

shows we've done. So we're looking forward to getting there, it's gonna be a new one for us. We haven't played Ireland much, it's just been Dublin that we've played.

JR: Okay. Tell me, how did the band form? And where did the name come from?

VDL: Well, I decided to come up to Milwaukee to go to university. I spent a couple of years here and then decided to audition for a theatre company here in town called Theatre X. They were auditioning for a replacement for the actor Willem Dafoe. So I was auditioning to replace him when I got a call to come into the theatre. Willem went out to New York of course to film, fortune and fame. At the same time I got to know Brian

just made up off the top of his head. And it stuck, because then he came over to my apartment and said "Victor, what do you think if we have a band some day we could just call it the Violent Femmes?" So that's really how it started...

JR: You've been around for quite a while...

VDL: Yeah 25 years! Isn't it amazing when you think of these bands that came up at the same time and now they don't exist. Maybe once in a while they'll get together and have a reunion show to try and make some money. But I think we're one of the few that's still around that has been playing all along.

JR: What do you attribute your longevity to?

VDL: Well, having good songs, having a unique stage presence, and also, musically we get to improvise. That keeps us young in front of the audience. We're not just playing those same songs verbatim, we can improvise and give new life to those songs from night to night. And also go off on weird tangents that other bands just can't do.

internal conflict right now that's happening with Gordon, where he's a little reticent to write new material. The last few experiences the guys had making records for record companies were really bad. I was out of the band for about 9 years when that happened.

JR: Why did you leave the band?

VDL: Well, I just got out of the band at a point where it only made sense for me to do so. Otherwise it would've led to total disillusionment, and a dissolve. The band probably would have ended had I stayed. But I think by me leaving it (it sounds strange to say it this way) it ensured that the band would live on. But now having been back in the band for close to 4 years I think we're better now than we were at the beginning.

Everybody's trying to find their way, everybody wants to make a living at what they do. I don't really cast aspersions on anyone. I like it when people are successful. I'm always looking for new impetus, for things that make me feel 16 again. So you can grab inspiration from anybody; my inspiration happens

around the world and I can take this music and make it mean something to somebody else. There's certain people that I still have cult adoration for and I think it's a wonderful thing.

JR: Finally, do you have a message for your Limerick fans or prospective fans ahead of the gig?

Yes. I'm sure that when we do arrive in the fantastically green and loving countryside of Limerick, hopefully Gordon will have two or three saucy limericks to relate to our audience, laughs...

violent femmes play trinity rooms on february 23. call trinity rooms on 061-41177 or log onto www.trinityrooms.ie for further details.

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magic numbers

with the release of a quality debut record, both in terms of music and artwork, **22** have their eyes on the prize and their gear on the dock road stage | mark o'connor counts on his fingers

There comes a time in the life cycle of a band where they either die or get serious. All bands are valid. Most die, unappreciated. **22** are getting serious.

Under the guise of Mockery records, Limerick's newest record label, **22** are to unleash their new album 'The Cultural Coupon'. **3** years in the making, it is the best Irish album ever.

You'll be reading all about how great that album is in rave reviews soon enough in the press. Right now we're here to talk about **22** the band. Friday night, February 24th in Dolan's, the launch party that will change the face of Limerick Rock and Roll forever.

There have been lots of great Limerick bands. **22** are great and have made a great album that we think Limerick people should hear.

Aaah, when I think of the onstage memories! Experiments in blue paint; Sandwich bikinis;

Molten burnt out dismembered teddy bears; Pissing into a flask/full frontal nudity; The cover of 'Scoff' with the vocal line lasting past when the guitars finish. **22** playing the Shannon antiwar gig with rain descending on amps, as the sizeable PA struggled to contain their deranged audio explosions with gathered crowds giggling while trying to comprehend this impossible audio/live experience.

To make any appreciable impact on popular culture, as **22** are surely destined to do, Mockery records is releasing this, their first release nationwide through RMG distribution. To this end Mockery have just welcomed aboard the great Tom Prendergast, the Limerick man who has been to the mountain top, and seen good work done in rock and roll record making through his great Bar None Record label, based in New Jersey, releasing records by They Might Be Giants, Tindersticks, Yo La

Tengo, Esquivel and others. Much love to our Outonalimb brothers who have been most helpful in the "been there done that" experience action department.

You ask, what will the launch gig be like? Think rum, coke, sodomy, hash and the lash.

Think Need New Body not on mushrooms. Think Michael McDowell almost telling the young people of Ireland that it's ok to possess hash. Think that part of The Doors film where Nico comes along and grabs Jim in an interesting place. Think McGyver!, THINK! Think burnt out teddy bears, think tour films, think gonzo journalism and ashes out of cannons, think swans dangling by their necks, think scorpions in the chom-sky with roses. What the hell does it all mean? It means buy the album when it comes out Feb 17th. Come along to Dolan's Feb 24th and find out more. See you there. Happy days

22 play the warehouse on february 24. call the warehouse on 061-314483 or log onto www.dolanspub.com, www.twentytwo.com or www.theamc.net for further details.