

Out on a Limb Records turned 5 and are throwing a party and you're invited | Emma O'Brien gets the details from Ciarán Ryan and Richard Bourke

# LIMBER UP



Out On A Limb Records (OOAL) are a Limerick based, independent record label who celebrated five years of success in July but true to form they have postponed the revelry until November 21st. Having spent the last five years trying to work to schedule and invariably failing to do so they have aptly named the celebrations, "Five Years of Missed Deadlines."

OOAL formed back in 2003 when Richard Bourke and Albert Twomey decided to take Limerick's very own GiveAManaKick under their wing and help them release their first album, "Is it OK to be loud, Jesus?" After barely scraping through the release, along came the third cog of the OOAL wheel, Ciarán Ryan. He enthusiastically offered his services in a beer haze and it has paid off.

OOAL have worked with Waitingroom and GiveAManaKick in the past and are currently working with Rest, Ten Past Seven, Crayonsmith and Hooray for Humans. Initially, the trio took a basic approach to setting up the label. They tried to get funds together to move ahead with their plans, they scouted around to see who was offering the best deal for duplication of the c.d

and distribution was carried out by the boys themselves. Richard said of these times: "There was no getting accountants or registering or anything like that, it was more of a 'put your money where your mouth is' situation and just putting out the c.d. It was all D.I.Y at the very start, there was no distribution."

Without distribution, OOAL were limited in where they could sell their records. During this period, they were approached by Vital who were interested in distributing for them. "It was only when the Waitingroom boys came along (a Cork based band) that Vital showed an interest in us." Eventually there were new rules to play by according to Vital- they were no longer distributing for labels who weren't releasing in the UK as well as Ireland. However, being as savvy as they are, OOAL procured distribution through leading indie distributors RMG. Ciarán said, "I know when the label started it was a little bit more D.I.Y than it is now, I still think we are a very D.I.Y label but before RMG it was literally walking into independent music stores and asking them to take five or 10 copies."

OOAL have put on some great shows in Limerick to date in the Highstool and Dolan's. In the last few years finding venues to host their gigs has proven difficult and it seems that no matter what they do that sometimes people just can't be pleased. "Too many places have closed. Baker Place has opened it up again in the last year or two but a lot of places don't want to put on the shows or want to charge you too much money to have a gig there" said Richard.

Ciarán also added "In 1999 I came to Limerick and started college. Richard and Albert were heavily involved in the AMC at the time and I went to a lot of their gigs. I remember during my final year of college checking out three really amazing gigs all in one week for a fiver each. People talk about recessions and economics and bubbles bursting, what goes up has to come down eventually. It has happened in other cities too. There was a lull but there just aren't enough venues".

Despite this, OOAL find that there are some venues who have been very supportive such as Dolan's Upstairs. They find the sound

quality is always great and the venue itself a haven for great gigs. Which brings us about to 'Five Years of Missed Deadlines.' Tickets are already on sale for a mere 10 bucks and all their wonderful bands, including a very special appearance from Giveamanakick who are taking a stroll down acoustic avenue, will be rocking the night away in what they hope will be a sweaty night of dancing and celebration.

There is a big possibility that there will be some lovely free wine and food available on the night for all who attend. Yum. And if that doesn't inspire you to make a night of it then the prospect of all three boys spinning some wonderful and eclectic tunes to round off the festivities should have you dialing or logging on to book your tickets.

Out on A Limb Records '5 Years of Missed Deadlines' Birthday Celebrations with GiveAManAKick, Rest, Crayonsmith, Hooray for Humans, Ten Past Seven and Windings runs Upstairs in Dolan's on Friday November 21st.

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