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alternative nation

"RE-COOPER-ATED"

Ronan Hennessy talks to local band "Mysteries End" in the return of the Limrock profiles.

In the insane clash of entities that is "Limrock" only those most enduring and progressive come to mind. "Mysteries End" are a band who suitably fit this category. In a truthful analysis their music maybe too distinct for a self contented local



music scene. They are destined for much greater things. The original line up of the band was formed in early '95 with Gary Cooper on vocals. Their present vocalist and former guitarist Steve Fitz tells me that they originally started with a melodic metal sound and following this, a string of early successes including reaching the semi-final of a local band competition. They promptly recorded their first demo in Xeric studios during the Summer of '96 with everyone contributing to the bass tracks due to the absence of a bass player. Possibly their greatest achievement though was the recording in Dublin of their perennial epic "Starscorned" included on the Irish metal compilation. This release gave the band the desired exposure which they backed up with a promotional gig in Dublin venue, Slattery's where Steve explains they were very well received. That was a hectic day for the band with appearances in both Limerick and Dublin. They started with the music expo in Arthur's Quay Park joined by over twenty other Limerick bands. These events were to be a turning point for the band who realised their true potential would be found in a change of style. The departure of Gary Cooper meant Steve Fitz became the band's vocalist. The current line-up is as follows, Steve Fitz is on vocals, Alan O'Connell on guitar, Sean O'Brien on bass and Keith McCoy on drums.

Steve attributes the diverse musical influences, ranging from Faith No More to Cannibal Corpse, to the line-up change. It would therefore be difficult to pigeon hole the band's music due to the many complexities involved, but somehow I would describe it as improvised, operatic metal.

There are however many certainties about the band, for example their music's intoxicating nature and also the fact that their drummer Keith McCoy is without exaggeration one of the best drummers I have ever seen or heard perform.

As well as older songs such as "Starscorned" and "My Velvet Creation" their current repertoire includes new songs like the powerful "Cutting Edge" and even a few acoustic numbers such as "Sometimes". With this whole new element a successful comeback seems assured when they play Costelloe's on Wednesday, July 8th. "My Friend Judas", playing as support should make the night a worthy of a mark in your diary.

"As far as playing in Limerick, you're pretty limited", says Steve, "There is definitely a lack of proper venues, bands should be

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catered for more professionally"

Judging by their musical credentials alone and not on any other pretence, this Mysteries End gig is not to be missed by any self-respecting music lover. The band intend to record the performance for demo purposes. They will try and capture the essence of live performances on the recording - something that is difficult to convey in studio demos. This should help bring increased recognition of the band's progression since the advent of new material and the recent line-up change.

"Limrock" continues, so catch it while it's hot.

Mysteries End play with My Friend Judas, July the eighth at Costelloe's. Admission is free and the doors open at eight o'clock.

If you are in a local band and would like to be included in the "Limrock" profiles send information, contact numbers and /or a demo for the band to DROP Magazine 67-68 Catherine Street Limerick.

SOUND MARKS OF THE NINETIES

The first of a number of features on essential releases of the 1990's by Ollie Gleeson.....



CRACKER : KEROSENE HAT.

When David Lowery's 'Camper Van Beethoven' crashed on tour in 1989, he needed a new vehicle to carry his skewed philosophy to the world. To this end he set up Cracker with his long time friend John Hickman. From 1992 to 1996 they released three albums: Cracker, Kerosene Hat and The Golden Age but in a sense Cracker's 'golden age' arrived with the release of Kerosene Hat.

Lowery never lost the eccentricities of his Camper Van days and this is obvious by the fact that this CD carries an amazing 99 tracks, most of which however consist only of three seconds of silence. Lost amongst the static is track 88, Eurotrash Girls, with a wit and a chorus which will stay with you long after Pee Pee and Poo Poo have gone to bed. The two singles "Low" and "Get Off This" along with the caustic "Movie Star" are grunge laden and paranoid yet rest comfortably alongside the infectious country nonsense of "Sweet Potato" and the epic guitar ballad "I Want Everything" (what Counting Crows' Walkaways would sound like if they ever finished it.) Throw in a Grateful Dead cover i.e. "Loser" and a 40 second slice of distortion i.e. Hi-Desert Biker Meth Lab (basically some nutter with a hammer who falls asleep!) and you have one of the most essential albums of the Nineties. (U)