

American bands go brit-pop for hits

■ Mach Five's CD conjures up images of hot Brit-pop, but Five's lacks continuity.

It is no secret that Americans have a love affair with psychedelic Brit-pop.

Just look at record sales for bands like Oasis, Blur and the quick rise of the Verve on this side of the Atlantic for tangible evidence of the "Manchester sound's" growing state-side popularity.

What may be even more surprising is that many of the bands making good Brit-pop right now are Americans. Locally, the now-defunct Omegas showed everyone that even Chapel Hill can produce some great Brit-pop sounds.

The New York-based band Mach Five is another instance of Americans

co-opting the sound of bands like Blur and the Stone Roses. These bands are now making it their own. Mach Five's self-titled new album is a surprisingly decent collection of well-crafted, guitar-driven pop tunes.

Unfortunately, Mach Five's song writing brilliance is not consistent throughout the entirety of their CD. Four out of the 11 songs are good. The rest are just filler to keep this from being an EP.

The first track, "Can't Stop It," sounds so much like the Stone Roses' first album that you will be transported back to the first time you heard them.

The fourth song, "Chuck" starts out with the bass and rhythm track from Grandmaster Flash's "White Lines (Don't Do It)." The reference is to the Duran Duran cover of "White Lines," which was a club hit in the '80s. The song itself is an infectious pop tune that will stick in your head like peanut butter.

In the Brit-pop tradition of Beatles allusions, the eighth tune, "Space Mantra" uses samples from "Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band."

Mach Five on this song takes the pretty, Beatles-influenced guitar hooks and cuts them with a fuzzy instrumental sound and trippy effects on singer Jeff Darien's voice. This is by far the best song on the album.

"Shiny Shirt" is another good song with a ton of energy and a Brian Wilson sounding bridge (refreshingly weird in a psychedelic Brit-pop tune).

Mach Five shows so much song writing promise that when their songs are bad, they seem extremely bad. "You're My Religion" is the best (or rather, worst) example of this. The sickly tune just seems to creep along as if it had been written by six people in different rooms.

While its nothing to write home about, Mach Five's first record on Island reminds you enough of better bands to make it worthwhile. It would have been smarter for them to release a shorter record than include a few of the worst songs.

Look for Mach Five in the future if you dig Brit-pop because these New Yorkers show promise.



With four songs of high quality, Mach Five has managed to release a CD that keeps them from being a potential flash in the pan.

Arts & Entertainment Calendar

MUSIC

Local Music Venues

- Cat's Cradle, 300 E. Main St., Carrboro, 967-9053.
- The Cave, 452 1/2 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill, 968-9308.
- Lizard & Snake Cafe, 110 N. Columbia St., Chapel Hill, 929-2828.
- Local 506, 506 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill, 942-5506.
- Skylight Exchange, 405 1/2 W. Rosemary St., 933-5550.

Thursday, April 9

- A Full Sensory Stimulus Experience at Cat's Cradle.
- Mayflies, Starpoint at Lizard & Snake.
- The Holy Smokes at The Cave.
- Doleful Lions, Bullwinkle Gandhi at Local 506.

Friday, April 10

- COWS w/ Zen Guerilla at Cat's Cradle.
- Anna to the Infinite Power, Wunderkind at Lizard & Snake.
- The Big Blues Quartet at The Cave.
- Mayflies USA, Gumption at Local 506.

Saturday, April 11

- Reggae Jam at Cat's Cradle.
- Chris Whitely w/ Michele Malone & Melissa Sheehan at Lizard & Snake.
- Trailer Bride at The Cave.
- Grover, Troubadors of Divine Singing Bliss at Local 506.

Sunday, April 12

- The Business, Drop Kick Murphys, Patriot at Cat's Cradle.

Monday, April 13

- John Svava at The Cave.

Tuesday, April 14

- Mandolin Mind Trick at The Cave.
- The Bindlestiff Family Circle at Local 506.

Wednesday, April 15

- Gibb Droll at Cat's Cradle.
- Antiheroes, Blanks 77 at the Lizard and Snake.
- Dime Store Indian at The Cave.
- Mount Pilot, The Johnsons at Local 506.

THEATER

- The Threepenny Opera, PlayMakers Repertory Company, Running April 15 to May 10, Paul Green Theatre. Ticket prices vary by day and time of show. For more ticket information, call 962-PLAY.

ART

- "Look Homeward: Douglas Gorsline Illustrates Thomas Wolfe." Through May 31. The Ackland Art Museum. 966-5736.
- "New Currents in Contemporary Art: The 1998 Master of Fine Arts Exhibition." Through May 24. The Ackland Art Museum. 966-5736.

PLAN AHEAD

- The Indigo Girls. Presented by the Carolina Union Activities Board. Wednesday, April 29, 8 p.m. Memorial Hall. Tickets on sale today at The Carolina Union Box Office for UNC students only. The general public may purchase tickets on Monday, April 13. Tickets \$29 for UNC students, \$35 for general public.
- Squirrel Nut-Zippers. Tuesday, April 21, 8 p.m. Page Auditorium, Duke University. Tickets \$25 for general admission. Call Page Box office at 684-4444.

ETC.

- Scarce Sightings. Today, 7 p.m. Rialto Theater, Raleigh. Inaugural showing of unique films that otherwise would not be shown in the Triangle. 859-4959

Athenaeum jumps out of college scene into national air play

■ The much anticipated first release by the band is now out in record stores.

The band started playing at small, local clubs in its hometown of Greensboro. Now, six years later, Athenaeum is releasing a compact disc, featuring songs that are already getting the band airplay and

national attention.

The album was supposed to be released in October 1997, then January, then February, and now, after a year of building up suspense and anticipation of fans, the album is finally being released and is definitely worth the wait. The group of somewhat perfectionists has a soft-pop sound that will blow you away.

"Radiance" features four songs from Athenaeum's first self-titled independently released compact disc that have been re-recorded and perfected. The other eight tracks are mixed by Jack Joseph Puig (Black Crowes, Tonic) and produced by Gavin MacKillop (Toad the Wet Sprocket, Goo Goo Dolls).

The CD combines the rich melodies of bassist Alex McKinney, vocalist and guitarist Grey Brewster, lead vocalist and guitarist Mark Kano and drummer Nick Brown bringing a wave of electricity to the ears of anyone hearing them.

The music has a lasting effect on the listener because the songs combine catchy tunes with good feelings.

Opening with their hit single, "What I Didn't Know," the album begins with a song about a guy that did not think he could love the girl he sings about but later realizes he cannot live without her.

Brewster and Kano's rich sounds on guitars stand out in the song and entertain with a garage-pop flavor.

Kano follows in the path of many famous vocalists of this genre, singing mostly of relationships and heartaches. Athenaeum has been compared to bands such as Toad the Wet Sprocket and Dillon Fence — both of which have had a big influence on all four.

But Kano's amazing voice is unlike any other. It is a fresh and new sound, ranging in pitch from very deep to a higher tone. The next track, "Flat Tire," has slower rhythms and tempos. Both are equally impressive.

Kano uses clever comparisons in the lyrics of this song, but the listener might not catch on upon hearing them for the first time, such as, "So tough, I didn't

even wanna chew / Your lies were the best I ever knew."

The remainder of the disc is very enjoyable especially if garage-pop is your thing. For fans that enjoyed "Summertime," a hooky song that gained the band local popularity from the indie CD, you won't hear it here. Athenaeum opted to not include the song and tried for a more professional approach to their music. It succeeded.

Rave reviews from around the country came their way. Now, the band has worked its way from fraternity parties to your car radio, and now with the release of "Radiance," the band is likely to be around for a long time to come.

2 turntables, microphone just start of tonight's Cradle show

BY MARISA BRICKMAN STAFF WRITER

Despite the cheesy fluorescent fractal fliers and oddly named artists, tonight's festivities at the Cat's Cradle should prove to be something worth checking out. Designed to touch on all five senses, local electronic musicians, DJs, performance artists and visual imaging combine in an effort to create a full sensory experience.

Vegan Vibe, Dubbassassin, DJ Steve Brown, and DJ Dru will fill the ear, while Vortexya visuals capture the eye. Electric Butterfly Tribe plans to satisfy all five senses, including that of taste.

"We're hoping to transform the Cradle; we want people to walk in and feel like they are somewhere else," said Marcell Marias of Vegan Vibe and Vortexya. "If anything, its going to be

interesting."

For an audience, watching an artist stand in front of his machines and push buttons is hardly entertaining. So if his or her persona cannot carry the performance, other entertaining aspects become necessary. Video projections are quickly becoming synonymous with live electronic music.

Created in the same computer-based manner as the music, the visuals tend to have an auditory quality as well, changing with the beat of the music.

"Vortexya's style is pretty psychedelic and fractalized, but strays away from the more simplistic stereotypical big-party projections," said Marias. "We're into interaction, incorporating the visuals and the dancing."

A video feedback machine will distort and project live party footage to enhance crowd participation.

<http://www.movieminder.com>

movieminder.com

accurate, up-to-the-minute movie times for the Triangle

THE BODY SHOP exercise studio



\$15

Unlimited Classes for a month (\$48 value) First Week FREE!

Step/Multi Step Low Impact Toning - Combo Seniors

Village Plaza - Chapel Hill 933-9281

Nosotros Somos Numero Uno!
(we are the best... 98.5%)
Top Health Dept. Rating of Restaurants in Orange County

CARRBURRITOS

TAQUERIA

711 W Rosemary St Carrboro Monday - Friday 11am - 10pm Saturday Noon - 10pm 933.8226 And look us up at: www.trianglerec.com/Carrburritos

A Sunny Place for Shady People

PEPPER'S PIZZA

Downtown Chapel Hill 967-7766
1271.29 E. Franklin St., Next to Varsity Theatre

A Triangle Women's Health Clinic
Low cost termination to 20 weeks of pregnancy. Call for an appointment Monday - Saturday.

FREE Pregnancy Testing

"Dedicated to the Health Care of Women."

942-0011
www.womanschoice.com
101 Connor Dr., Suite 402 Chapel Hill, NC
across from University Mall
ABORTION TO 20 WEEKS

5¢ Copies

Must present coupon. Good on plain white 8 1/2 x 11 self-serve & autofeed copies. Expires April 30, 1998

C.O. COPIES

169 E. Franklin St. • Near the Post Office
Open til Midnight Mon-Thur; til 10pm Fri-Sun
933-9999

MORPHINE

W/ 16 HORSEPOWER

@ the Ritz

TUESDAY APRIL 28

TICKETS \$15

@ Schoolkids (Raleigh, CH), Poindexter's & the Ritz Boxoffice. Call 967-9053 or 836-8535 for charge orders.

FEDERAL RESERVE NOTE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

With this coupon or UNC Student ID, get \$1 OFF Dinner Buffet or Weekend Lunch!

Come try the largest Chinese Buffet in the Triangle!

35

Chinese Restaurant Chapel Hill

Dine-in Buffet Only Expires 4/16/98 968-3488 University Square

ONE DOLLAR

JOB OPPORTUNITIES!

PART-TIME DELIVERY WORK

A responsible, dependable person needed for delivery purposes. Dependable transportation a must; valid NC drivers license a must.

Hours: 6am-11am Monday-Friday
Pay: \$6.50 an hour plus mileage allowance.
Applications accepted from 8am-4pm at 106 Mallette Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

HOME DELIVERY REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED

Hillsborough/Chapel Hill/Carrboro Areas
Whitfield Road Area
Ron Fazar • 918-1039

Cole Park Area/Southern Village Area
Phillip Roberts • 918-1038