

# paddy power

plenty to keep us laughing, as the dot.comedy crew continue their sterling work in the city. with tv stars coming out their ears, is time to go back to their roots, as PADDY COURTNEY, one of their original guests, comes to limerick

## LEG places bets

For the last couple of years now, the dot.comedy club has cornered a niche in the market, spottin the lack of laughs in Limerick, and putting that right with a weekly comedy club welcoming the newest Irish comedian to the biggest international acts. Consistently going from strength to strength, the dot.comedy crew started in the humble surroundings of the former Preachers bar, before moving on to the Warehouse, and to regular gigs in Shannon, Portlaoise and around the major colleges around the country.

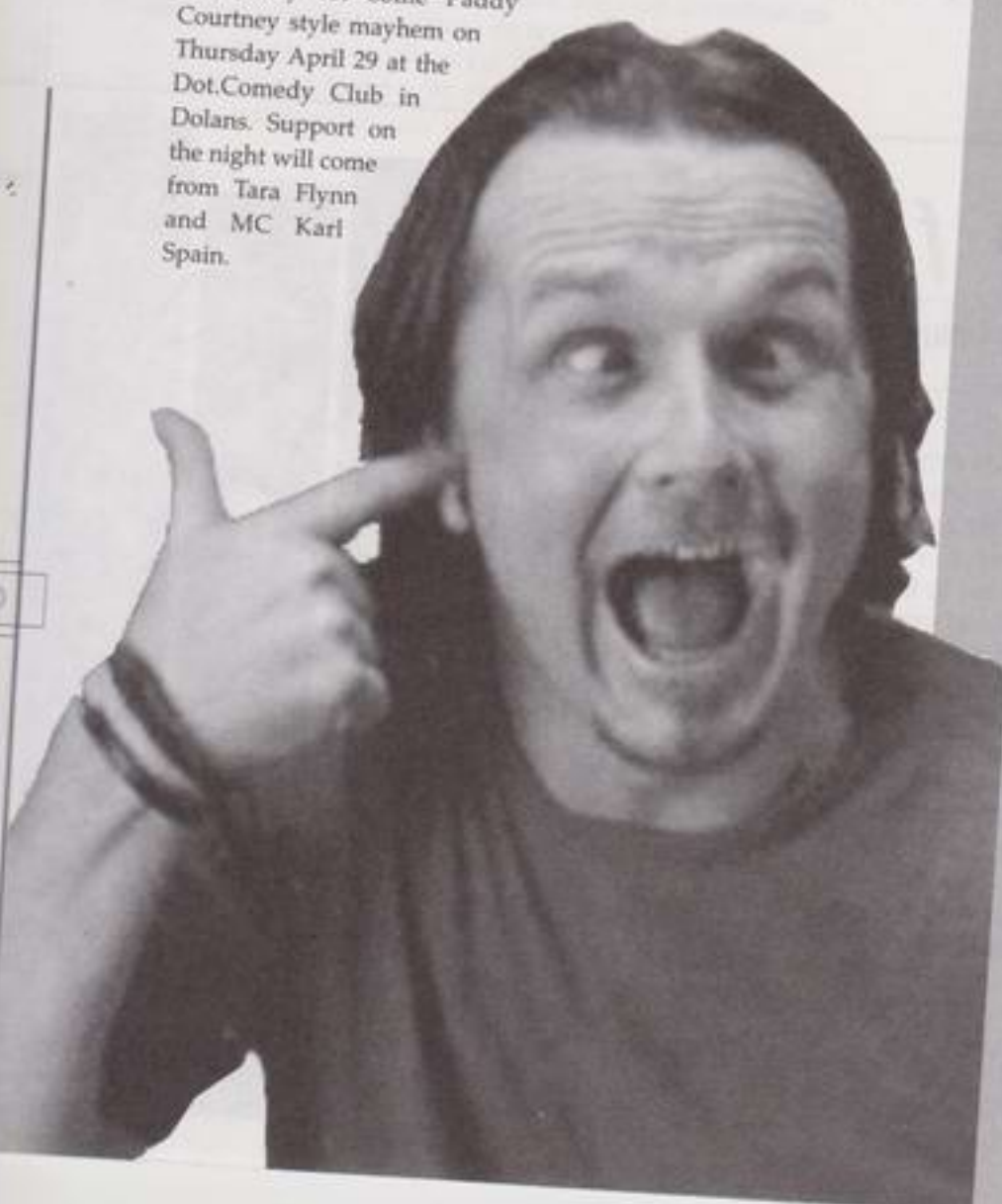
Recent shows with Dara O'Brian & the latest comedy sensation, Des Bishop, have ensured that the dot.comedy crew have kept their progress on an upward curve, and 'Blizzard of Odd star, colin Murphy, is the next big name to visit the spotlight stage. Before that however, one of Ireland's most consistent comedians comes to town.

Paddy Courtney is one of Ireland's hardest gigging comedians. His live shows are hugely popular up and down the country and it's been nearly a year since he gigged in Limerick, so the Dot Comedy Club audience have a lot to look forward to.

As well as gigs at all the top Irish comedy clubs, Paddy is in demand internationally too he is a regular at London's Comedy Store in Leicester Square the home of UK comedy. As well as his busy gigging schedule Paddy has been keepin himself occupied on the writing front too. He has written and performed sketches on RTE Radio 1 and Today FM. His film credits include small parts in 'The General', 'The Castle' and 'Separation Anxiety'. Paddy is also to be seen in two short films, 'The Candidate' and 'Solomon 1' which were broadcast on RTE Television. He has also appeared on the small screen in Channel 4's 'Comedy Lab' and 'Edinburgh or Bust'. More recently he was a roving reporter/presenter for the Bravo TV show 'The Basement'. He also produced a short documentary of The Kilkenny Cat Laughs Festival for ITV's

Funny Biz. Earlier this year, Paddy starred in the highly acclaimed Irish short film 'Yu Ming Is Ainm Dom' which scooped some major National and International film awards.

Get ready for some Paddy Courtney style mayhem on Thursday April 29 at the Dot.Comedy Club in Dolans. Support on the night will come from Tara Flynn and MC Karl Spain.



# rest up

Limerick's independent music label, Outonolimb, are about to release the next in their virginal steps into the 'record business'. Cork band Rest are on the road to success, a road paved by Outonolimb, and one which takes them by the High Stool. "We're trying to be as pretentious as possible", explains Graham Lynch, tongue firmly in cheek. The Rest guitarist is explaining to his negligent interviewer why their debut album's full name 'Burning in Water, Drowning in Flame' isn't written on the side of the jewel case. "Is the album called Burning in Water because on the press release...." Graham answers before I finish "look on the other side". "Oh, right". Clever bastards, I thought, seeing the remainder of the title.

Rest release the album at the end of this month with launch gigs in Cork's Cyprus Ave and Limerick's High Stool. No strangers to either venue, the Cork band plan to embark on a nationwide tour and do whatever it takes to ensure their album gets the recognition it deserves. Released on Cork/Limerick label Out On A Limb Records, the album is being distributed by Vital (Jay Aherne and co.), promising it'll be there when you go looking for it. Lynch recalls how fellow Out On A Limb band Waiting Room's album ended up in Virgin's easy listening section. "That will have to be looked into" he concludes with a hint of disgust at the faux-pas. "But Vital have been fantastic for the label...it means the album will be in all the usual places"

Originally formed in 1999 as Wretch, the band consists of Steve and Graham (guitar), Mark (Bass and bleeps) and Johnny (drums). Steve also provided vocals at the time and when he decided that he didn't want to sing any longer, well, Wretch had a rethink. Effectively starting again, Wretch became Rest, an instrumental band determined to maintain variety without compromising a very definitive sound. No better example than on the title tracks Burning in Water/Drowning in Flames. "They're two contrasting tracks that highlight that we can play different stuff y'know...more than one dimensional".

Obvious comparisons will be made of course, and mention Irish Instrumental Band and the world shouts back The Redneck Manifesto. However, Graham is quick to point out the differences, noting they'd never even listened to the Manifesto until recently. "I think we're a bit heavier...more experimental, anyway, we've different influences, I'd say we're more influenced by later Jimmy Cake". On inspection, Rest have stumbled on fresh ground in the undergrowth of Irish music. Similar to Mogwai and Explosions in the Sky, this is instrumental all the way, but spiced delicately with traces of electronica, undercurrents of melody and even a tincture of vocal.

Graham explains the approach. "The album is, to use the cliché, a grower...you can still find new things after a week of listening". In the vein of Godspeed You Black Emperor and with growing urgency, the eclectic sprinkling already mentioned and edging at times towards prog rock crescendos, the album quickly becomes a personal delight, each listener finding their own particular morsels of pleasure.

And lyrics? Guest vocalist Annette Murphy features on a number of tracks, and on first listen seems to almost disappear in the murky world of white noise, fuzzy guitar and giddy drums. That's the point, Lynch explained, "it's up to you to find it - I enjoy that sort of thing". Singing in an eerie, high pitched Sigur Ros-like manner, Murphy's voice eventually emerges to add a further component.

Then there's the string quartet. "Well, we actually only had two, we got them to double up, we're cheap like that". Cheap or not, it all comes together nicely. "We wanted to show we weren't just repetitiveness" On tracks like 'Our Friends Know Nothing About Our Destiny', a distorted sample opens while closing with pure rock guitar and drums. 'To Learn' builds slowly a la Mogwai with those sparsely used lyrics. 'Rest Go Pop' is riff fuelled and probably the album's most accessible track. Together, 'Burning in Water/Drowning in Flame' is an album that knows exactly where it is, confident and assuming.

Discussing the forthcoming months, we come around to the Oxegen (AKA Witness) festival. "Yeah, it would be a dream to play there, if all the Out On A Limb bands could play that would be fantastic...some year hopefully". Meanwhile, sights are set on the work at hand, promoting the album and getting the Rest name out there.

Rest return to Limerick in April for the album launch in the High Stool, under the wing of the AMC boys. "Limerick has always been good to us, The AMC are unbelievable...putting up posters and organising gigs for nothing". Rest are proud to be part of the new wave of Cork bands that have recently appeared. "There's more bands than in fuckin' ages in Cork now...sometimes I think Cork is like its own country, I suppose we have to get out there and do the hard work".

Part of the hard work will thankfully take place in Limerick with further dates promised following the album launch. "Steve has exams so we're not sure about playing UL but we're hoping to play in the Scholars soon". No Rest then, for the pretentious bastards!

tommy finneran

out on a limb records are just off the back of the release of 'catering for headphones' the debut from cork's waiting room. they refuse to take a break though, hence the irony that REST are the band that have them back in the office

TOMMY FINNERAN puts his feet up

rest | the high stool | april 29