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Limerick Musicians getting out there and getting it on .....

Contrary to popular belief the Limerick Music Scene is thriving. In the last number of months a whole range of Limerick outfits have taken the bold step of independently releasing their own music. The type of music's played ranges from soft rock to house and trad to death metal, but each band has the common factors of being from this city and being rather good.

So here they are the bright young things, Next Cranberries???, Try next Beatles mate!!!!

## Radars

This Issues cover stars and with good reason, Radars have the potential to become Limerick's biggest export since Ranks stopped making flour. Combining dance floor know how with live instrumentation and a persuasive live presence, this foursome evoke touches of Portishead & Massive Attack while making your head nod and feet tap like Roni Size's Reprazent and make you want to boogie like David Morales is in the mix.

Radars is made of four core players, Tony Roche, long time club percussionist and veteran of many's a tour, Jenny McCarthy, breathy, dreamy vocalist with a mesmerising live stage presence, Fergal O'Neill, in house engineer at Xeric Studios and all round technical wizard and Graham O'Sullivan, classically trained musician and main man on the keyboards, with a host of contributors from vocalists to DJ's involved in both their recording work and live performances. Their first release Shine garnered interest from Bjorks label One Little Indian as well as Sony and a host of Irish labels and was spun by everybody from Mickey Mac to Donal Dineen on national radio.

A couple of storming live gigs at Skint and the IMRO Showcase in the Gallery showed they could transfer and add a whole new dimension to their studio output and people like Bass Odyssey, Johnny Moy and Glen Brady began to express interest in remixes. Meanwhile the band kept up a hectic studio schedule and emerge this week with the rather excellent second Ep "Perfect Day".

Altogether more polished than "Shine", "Perfect Day" covers all bases from the dance floor to living room and has already created interest amongst UK labels Nude and Mute.

But enough hard sell, this band doesn't need it, just get out there and buy "Perfect Day" or check out the Radars Release party with very special guest dj comin atcha real soon.

**Into 1999:** Just look at the track record so far, these guys and girl have got to go supersonic, I mean if Mariah Carey can sell 50 million albums.....

## Fiona MacMahon

Long time stalwart of the Limerick live scene Fiona MacMahon recently released her third EP "Guitar" which has brought her music to the national airwaves once again. Fiona has been in music since 1992 when she played in "Soup Fiction" a band that enjoyed success touring with the likes of Mary Coughlan, Mick Hanley and Del Amitri despite an ever changing line-up! She tours the US regularly and is just back from the IMRO Song Writing Event in Killarney were she collaborated with the likes of Jimmy Mc Carthy, her collaboration with whom has already been played on 2fm.

**Into 1999:** Fiona is set to build on the success of her solo work and is bound to clinch a publishing deal very shortly.

## The Hitchers

You know the score on these lads, if you're anywhere between 16 and 30, you've been to one of their gigs, as a five piece, a four piece, a three piece and now once again a fun foursome, the Hitchers provided a soundtrack to teenage life in Limerick for a whole generation and nobody knew why they never went massive. Now eight years on, rather than growing boring and middle aged like most of their contemporaries, the Hitchers are still the coolest kids on the block, John Peel loves 'em. They sell out every gig they play in London, they rocked the Phoenix festival and they actually manage to make singing drummers acceptable. Their new single "Can't breathe in outer space" is top of Bob Geldof's playlist on his Virgin Radio show and set to make them stars. Fabian Four we salute you!

**Into 1999:** Heading back to cover the English indie circuit and solidify their growing fan base and extend their world wide cult.



Figment

## Tooth

Although not mentioned in the World-wide Atlas of Rock, the quiet suburb of Parteen has in fact so far produced Cranberry Fergal Lawlor and the noisefest that is Tooth.

Having been around the last year or so, a steady stream of packed out gigs culminated in them being the first original Limerick band in years to pack out a large venue. Their Warehouse gig to launch their Sunday Songs cassette showed just how popular they are.

And it's not just in this neck of the woods that they're well regarded with rock bible Metal Hammer describing them as "imaginative, varied, and well worth checking out".

**Into 1999:** Ploughing a quite specialised musical furrow the Tooth boys are loud proud and liable to rise to the top of the metal tree.

## Figment

Although set firmly in cruise mode at the moment due to the insistence of the Department of Education and it's exams policy, Figment for all their youth are probably the most widely known of these bands outside Limerick. Winners of the Sony New Band Competition while only 15, they came third in the internationally regarded Heineken Green Energy competition and played almost every major venue in the country, before they even released their first single. Seemed to loose momentum over the summer but with serious airplay and gigging experience behind them and a whole album mixed and in the bag, watch these boy go from next June.

**Into 1999:** Album done and dusted, and bound to keep their hands in with the odd live gig between terms.

## Catcher

Were winners of a recent unplugged competition that was judged by a number of musical gurus who voted them top dogs. The band hold regular gigs in Limerick's pubs and have recently recorded and extended EP entitled "Eight Hours with Catcher" which has five tracks and the main single out of it is "Silent Steps". The EP should be released this side of Christmas will bring them into the ranks of those already mentioned.

Many other bands are currently persuing full and partime careers in making music in Limerick city. The bands mentioned are just a sample of these. An indication of the talent at work in Limerick.....so watch this space for further details. 

