

Outonalimb Records are not exactly the next step in a long history of independent labels to come from our fine city. In fact the only other Limerick labels I'm aware of are The Hitchers ex and now defunct label Murgatroid and some other one from the Sixties/Seventies which my Dad has some Tommy Drennan LP's from. I hope I'm not leaving out anyone in that less than comprehensive list, but the fact remains that Outonalimb was kinda a long time coming.

Over the past five years or so, Limerick's music scene has undertaken an incredible transformation and nowhere more so, and more rightly so, than on its alternative front. Along with independent attempts in the House, Hip-hop and Drum and Bass fields to put on exciting quality live nights, live Rock music, with everything from Country to Indie to Metal was being pumped through Limerick too with growing success. With the AMC in particular, local bands were given an opportunity to play to crowds in well organised shows and with quality bands from not just other parts of the country but from other parts of the world too. A scene was developing and still is. This nascent scene now has regular music venues, a clutch of original and well-developed local bands, with fresher groups coming through too and the ability to put them on stage with well-renowned acts from across the globe. Now it has its own record label, and in no time at all it has already proven itself, at the very least, one to keep a firm eye on.

Born out of a bad pun on its hometown (outoflimerick>outofflim-records>outonalimb-giddit?) Outonalimb ain't strictly that. For although the label was born here, 2 of its crew are Cork men and 1 a permanent resident to boot. So who are they and what's their story?

Giveamanakick is where the idea of a label seemed to get its momentum. They had found in Albert Twoomey, now formerly of the AMC, someone to take over steering the band in useful directions, a manager if you must. The problem of releasing the album was a glaring and immediate one, which seemed to have a fairly obvious yet tricky solution. Throwing the album around to other labels was never really an option, as it seems to be for so many unsigned bands. Waiting for someone else to agree your record was fit for public consumption and allowing them control how it was handled didn't sit well and frankly never should. Along with Albert, Richard Bourke, who had recorded the album and done the bands sound on tour got money together with the band and set about putting together Outonalimb. That was last July, with the release of the debut Giveamanakick record "Is It Ok To Be Loud Jesus?" and since then LEG writer and Wired FM head Ciaran Ryan has joined ranks. Also during this time, the final Corkonian piece of the puzzle (Albert being a Charleville man) arrived in Dave Ahearn of Waiting Room.

In this very short time the label has grown at an incredible rate, releasing Waiting Rooms second record just last month, as well as a Giveamanakick/Rest limited split Xmas single. Along with this they have, as of the new year, secured a distribution deal with Vital Ireland who handle among other labels; 4AD, City Slang, Mute, Domino and dozens of others. Constantly keeping the DIY ethics as a basic part of their plan everything is done through their control. Artwork, label roster, CD prices and even in the case of the Xmas single, the physical labelling of the CD's were all dealt with personally and independently. In accordance with the ethics of such label aspirations as Fugazi's Dischord imprint all album prices are kept at mid-price (E12.99) ensuring competitiveness and good value for the consumer. Will it last in this tough business though?

Time will tell but already the process of shipping its catalogue to the outside world is being looked at and in the meantime future releases are being completed. Cork's mighty post rockers Rest have already got an album in production for an early April release after the Xmas split with Giveamanakick. Kerry's Punk Math Rock upstarts Ten Past Seven, one of the country's top groups are scheduled for an early summer debut with the label. There is also talk of a certain Japanese group who rocked the High Stool twice already in the past year to arrive back in Ireland this year with their back catalogue being taken over by Outonalimb for Irish releases! But that's another story.



# doin it for



# themselves

it's been a long time comin, but limerick's growing independent music scene which LEG has been rattlin on about for ages finally has a record label all of it's own. OUTONALIMB recordings is only a baby, but is already hard at work releasing records from limerick & cork bands.



LEG shakes a leg