUSIC-BOX MUSIC-BOX MUSIC-BOX



WITH SEAN ATKINS

MUSICBOX for all the latest news,

views and reviews on the local scene

The Di is cast!

TWO of Tamworth's best known and most enduring musical personalities have this week launched their bid for chart superstardom writes *Sarah Holliday*.

Former Dream Factory, Strangeloves and Bash Out The Odd man Mark Mortimer and Rhythm Damage fave Rikk Quay have joined up with two other equally bizarre characters to produce a single featuring the legendary 'Dianagate' tapes.

The group, 'House of Windsor' have sampled the so called Princess Diana tapes to make a record called 'Squidgy' which they say is a protest against the hype surrounding the Royal family's marriage 'crisis'.

The single, which had heavy pre-release orders, came out on Monday and last week both Rikk and Mark were interviewed on Radio One about the 45.

"Radio One were brilliant and they gave us a good chance to explain what the single was all about," said Rikk. "The crazy thing was that after doing the interview we then realised we had no way of hearing it broadcast. So we went out and bought a really cheap and nasty radio and spent ages twiddling the dial on Oxford Street before finally hearing the interview on the Newsbeat programme!"

The single, which has already caused outrage in certain quarters, is based on a rave track and has already been 'raved' about by those in the know. A hit single has been predicted so what is it actually like? See below...



• The House Of Windsor - a right Royal caper!

Having a rave with those Royal revellers

House of Windsor - Squidgy
Rhythm Damage's Rikk Quay and former Strangelove Mark Mortimer are involved in the band presenting this novelty single - and they're aiming for controversy and the top of the charts.

It's basically a rave track with minimal vocals and samples from the famous Diana tapes, which

feature an intimate conversation with a male admirer. On the record 'Diana' is heard to say lines like 'I love it' and 'If you want to be like me you've got to suffer... then you get what you deserve'.

Considering the whole thing is just a vehicle for cashing in on the controversy surrounding the tapes and the Diana connection is an unashamed gimmick it actually

Review

works reasonably well. I wouldn't pretend for a moment that it's a good record in its own right. If it stood alone with the strong but very occasional vocals of a Detroit soul singer, it would surely disappear without

trace among similar rave tracks. But it's not all gimmicks, the Princess of Wales link is everything but as a rave track it could claim to have an ounce or two of credibility. And the samples work so well at times that they'd be worth making up, just for the excitement, even if they didn't already exist.

So it's a decent enough rave track but that's not something

that's likely to be taken into account in the coming weeks. It's destined for controversy and a fair bit of publicity, and that's really all that seems to matter.

What MUSICBOX is waiting to see is what this will do for the careers of Mortimer and Quay. Will they suffer, or will they get what they deserve?

Sean Atkins

Get to Rockwells!

ROCKWELLS is the place to be for live music this week with concerts lined up at the venue for both Sunday and Thursday.

The packed programme of gigs continues on Sunday with Worcester band The Berts playing in a one-band show with the usual rock disco. The Berts admit quite openly that they're influenced by bands such as The Fall, The Pixies, and Jane's Addiction, but are just as eager to stress that they don't sound like their heroes.

Despite dubbing themselves the laziest band in town, they've got their act together now and are enjoying a busy spell of gigs. Recent weeks have seen them play all around the Midlands where they have been pushing their four-track EP cassette.

On Thursday Briar step in to replace Cornerstone as headliners of the show which also features Big Trouble and China Rose. The Birmingham-based rockers have been going since 1982 during a career which has seen them record with CBS and A&M.

This year the band have so far released the single 'All She Wants' on Shotgun Charlie Records which comes from their latest album 'Hard Time'.

Crazy Beat Demons, who were in Arts Centre action on Sunday night, play the Pen and Wig in Birmingham on Tuesday October 27.



ELITE TYRES

Tyres! Tyres! Tyres!

For the very best choice of secondhand Tyres we cannot be beaten!

- Over 1,000 Tyres in stock including Low Profile '50', '60' and '70' series.
- We have something to fit most cars and vans including 185-60-14 Pirellis with over 5mm of tread for just £16 each!
- Uniroyal Van Tyres as new are just £16 each - every one carries a LIFETIME GUARANTEE!

155-13 from ... £11.00	185-60-14 from ... £14.00
165-13 from ... £11.00	195-60-14 from ... £14.00
175-70-13 from ... £11.00	185-70-14 from ... £12.00
185-70-13 from ... £11.00	195-70-14 from ... £12.00

We also stock New Tyres ... look at these prices!

145.10 GENERAL	£19.91 inc. V.A.T.
155.13 BARUM	£19.97 inc. V.A.T.
165.13 BARUM	£21.44 inc. V.A.T.

(All offers subject to availability)

COMPUTERISED WHEEL BALANCING £2.95 inc. V.A.T.
Also available: TRACKING & WHEEL ALIGNMENT

ELITE TYRES
Unit 6, Carlyon Road Industrial Estate, Atherstone

713717

WEEKEND BREAK

1492: Conquest of Paradise (11) Gerard Depardieu as Christopher Columbus in Ridley Scott's visually perfect retelling of the epic adventure of the voyage that discovered the 'New World'. Signe Weaver is Queen Isabella.

Strictly Ballroom (PG) A film that takes an affectionate look at the world of competitive ballroom dancing - Australian style. You will like this one!

Buffy the Vampire Slayer (12) A teenage cheerleader finds that life has more in store for her than she expected in this offbeat comedy-thriller. Kirsty Swanson is destined to be the next in a long line of female vampire fighters. Rutgers Hauer does a turn as the evil Vampire King.

Beauty and the Beast (U) Walt Disney's charming feature-length animation, using the guidelines of the classic fairy tale. The Disney studios have created a lovely and romantic film that will please children of all ages.

Thunderheart (15) Val Kilmer, Graham Greene. ('Dance with Wolves'), Fred Ward and Sam Shepard in a gritty murder mystery set on an Indian reservation. A fast-moving thriller directed by the British director Michael Apted.

White Man Can't Jump (15) Wesley Snipes is running a fast, funny, sometimes risky con game on LA's toughest basketball courts. Proving to be a big hit at UCI.

Carry On Columbus (PG) The 'Carry On' team try to discover America. Naive gags by the handful. Some of the old regulars are joined by comedians of a more radical school of humour. Laugh, I thought I'd never start. Could this be the last gag in the long-running series?

Patriot Games (15) Harrison Ford plays an ex-CIA agent holidaying in England with his wife and daughter. Sight-seeing outside Buckingham Palace, Ford goes like John Wayne and shoots down a would-be IRA assassin, and is directly responsible for the capture of the dead man's brother (Sean Bean). But that's just the beginning. The IRA man escapes from his prison cell, and vows bloody vengeance on Ford and his family. A



• Gerard Depardieu stars as Christopher Columbus.

UCI SPOTLIGHT BY ANTHONY SHERRATT

top-draw thriller to put at the top of your must-see list. **California Man** (PG) The stone age meets the rock age, when two high school outcasts, Sean Astin and his best friend (Pauly Shore) unearth a frozen caveman (Brendan Fraser) while excavating a backyard pool. The preserved prehistoric person turns everyday life upside down in upscale Encino, California.

A League Of Their Own (PG) A wacky 'teen comedy that owes a great debt to 'Wayne's World'.

Unforgiven (15) Clint Eastwood, stars, produces and directs this stark western drama about life in the American West of the last century.

A Saturday Morning Film Club (admission £1.20): **American Tail** (U); **Problem Child II**.

The Director's Chair (Monday and Wednesday, 7.30pm): **Pleasure Principle** (15) Peter Firth stars in this sex story as a modern-day Romeo, bed-hopping while still trying to retain a 'happy' family life.

UCI Midnight Express (Saturday, 11.15pm) **The Sex Pistols In 'Great Rock n' Roll Swindle'** (18)

Cranberries cheer

Public Affection/Mark Brindley/The Cranberries - Tamworth Arts Centre

Lively and enthusiastic pop group Public Affection opened the proceedings but, as is often the case, they were slightly mismatched in a bill that leaned towards a gentler, occasionally Indie brand of music. Not ones to be put off by the lack of pop fans attending concerts (its clearly more of a record-buying thing), the foursome attacked their set as though they were playing to a packed house - when really their audience were clinging to the back and sides of the room. There are still some rough edges to their sound but they're refreshingly honest and entertaining. I think they've always ended their set on 'Presence' (or should that be 'Presents'?) and this was no exception. It remains by far the best thing they've come up with.

Former Strangeloves vocalist Mark Brindley was next with the best acoustic set I've ever heard in Tamworth. Excellently accompanied by Strangeloves guitarist Neil Jones, they made themselves heard and indeed were playing to an audience that seemed keen to listen. Songs like 'Hope' and 'Raise The Titanic' were just as impressive as when they got the full band treatment, and Mark proved once again that in a Town of decent vocalists, he's a brilliant singer.

The Cranberries justified all the fuss that's being made about them with a set that just got better and better. In a long value-for-money show, The Berries included the brilliant single 'Dreams' but that wasn't out on its own - there were loads of other tracks of similar

Review

high quality. Musically, the band are hard to place but that's probably because the other three members are just companionship for the voice of singer Dolores. Basically rather fragile-sounding on the whole, she varies between the dreamy atmospheric vocals of an Enya to the more aggressive approach of a screaming Sinead.

I really felt like I was watching a band that I'd been lucky to catch at this early stage of their career. They're sure to conquer the Indie scene, I wouldn't be surprised if they go much further.

Sean Atkins.



Limited edition model just 90mm long of a 1930's bus dressed in Midland Red Livery.

£4.95 or £5.70 by post

Available only from: **HERALD OFFICES** 5/6 Aldergate Tamworth 0827 60741