

HITCHIN A RIDE

the hitchers | the warehouse | dec 26



they are the best band limerick has ever produced, you'll find very little argument against that. while failing to reap the same rewards as the cranberries, **the hitchers** did, however, make some great records. their yearly knees up is just around the corner. leg lears at the liver-eatin' lovelies

After weeks of speculation, negotiation, mastication and mastering of recordings The Hitchers have confirmed that this year's annual Christmas Party will take place on the Warehouse stage on St. Stephen's Night. In what has become an annual event, the band will reprise tunes from their 12 years as Limerick's favourite punksters, and with some special guests, Dec 26 promises to be a night of nostalgia and memories for those who "grew up with The Hitchers".

There'll also be previously unreleased CDs on sale on the night 'A Well Earned Break For The Firing Squads -The Hitchers 1989-2001', a 22 track opus covering all the bands releases. Also finally available will be 'Live in Limerick', a 21 track epic in its sheer gargantuosity. The Hitchers live energy onto CD.

Among the supports on the night will be Niall and Eric's new band, The Pennywhores (whose Legalise Murder single is out now on 4-3-3) and of course there'll be a post-gig party with special guest DJs.

The Hitchers released two albums, on the Murgatroid label. The 1997 debut album 'It's All Fun And Games Till Someone Loses An Eye' got rave reviews..."a work of lyrical genius...the result is 14 songs you can play whilst washing up and/or shagging without having to break off halfway through to phone the Samaritans" (NME)...and garnered The Hitchers a hardcore fanbase in the UK and Ireland. Four UK tours, recording a prestigious Peel Session for the BBC as well as being recorded live in Belfast for Steve Lamacqs show, winning viewer's choice on MTV's Alternative Nation with their video for debut single, 'Killed It With My Bare Hands'

Their second single 'You Can Only Love Someone/Strachan' was nominated for Heineken/Hot Press Single of the Year and also turned up at No 20 in BBC guru John Peels Festive 50 for 1997. All this saw The Hitchers in buoyant mood for the recording of the important second studio album.

'For The Want Of Some Better TV', was released in May 1999. Learning from two years of extensive gigging, The Hitchers, played to their strengths on '...Better TV', going for the feel of an almost live album with most of the tracks recorded as performances in the studio with very few cluttering overdubs. The band recorded a set of stories about everyday shit, tasteful love songs like '(She Broke My Heart So I Ate Her)

Liver', the football frustrations of '4.30 ...Two Down' to the drunkard logic of 'One Last Song', all riding on groovy tunes.

The Hitchers broke up in 2001 but have played one gig at Christmas in Limerick every year since. The Limerick band were often commended for their sharp tongued lyrics, terrace chant chorus and fiery live performances and could name such luminaries as the late, great John Peel among their biggest fans (indeed John Peel was still playing The Hitchers on his BBC 1 show as recently as Summer 2004) and were described by Sir Bob Geldof as 'the best new Irish band I've heard in the last 20 years'. (Sir Bob has since covered 'You Can Only Love someone...' in his live set).

So, despite the inconvenience of being scattered across half of Western Europe the boys are dusting down their guitars, polishing the cymbals and warming up the amps to once more do their filthy do on Sunday,

December 26. It's just too much fun not to do it all again.

the hitchers play the warehouse on sunday, december 26. contact the warehouse on 061-314483 or log onto www.dolanspub.com for ticket enquiries or more details.



mafia | the bank | dec 23

WISE GUYS

covers bands are two a penny, but the original material of one limerick covers band found the ears of dave fanning and as a result, **mafia** might just be finding the ears of the rest of the country.

leg rides in the boot, beside the shovel

Mafia, it's more than a name, it's a philosophy. The fate of this Limerick based band seems to be intrinsically linked to Quinn's bar on Ellen St., much like the way all great bands start after drunken meanderings about the general state of the music scene.

Crippling poverty and a desire to meet loose hippy ladies were the catalyst, Brian Fitzgerald, Manolis Sheehan and Paulo Antonio were the ingredients. The band started playing in Daffy's, originally billed as Open Mic Night, but they quickly grew tired of this name and settled on Mafia. The name came about after the patrons of the bar termed the band Once Upon A Time In Mexico due to the suits they don for each live show, the bad attitude and the general swagger. Because of the way the band seemed to take over venues, they adopted the name Mafia.

The band began by playing songs that everyone knew such as those from The Kinks, REM, The Cure and Red Hot Chilli Peppers, quickly progressing to more ambitious songs such as those from The White Stripes, Green Day, Foo Fighters, The Darkness and The Police. The band began to play in different venues across the city such as Termites, Riddlers and Nevadas and are currently residing at the bank.

"The covers were always going to be a temporary thing", says lead singer Brian. The band have been writing their own original songs, planning to play as an original band in the new year. "We're going to be called 'Karma for Zara'", says guitarist Manolis. "The best way to describe the music would be as a product of our influences, bands such as Incubus, Staid, The Goo Goo Dolls and Stone Temple Pilots. We hope to have taken these and made our own collective mismatch."

The band have also been on the RTE TV series 'You're A Star', what started out as a laugh quickly became serious as they passed the Limerick audition and progressed onto a Fame Academy type week in Killarney. "I guess we learned a lot from that week and we were lucky to hook up with Dave Fanning who had great interest in our original stuff after we played a song for him" Brian says.

mafia play the bank on december 23. contact the bank on 061-481546 for more details.