

# THE ACID TEST

A new creative force in the Limerick music scene launches from Baker Place

With so much great new music being produced in Limerick and in the greater Irish scene, a new forum for homegrown talent has appeared. The two-pronged approach has been developed by local musician Nick Carswell, and encompasses a new indie radio show "The West Indie Hour" on West Limerick 102FM, and a series of gigs run in the premium venues Limerick has to offer, under the banner of Elective Productions.

"I've always enjoyed radio, so after some volunteer work in West Limerick 102 they were kind enough to give me an hour on a Sunday to showcase some of the great music I've been hearing on Myspace and other places," says Nick. "I also have plenty of friends who are keen to bring their music to a new audience, so the idea of live gigs was quite a natural one. We're delighted to be welcoming The Acid Test for the first of these."

As well as presenting a radio show and organizing gigs, Nick Carswell is a musician in his own right. Playing with his band, "The Elective Orchestra" the group have already shared stages with such noted artists as David Geraghty, Juno Falls, Luan Parle and Headgear, and are fast developing a reputation for stellar performances. "For a final twist on the usual gig," explains Nick, "we hope to develop a collaborative element where visiting acts can use members of The Elective Orchestra to add to their sound. This can aid musicians who for practical reasons cannot easily bring backing such as strings player on tour with them. It works out well for everyone involved, and adds to the uniqueness of the event." In line with this, Nick will be guesting as bass player for The Acid Test in March.

The Acid Test are Richie Kelly, Aidan O'Brien, Daire McCoy & Marmite Benito and hail from the musical and cultural metropolis of Mullingar. Their music has been described as a combination of guitar music and electro beats with hues of abstract

electronica and krautrock welded to mighty 4/4 dance grooves. Influenced by everyone from Faust to Fourtet and Radiohead to Rachmaninoff, The Acid Test are a thrilling combination of melody and style that leave audiences begging for more.

Despite playing music for years, both together and in other projects, it wasn't until Richie and Aidan started to work on a new project in October 2006, which involved a more electronic sound and approach, that The Acid Test began to take shape. The fledgling two piece took a few steps out into the world but decided that a certain something was missing. That came in the form of lead guitarist Daire, always a good man to jump on a bandwagon, who joined and over the coming months the band developed and refined their increasingly unique sound.



Last year brought a measure of success to them in the form of a number of high profile gigs, which included support slots over the year to bands like Delorentos, Channel One and The Flaws. They also played with Nina Hynes as part of the IMRO showcase gig in the midlands and with Dave Geraghty, Concerto for Constantine and Ham Sandwich on the Mullingar leg of the 2fm2moro2our. Recently they have been joined by their newest member, Mgoogoo Bloverfield, who plays theremin, glockenspiel and synth as well as pitching in with some backing vocals when the humor takes him.

The band's sound is created by combining elements of both new and old musical equipment and techniques. So while some of the sounds are generated using cutting edge modular wavetable synthesizers, other sounds are created on 1970's analogue synthesizers and drum machines. Others instruments such as the ebow, the theremin, the melodica and interesting guitar effects, all lend to the uniqueness of the band's sound.

Things have been quiet on the gig front over the past couple of months as the lads have been working on new material for an EP they are recording in early May. After a successful run-out on BalconyTV and the upcoming gig in Bakers Place on Friday March 28, it's off to Data Recording Studios in Tralee, a residential studio where the lads will record over four days with the help of Ross O'Donovan in the producer/engineer chair. Following the EP recording, a series of nationwide dates have been planned to promote it. Join The Acid Test with Nick Carswell and the Elective Orchestra in Baker Place Friday March 28 and help support the launch of a new music night in the city.

For more info log onto [myspace.com/gigtown](http://myspace.com/gigtown) or [www.myspace.com/westindiehour](http://www.myspace.com/westindiehour)