

THE RIFFS

soon to be heroes | the riffs

America has been blessed with new bands Zwan and Audioslave. So now its time for Limerick to get a taste for new blood. And that blood is pulsing all the way to the top in the form of 'The Riffs'.

I for one hadn't been treated with this bands energetic style of rock music until I saw them supporting 'Kamiko' in Dolan's Warehouse a few weeks back. I wasn't expecting a rock show from them because I heard before hand that they had only been together five months but they soon ripped apart my premature opinion with their catchy melodies and confident stage presence. 'The Riffs' are comprised of Alan O'Keefe (lead guitar), Tom O'Keefe (vocals, guitar), Bart Kelly (bass) and Denny Dunworth (drums). Yes you have guessed correctly, Alan and Tom are cousins and like to fight a lot so they tell me.

If you were lucky enough to attend that gig last month then you too will be so surprised into believing that this band have only been together since last September. Their very first gig was in Costello's supporting 'Atrophy' and truthfully the boys told me they sucked major ass. But this downfall was taken in as experience and they continued on supporting loads of other bands such as 'giveamanakick' in the Highstool. Both the O'Keefe boys had worked in HMV before so they got to know the AMC boys very well, which gave them the leg in the door of the Limerick music scene.

At the moment they have released a three-track self-titled demo with songs such as 'Bring It On' and 'Stay'. Fergal Nash recorded this demo out in Kilcornan in a shed. The demo is kind of a poor recording but the lads do admit that money was a problem at the time and still is, but they hope to change that very soon with a few gigs coming up.

+ riff-arama

They also plan to release another demo later in the year.

The lads were all chatty with me in Java's during the week so I got some info from them:

LEG: "Ok lads, the band sounds great live with all those upbeat rock tunes but who is the mastermind behind those catchy tunes?"

TOM: "Well, you could say I write most of the lyrics, but it's a group effort overall. The singer isn't the be all and end all of the band. I might have a new song written out and bring it into practice and than the lads will add guitar pieces and drum beats to it and then we just mix it all up until we are happy with it, which usually takes a while cause I hate to say it but I'm a perfectionist."

ALAN: "Yeah, he drives us mad cause he always seems to find something wrong with a song"

LEG: "I don't want to say what kind of bands ye sound like cause I know bands hate to hear that but what would be the bands major influences?"

having seen them support kamiko, leg is glad to see them supporting david kitt in the concert hall along with other local favourites woodstar. talent spotter, kieran mcguire, takes a look at the riffs

LEG hangs with the new kids on the block.....

ALAN: "From myself and Tom's point of view our major influence is Radiohead, how can you go wrong with albums like 'The Bends' and 'OK Computer'."

TOM: "Yeah for me I think Thom Yorke has the most incredible unique voice in the music industry".

LEG: "Ahh sure I wouldn't go that far, you cant be cancelling out Eddie Vedder, sorry but I'm a big Pearl Jam fan and proud of it."

'The Riffs' plan to play as many gigs as they can this year and are focused on making it big, this isn't just a hobby for them but more of a living. They are arranged to play with 'Jet Plane Landing' this coming May and are headlining their first gig up in the Savoy on the 27th of March. They have also handed in their demo into the IMRO team so they can get a shot at this years IMRO competition, and you can of course catch them in the Unviersity Concert Hall supporting Kittser on Thursday, April 03, so make sure you watch this space.

If you want to get in contact with the band them email them at 0270385@student.ul.ie. And remember to keep checking www.rockscene.tk for updates on local gig listings and bands around Limerick city!

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