

mammadoo



Just Mammadoo it!!

Eugene Coffey interviews the Limerick based Band who specialise in Jazz and refuse to be associated with the word rock....

"We're not a rock band" Shane Collins, guitarist and songwriter of Limerick group, Mammadoo, asked not to be misunderstood after an hour and a half long interview, "We're a jazz band and jazz needs to be tight"

As if to prove this, he began strumming the intro to the first of ten songs, with bass courtesy of Ronan Hayes coming in a few seconds later and vocals being supplied by Imelda, Shane's Wife.

Describing their music isn't easy without enlisting the assistance of that dreaded "R" word. It's got a pronounced natural acoustic feel and does indeed have jazz elements. It has technical intricate yet lightweight composition. I shyly enquired whether they would identify the Cardigans with themselves, fully expecting a torrent of artistic indignation. Imelda, however wasn't offended; "I guess we would be easy listening".

Shane agreed that the group has a retro feel to it but put it in context - "We go back to Bette Midler and further back to thirties Jazz" He strummed a chord and elaborated "That's E - Whether you're playing Country and Western, Jazz or heavy metal; its always E. Mozart used E. You can't create much new movements. So everything is retro."

"In the sixties a trend lasted 5 years. New age

...continued

with 'Smokers Delights' released in the summer of 95. A wicked working of okey dokey beats. This album was true to its title an album for the herbalist, it contains the classic tunes 'Mission Venice' an up-beat journey threw the valleys of Narnia, 'Stars' which takes on the hip-hop feel and drifts in and out between the floating clouds which cover the concrete urban jungle and the opening delight of 'Night Intrlude' with a sample of 'Summer In The City' by Quincy Jones, a gem to grace the beginning of any journey in to the delights which smokers delight holds for you. Its just one of those albums for them late late nights after that classic nights where own world domination plan has finally worked. Just remember at the end of the day 'Hip-Hop' is 'Hip Hop'!, thankyou E.A.S.E. The CD 'Smokers Delight' can be purchased on Warp records.

music changes with the technology. It's changed from acid to house to handbag to techno to rave. Things are going in and out of fashion a lot quicker. I'd like Mammadoo to ignore that"

The group are considering expanding their line up, but enlisting a clarinet, saxophone or keyboard player brings with it an extra member to payroll and another person to be educated to the sound of Mammadoo.

The bands influences are not immediately apparent in their music. Shane cited Bob Marley and the Pixies as artists he admired because "they turned music on its head" When the band started in late 1995, he went through a period of not listening to the radio as " a groove had to be found before we could continue" He explained and played a few bars.

"On it's own that's just a jingly - jangly guitar"

He nodded towards Ronan and played the same intro this time with bass and vocals " I couldn't survive without the band and they couldn't survive without me"

The interview officially ended here, but as I collected my equipment and began to decipher my substandard shorthand, Shane said "C'mon we'll play you some tunes" and they did.



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