

Entertainment

Something to crow about

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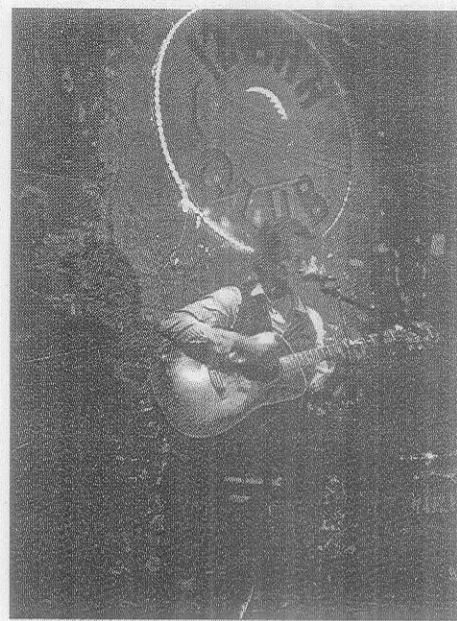
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Views from Limerick Post music blog with Eric FitzGerald

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Mark O'Connor



ACTOR/musician Mark O'Connor, pictured here at his recent gig at The 12 Bar Club in London, will be one of 15 Limerick creatives paying tribute to the life and career of Richard Harris at Loft Venue this Thursday October 25. It is the 10th anniversary of the passing of legend Richard St John Harris and the celebration will be presented by The Little Apple and Bottom Dog Theatre Company. Upstairs at Locke Bar. *****

FMC Tour



We Cut Corners is part of this year's FMC tour.

AS First Music Contact (FMC) is doing the annual tour, this year's featuring We Cut Corners, Squarehead, The Lost Brothers and a local act to be announced. The tour rolls into Dolan's on November 3. With funding from The Arts Council's Touring and Dissemination of Work Scheme, the previous tours in 2010 and 2011 were a massive success. FMC works with artists both at home and on the international stage through various projects and this FMC tour is an opportunity to showcase some standout Irish talent.

Squarehead have released two singles on The Richter Collective including the perfect indie pop song Midnight Enchilada. The band was invited to Eurosonic festival in the Netherlands as well as SXSW in Texas and performed at this year's Electric Picnic.

The Lost Brothers recorded their third album in Nashville at the studios of Brendan Benson's (The Raconteurs).

We Cut Corners was nominated for a Choice Music Prize for the critically acclaimed debut album 'Today I Realised I Could Go Home Backwards' released in November 2011. If you like Villagers and adored The Pixies, you gotta check out this duo. The FMC tour hits Dolan's on Saturday November 3.

LIMERICK'S Windings has just released a third album 'I am Not The Crow'. Windings was originally the solo project of Stephen Ryan, one half of Giveamanakick. The debut album was a compilation of recordings that showed the songwriter's wide range and potential and by the time 'It's Never Night' came, Windings was a full band and a compelling live act. These days the line-up is completed by Liam Marley (bass), Patrick O'Brien (keys), Michael Gavin (guitar) and Brian Meaney (drums), and 'I Am Not The Crow' is Windings' best record yet.

More than one year was spent on the recording of 'I Am Not The Crow', its A-side recorded in Montreal's Hotel2Tango studio and the B-side in Donegal. It is the sound of a band that has played together for years and focused on making an album by which they can stand for all time. Stephen Ryan talked to Limerick Post taking a look at the making of 'I Am Not The Crow' track by track.

Only released a week, reaction to the record has been good so far according to Stephen: "It's not an album full of pop songs and people seem to be sitting down and listening, which is great."

Windings' third album starts off with a statement of intent, courage and conviction. The opening track **Sun in my Bones** clocks in at eight minutes with a long guitar solo, the kind of track that would be left towards the end of any other album.

Stephen explains, "There was nowhere else for it to go, it was always going to be either the opening song or the closing song and we already had a song in mind to close the album. It was an intense two days when we were recording the first half of the album in Canada, a lot of jet lag and confusion and ailments. You can hear a jet lagged Patrick O'Brien talking at the start of the record trying to get focused on the recording in the studio. It made the perfect opener for the album."

Something Outnumbered with vivid imagery in the chorus, "They could a light a fire under here / they could light a fire but I'd burn if I could just stay by your side" is a co-write between Stephen and Patrick. "He came up with these nice chords one day. He emailed a recording to me and within an hour I had emailed back some lyrics. We went from there, it was written in about a day."

Alkaterian are Alright: "Lyrically it is a look back to



when I started playing in bands when I was 16". That band was called Tooth and the title comes from an 8/10 review for Tooth in Metal Hammer. A scanned version of the review that went on the Tooth website included the next headline in the reviews which stated, 'Alkaterian are Alright'.

This is a Conversation: "This is the pop hit", says Ryan with just a hint of irony. "It has a steely Dan lead guitar part which we based the whole song around and it's our favorite song to play live."

I Am Not the Crow opens side two for those with the vinyl version and was recorded at the Letterkenny sessions. It is an awesome, frenetic kind of song in the Bob Mould mould (sorry! couldn't resist that). A great guitar noise pop tune with a pulsing wall of sound bringing the title track to a catatonic crescendo. Stephen says, "We went all out on that one, I had this tremolo thing and Liam on bass had a pedal that does the same thing, so we went for it."

Cleaner was written seven years ago. "I think it is only now we could have done justice to this song musically. I adjusted some of the lyrics and it became relevant again. It is a kind of existential lament."

In Need of some Repair is a short instrumental refrain from the opening track. It was recorded on a broken piano by Stephen in Tango Studios in Montreal while the rest of the band was having lunch. The very same piano, as it happens, that you hear on the debut albums from Arcade Fire and God Speed You Black Emperor.

Local Broken Man is the last track on the album and

the most recent track written for the record. "We like to play the songs live before recording them so there was a bit of trepidation about this one but I'm delighted with the way it turned out, exactly as I had it in my head."

For this album Windings had never rehearsed so much before recording, the recording sessions happened over two days in Donegal and two days in Montreal.



'I Am Not The Crow' is Windings' best record yet.

Having rehearsed every song within an inch of their life, the songs were played as live in the studios, played over and over till the band got the perfect takes.

Stephen: "I had never recorded that way before, the modern accepted way is to record the drums, add the bass, then the guitars etcetera, but we went in there and played as a band. That's what you hear on 'I am not the Crow', a band interacting and making great music."

He concludes, "The band are together a long while now and nobody is second guessing each other, everybody knows what they want to bring to each song. It's a great environment to play music in, we are all enjoying the sh*t out of it".

'I Am Not The Crow' is on release for download now on Bandcamp. A vinyl picture disc of 'I Am Not The Crow' is available to order now and it will come with a free download. To coincide with the vinyl release an acoustic set is planned for Dr. John's on Thomas Street on Sunday November 18. The band will be touring from November 17, culminating in a full band hometown gig on December 26.

NEW PRODUCT

The Killers



The Killers have released their second single 'Miss Atomic Bomb'. It is a stadium rock stomper taken from the Number 1 hit album 'Battleborn'. The album has gone Top 5 in 18 countries with five No. 1s, including Ireland.

Matt Cardel

AFTER winning X-Factor in 2010, Matt Cardel became a platinum selling artist with two number one hit singles, the latter "When We Collide", selling a million copies. Matt returns now with a follow up album of his original material on the independent label So What? Recordings.

Matt says, "I feel in control and I'm completely confident in the album. It's my songs that I've written and I've produced in the way that I wanted. If you are on stage and you're singing a song that you do not feel and you haven't written, its just lies." New album 'The Fire' is out October 26. 'It's Only Love' is the new single out now."



Limerick's **Top 5s** this week

SINGLES

1. Diamonds -Rihanna
2. Sweet Nothing - Calvin Harris
3. Beneath Your Beautiful - Labrinth
4. Gangnam Style - PSY
5. Don't You Worry Child - Swedish House Mafia

CD

1. Babel-Mumford & Sons
2. 2nd Law-Muse
3. The Truth about Love-Pink
4. 3-The Script
5. Battleground-The Killers



GAMES

1. FIFA 13 -PS3
2. Resident Evil 6 -Xbox 360
3. New Super Mario Brothers 2 -3DS
4. Borderlands 2-PS3
5. Angry Birds Trilogy-Wii

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