

roger sanchez

trinity rooms | tuesday december 28



What happens to a city that has been deprived the big club night for so long? They go absolutely mental when one finally comes around. And what better time for the Superstar DJ Roger Sanchez to pay a visit, smack in between Christmas and New Years. Yes the scene has practically disappeared but you can always trust the Trinity Rooms to put on a good dance show when needs be. The Christmas rush was over and the good people of Limerick needed to let their hair down before the New Year. It was a guaranteed sell out and evidence of this was apparent in the packed Redroom nice and early. The pre party got well under way with DJ Mucka in the Redroom bar, where the ladies showed off their finery and the guys dressed in all the new gear from Santa. The style was smart and the music matched the funky theme of the night despite the bitter winter cold outside. It was access all areas and in the main club Mucka began the evening's proceedings setting the right pace of bouncy house, before Trinity resident Johnny The Bomb took over with his sexy energetic house vibes in tunes such as Montano v's the Trumpet man and Junior Jack Stupid Disco. Unlike most Superstar DJ's, Roger Sanchez was there from the start of the night to see and hear the atmosphere build before he sent the room into dance music mayhem, when he himself went on the wheels just before midnight. Mr.Sanchez in his typical dress of Kangol peak cap and silver drippings took space and drove the place mad with tracks that elevated the whole dance floor in unison; and even more so when the crowd heard a familiar tune that had been remixed by the man himself like Erik Morriolo's 'Strings of Light'. His encore, what else could it be but 'Another Chance' which sent every clubber in the place leaving singing the vocals. All in all success was reached on all levels and the general consensus being, that a night like that was well over due. Limerick has gotten a taste for it again and is awaiting yet another visit, even if it is only the superstar that can achieved the crowd pulling, we will settle for that. **leonie mc meel**

the hitchers

university concert hall | saturday, january 15



First off, the myth. Retired Limerick band The Hitchers came so close to hitting the big time that if they'd reached just a little more, they could probably have scratched the big times eyes out. Still not quite close enough to really hit the big time, but close enough to leave a substantial mark. Secondly, the truth. The Hitchers were a constant presence on the Limerick, and indeed Irish, music scene throughout all the trials, styles, fashions and fads of the 1990's. They released two LPs 'It's All Fun & Games 'Til Someone Loses An Eye' and 'For The Want Of Some Better TV' and a hatful of singles on a small local label called Murgatroid. Those releases and their raw, beer fuelled performances won them many friends here and abroad. They built a very loyal following locally and would have no problem conceding that this local support was an asset they had to sweat profusely to enable them to tour places like the UK where gigs can pay extremely poorly. They played many gigs in this region and it's that close relationship with their support at home which means that despite having disbanded in 2001, The Hitchers can still draw a crowd for an annual gig when they all come home for Christmas. Now the gig. It's Stephen's night in Dolan's Warehouse and that means The Hitchers are being taken out of their boxes and left to run wild for a while. Of course half of The Hitchers will perform twice tonight as Eric and Niall are nowadays to be seen trading their wares as The Pennywhores. Niall Quinn's new band may in places be slightly darker sounding than his old -but they have a similar knack for a good tune and plenty of energy even if the delivery is somewhat more staid than The Hitchers bouncing about the place. But they also seem to know that while they may be the ghost of The Hitchers future, it's the ghost of The Hitchers past and, for tonight only, present, that Joe Public has turned out in force to see. So tonight The Pennywhores set is a short, sharp shock of lively buzz saw guitar rock culminating in their recent debut single (and surprise radio hit -their words) 'Legalise Murder'. Ten minutes of near darkness later, the strains of Johnny Cash' 'Mercy Seat' fades, the big screen bearing images of The Hitchers from pre-pubescence to post-mortem is raised and the lads launch into 'She Broke My Heart So I Ate Her Liver'. The energy stays up through the next 90 minutes as folks edge closer to the front and some familiar old tunes are remembered, 'Killed It With My Bare Hands' sets them off a-pogo-ing, '4.30', 'Line Dance Final Massacre' and 'For the Want of Some Better TV' keeps them at it before 'Strachan' has some reaching for their lighters before deciding to sod the lighters and get back to the ruckus. Eoin, Benny, and Donnacha from the "original" Hitchers (Hitchers Mark 1 maybe?) come on and do their bit -with Eoin pleased to thank those in the front for lyrical prompts in 'Which Leg of a Chicken is More Tender?' Final substitute appearance of the night is from Frank Ryan as close to normal service is resumed and The Hitchers reach for the highest octane material on the last stretch. 'You Can Only Love Someone' sounds fresh as ever, 'Aryan Beach Party' 'Urge to Kill' and 'Wannabee' (best Hitchers non-single ever??) still blur the lines between thrash metal, pop and punk and 'U Can Du' is still a runaway train of an epic -given extra spice tonight by the addition of pennywhores sticks man Steven on percussion. An encore including 'Holy Spirit Level' and ABBA's 'Mama Mia' is this writer's highlight and when the entire cast are brought on for the 200mph dash through 'Get Rid of The Hitchers' you know that's that for another year. Back into their box with the Christmas lights, the decorations and the tree. Roll on Christmas 05. **andy mcginnis**