

one of that rare breed, moving from dublin to limerick rather than the other way round, daragh dukes has found the space where he makes his best music under the moniker of **headgear**. |

jody talks to the head of headgear

top gear

"headgear is mongrel music. it's a celebration of being a mongrel. it's not for thoroughbreds." So says the website of Daragh Dukes, better known on records as Headgear.

Dublin-born whimsical chameleon Daragh Dukes began recording his songs and music using the name Headgear around the turn of the century. His previous existence is difficult to trace, though a variety of press clippings place him on stage around Ireland and Europe throughout the nineties. "I've been writing music since I was a kid", he says of his music career, "I've been slow burning these ideas in my head for years now and I'm now making the music that I've always wanted to make. I've always had the same idea about how to make music", he says, "the idea is simple really, you take every piece of music you've ever heard and you twist it and blend it until you own it and then you tell your own story over what's left."

After several 7 inch vinyl releases, the first full length album, 'Headgear', was released in Ireland in 2004. The second album has been written and recording is scheduled to start late 2005.

The Headgear live show takes to the road again in September, and Daragh teams up with a fine collection of talents for live dates in Limerick, Galway and Dublin. "We're playing some mid-September shows to continue to promote the 'headgear' lp that was released late last year and has been slowly circulating to record shops around the country. We haven't used a distribution company at all so it's been a gradual process and a lot of people are getting to know the music through the old reliable word of mouth method, which is great. We've now developed a live act that moves from being quite mellow and introspective to being a very direct and swashbuckling experience. All of the samples, beats, guitars and voices are now merging really well and that has taken a lot of tinkering to get right." All this is in advance of the second Headgear album....."For the past few months, I've been busy writing a new album, which will be called 'Flight Cases'. It began with a few songs that happened to feature 'flying' in the lyrics and as I wrote more, it became, and I know how scary this might sound, a 'concept' album, because I just kept thinking of different angles on the subject of flying. I seem to have acquired a new issue with travelling by airplane over the past few years, in that I tend to get fairly anxious and a bit freaked out for some reason, the reason being pretty obvious to me.

Looking forward to the live dates, Daragh says "the up-coming live show will definitely include a couple of these new songs. We'll be doing a bunch of other gigs, radio and t.v. in various line-ups over the autumn and winter as we enjoy giving the songs and music different versions and new life and it gives us a shot at new venues and new audiences. The web site has a video, extra tunes, blurb etc.. and we welcome any friendly mail at marthadigs.com."

And that's that, a little piece of the Limerick underground delivered to your door.

headgear play the warehouse on september 16. contact the warehouse on 061-314483 or log onto www.dolanspub.com for more details.

ms. guided limerick

The diary of a normal girl getting to the corners we can't reach

The students are eagerly returning youthfully as ever to the beautiful Limerick! The look is back on the streets, dreads are fast becoming the standard hairstyle. The nights are already starting to grow shorter. And, well, what about me? What is to become of me? As I gaze out of my room window, peeping thru the curtains watching the idle students, giggling and laughing, hopeful on the fun they will have in the coming year.

I, on the other hand, have achieved my degree, finished with all the fun of under graduate education behind me! And I have also achieved my masters in book making! I have served my term and am due to give birth any day now. I didn't ask whether or not I am about to spawn a horse or a hound, I wanted it to be a surprise, you know, like life is a surprise. So my days and long nights of gambling are drawing to an end. And the dole line seems to be my future for the proceeding few weeks/ months.

Have I become an adult? As depressed as I was as a student, nothing was going to prepare me for this hellish nightmare. The high points of my days are sitting on the couch at night with my dude and agreeing that we don't like Lyons teabags and in future we will buy Barry's! Reality appears to me to become like one assumes as middle aged! I have always been frumpy, but this is bloody ridiculous.

Life is meant to start after college is it not, or is it an attitude, or just somewhere other than Limerick.

I used to have great fantasizes about leaving the Sex and the City lifestyle, losing and leaving half my body behind me, partying with celebrated artists and musicians, living life bold and boisterous. Tripping and whizzing thru my twenties whilst also being able to manage to make money and make Art. Now, middle-aged reality has kicked in, well premature middle aged twenties, I sit in front of the telly with my guy next to me discussing tea and watching bbc 4 documentaries on football, at least some have socio political subject matter or I doubt I would remember what thought was. In all fucking fairness, Germaine Greer wrote the Female Eunuch about women like me, and I am sure if it was different times, she would have mentioned me by name perhaps even dedicated the book to me! Ah well, time to finish, need to go find a beautician as I don't care. But I need my face hair removed by the professionals as its just going beyond a joke at this stage. Dreads may be wore on the head but its really not cool on the face of a woman. And only Antony from bb6 can carry off eyebrows of that value!