

+ FEEL THE REVERBERATIONS

LOCAL BAND PROFILE ; REVERB

reverb | high stool | jan 26

Reverb are a 4-piece Limerick covers band who've been going about 10 years now. LEG talked to their drummer Brian to find out a little bit about them.

LEG: As someone who hasn't heard ye guys yet, how would you describe what Reverb do; what type of music do ye play?

Brian: Well I suppose you'd call it Classic Rock; Deep Purple, Thin Lizzy, Lynrd Skynrd, Cream, Pink Floyd. We play some blues influenced music too, like Gary Moore and Rory Gallagher - we're strictly a covers band. We play regular gigs in the High Stool once a month, and will be in the Savoy Bar fairly soon too.

Is it tough for live rock bands playing this type of music to get gigs?

A lot of teenagers and smaller kids are into the charts but I'd say people from mid-twenties up would enjoy our gigs. We're big rock fans and we wanted to put something together using the music we enjoy playing ourselves, and there aren't actually a lot of bands out there playing this type of music.

I was going to ask if you enjoy playing all the songs in the set, or do you feel if something pops up in the charts you're obliged to cover it?

If someone like Lenny Kravitz released a really rocking tune next week and we all loved it, then we would. But we wouldn't play something because it was number one,

we'd play it because we loved it. There are so many bands that look really bored on stage, as if they're thinking 'O God, I'm at work!..' If you come to see us at one of our gigs, it's just the four of us having fun, being as precise as we can but not taking ourselves too seriously. For instance we get dressed up when we play at Halloween, again just to have a bit of crack - this year we had Village People costumes on and played a gig as a Metallica tribute! It was tough getting those songs right but we really enjoyed that.

Is there a certain type of gig that ye enjoy playing the best?

We've done a lot of biker rallies and you mightn't think it, but they're the most organised events you'll ever be to. 99 times out of a 100 they're very well run, the crowd are basically all crazy music fans, they want to hear the Rolling Stones or T-Rex, more of them want to hear Metallica which we also play. In Limerick, The High Stool has been good to us, its brought back a bit of a live scene. In the past, we would have played Baker Place a lot. Cork and Tralee can be pretty cool too, same with Galway; especially Roisin Dubh's it's a great rock pub.

Reverb play the High Stool once every three weeks and a quick phone call there would confirm exactly when their next date is. They come across as a group of music fans who thoroughly enjoy what they're doing and view this as a lot more than merely a way to make a quick Euro.

Forget everything you perceive about djing because Aran McMahon follows his own rules.

From a base on the Headford side of Galway he gathers thoughts, collects records and creates awe-inspiring club nights both as a dj and a promoter. Aran's basic modus operandi hasn't changed since the days of the legendary 'Feet First' club which he set up with good friend Rory Kavanagh. His sets are still as varied as possible, varying from funky house and hip-hop/beats to funk, latin and rare grooves - Whatever, as long as its got soul.

Aran is probably best known for his 6 year residency at the recently demised and much missed Jazz Juice session at Galway's GPO. The reasons for its longevity are obvious if you'd ever been there. Jazz Juice was a joyous haven of quality tunes, some so fresh they were only ripening, some forgotten classics Aran had lovingly coaxed back onto his turntables. A mash up of good music from all over the world with an avoidance of the same beat all night - after that there are no rules. Whether in his djing or the way Jazz Juice used guest djs, Aran has managed to mix it all up with a complete lack of pretentiousness which fine people like Giles Peterson, Norman Jay, Andy Smith, Harvey, Ashley Beedle, Donal Dineen, Aim and Ben Wilcox have all been party to.



dj profile

soul clinic resident

+ aran mcmahon

His new residency is a Friday night called Shake which he's just recently launched in Galway's Bar Cuba - a bar with dancing and a house party atmosphere with a soundtrack of soul, funk, boogaloo, disco and songs with words in them. Ray Havana is also resident alongside Aran. At the moment Aran also finds time for Funk off at Dublin's RiRa every Thursday, Soul Clinic appointments in Dublin and Limerick plus a monthly Friday at Brown sugar with Stevie G in Dublin's Kitchen.

Plans for this year include the making one of Aran's famous CD mix compilations into a legit album release with Soul Clinic and recording new tracks with Dextris Don, Cyril Briscoe. Aran somehow also manages to write for Magpie magazine, complete a masters in computers (on top of his law degree) and be a proud slipmat wielding dad to Rory (who is currently taking bookings).

aran plays soul clinic, the thursday night club in dolan's warehouse, on thursday jan 24 and again at the clinic's second birthday party on feb 28.