

First On the Guestlist...

Brad Pitt Light Orchestra



Brad Pitt Light Orchestra offer a style of music that's as classy as a Cuban cigar and as captivating as watching a full-scale orchestra. Founding members Ann and David Blake, who both provide vocals, started the band in 2006, and a recent Hot Press review described their debut album 'Lowering the Tone' as "Arresting musicality coupled with a dark, dry wit". 2008 saw BPLO crafting two EP's; 'Fireside Chat' and 'Small Contradictions', which caught the immediate attention of Today FM DJs and music gurus Alison Curtis and more recently Paul McLoone. The success of the (mostly) Limerick outfit has also caught the attention of other 2FM music moguls such as Dan Hegarty and Tom Dunne with BPLO's music finding a cosy home on the national airwaves of both 2FM and Today FM ..

We Should be Dead



The tongue-in-cheek bubblegum-pop of the unusually named 'We Should Be Dead' demos a Limerick talent that's hard to ignore. Gaining critical acclaim from their infectious melody-laden debut album, followed by a successful year in the US, perseverance has paved the way to their recent stature as one of Munster's premier indie-pop acts. WSBD, from the day they formed, went from strength to strength and the end result was the critically acclaimed album 'Forget Romance, Let's Dance'. The beginning of 2010 saw the introduction of two new band members to WSBD, and a sound with bigger production and more adventure, all the while maintaining their pop principles. Of late, the band have recently been announced on the 2010 Hard Working Class Heroes line up and have set about on a tour that covers the whole country conclusively.

Walter Mitty & The Realists



Perhaps one of Ireland's best kept secrets, the explosive Walter Mitty & The Realists deliver a mixture of funk, indie and outer space mayhem that's made the band's genre tough to pin down. The band originally began as a three piece in 2005 with Niall McTaidhg (Guitar, lead vocals), Paul O'Shaughnessy (Percussion) & Colin Bartley (Bass guitar, double bass) and they quickly gathered momentum by doing live sessions with 2FM, eventually making their way onto bills in prestigious competitions such as Murphy's Live and Hard Working Class Heroes. The winning of Indie Week Canada as well as the addition of Niall's brother Conor McTaidhg to the band saw the four piece harness their ability and put themselves in line for the acclaimed debut album, Green Light Go!

Someone Else's LEG



This month's feature writer, the Limerick Leader's Alan Owens, runs his hand up & down 9 years of the LEG.

Tasked with writing a lovely tribute to this stupendous magazine, I was initially quite wary. "I'm not the man for the job" I wailed, before pausing and considering that, well, I have been reading this rag, sorry mag, for each and every one of the last nine years, and did spend a glorious twelve months as an editorial contributor under the stern gaze of the delightful Ms Zoe several years ago.

In fact, while still caged in the towering and elegant blocks of the University of Limerick, I was invited to begin writing for Le LEG on a regular basis with little (or no) experience in such a task, so you could say, as Jody constantly reminds me, that this magazine helped me start my career, which has led me to my present occupation. Thanks!

Seriously, I can remember being a miserable, whippet faced second year student in UL, discovering that the many and beguiling goings on in Limerick City were actually being regularly documented by the Limerick Event Guide, a memorable turning point in my burgeoning social life. All of a sudden I became aware that my home city actually had a music/arts/ents scene that was worth checking out, and in turn documenting, and I have been a regular and dedicated gig-goer ever since.

Started in late 2001 so Jody could tell the city about his regular Soul Clinic nights in Dolan's, the magazine has become a touchstone for both the mainstream and alternative in Limerick equally over the course of an impressive nine years in operation, providing news, reviews, interviews for both upcoming and established bands, artists, poets, actors and more, as well as providing the sometime editor with a space to launch his (quite regular) polemics.

Of course the magazine has changed size and shape over the years, but has retained a genius combination of wit, acceptance for all sectors and communities and an eye for the up-and-coming that few others provide. On my return to this city in late 2006 from a period abroad, I was delighted to find that the magazine was still in existence and indeed flourishing. There was a sense then, and now, that the magazine was capturing a zeitgeist, a weird feeling that there was something going on in our little city here, and to hell with the rest of them in Dublin, Galway, Cork, we were staying put, and happy to be here.

Ok, we have gone through some tough times in Limerick, with more to come, but a free magazine with a regular circulation in the 6,000-plus category is essential to the survival of any kind of scene we might have in our fair city. And it is a bustling, healthy, happy, active and eclectic scene at that, let me say that loud and proud.

Let's see Le LEG keep going for another nine years, and beyond. And keep the rants coming, we love 'em so. Happy Birthday.