



AUDIOPhiles

54 - 40

Fifty-four forty. It is a number. It is a band. In fact, it is a great band. For those poor souls ignorant to the goings on in Charlottetown, 54-40 is a great band who played at the barn on September 11 to a huge crowd.

In what was their first visit to this fair Isle, in a career that spans around fifteen years, this Neil Osborne fronted band managed to reel in all kinds of fans including, I am sure, the quasi-fans who's somewhat misappropriated devotion sprouts from the Hootie cover of "I Go Blind." The true 54-40 devotees were out in full force singing along to all the hits that the band has had over the years.

Hamilton's power pop sensation, the Killjoys, started the evening off with a set that lasted about an hour and made me want to sing "I Go Deaf." It was SO loud! Not being a fan of the Killjoys, puts a damper on any kind of good review I would give them, but they do put on a live show that is comparable to their recordings, so for those people that are fans of these boys, it was most likely an enjoyable set. I have one question though? What was with the cowboy hat? Are glam rockers here to stay?

54-40 took the stage after a small light show that introduced the Canadian rock veterans to the stage. Half way through the set, Osborne took off his hat and stated "This is my haircut," referring to his newly shorn locks which were

first seen in the new video for "She Lies To Me," and then proceeded to belt out the song of the same name. Definitely one of the best pieces of stage banter I have witnessed in recent history. Sure they contrived it, but it was smoothly delivered.

Hit after hit was played throughout the hour and a half set that seemed to fly by. The set list ranged from "She-La" (from the album "Dear Dear"), to "I Go Blind" (from the album *Sweeter Things: A Compilation*) to "Assolholic" (from the *Smiling Buddah Cabaret* album) to "Love You All" (from the practically brand spankin' new album *Trusted By Millions*). All the big ones and a few not-so top forty, but beautifully crafted all the same. The show seemed flawless: an arena rock concert in a little barn. It was, to put it simply, excellent.

It is definitely going to be hard to find a show at the Barn in the future that will rival this one in quality, but it will sure be worth a try.

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Uisce Beatha

Last Saturday one of UPEI's favourite entertainers returned to the Island to start the year off with an outdoor barbeque and rousing good time under the big tent. Uisce Beatha belted out song after song in their unique, Celtic rock and roll style. The BBQ started around 3:30 and the band went on stage about 4:00. The tunes lasted well into the evening, and a good time was had by all. "Now wait a second," you're thinking by now. "Did I miss something?" If you did, then you are not the only one. The above activities were just wishful thinking on my part. Unfortunately, the

band did not perform as scheduled. Yes, there was a BBQ, open to all comers, but apparently the winds were too high Saturday morning to raise the big tent in which the band was to play. As a result, there was no music. Why, you may ask, did they not play in the barn as they have before? Well, it seems all the sound equipment was calibrated for playing outdoors and it was therefore decided to forego the event. So, Uisce Beatha drove all the way from Ontario for nothing (this was, by the way, their sole gig in PEI). At least they get paid whether or not they perform. Ah, well, better luck next time, guys.

**CHRISTIAN
Music
CORNER**
by Marko Peric

Rebecca St. James
God
(Forefront)

If you do not remember Rebecca St. James' previous self-titled album, don't worry. This sounds nothing like it. The sweet little pop vocals are gone, as is the light and cheerful music. This new CD is edgy, hardhitting, and at times downright loud. Musically, some people have drawn comparisons to Alanis Morissette. Lyrically, however, St. James is her own person -- she wrote more than half the songs on the disc, and the messages are often very clear.

Apart from the title track, some other tunes really stand out. "That's What Matters" is an interesting song based on the book of Ecclesiastes, and "Me Without You" is a fun, cleverly-worded track. As for the other songs on this disk, that will depend on your musical preference. The disc might not be for everyone, but this reviewer enjoyed it.

Gravity Kills
Gravity Kills

Driving beats and great lyrics characterize this self-titled CD from Gravity Kills. Perhaps best known from the "Mortal Kombat" soundtrack, this group describe themselves as noisemakers, but their music is far from just noise. Using combinations of unusual sounds, (ie., car horns, techno, synthesizer...), they create a sound which is somewhere between hard rock and alternative. People who enjoyed the "Mortal Kombat" soundtrack will enjoy *Gravity Kills*.

Coralie Gill

Afro Celt Sound System
Volume 1: Sound Magic

Imagine African drum beats, tin whistle, bagpipes, and a touch of techno all rolled up into one CD and you have Afro Celt Sound System's first album. Surprisingly, this is an excellent CD. The music is unique, fun to listen to and lends itself well to dancing. At the very least, this colourful CD looks neat. I would recommend Sound Magic to anyone looking for something a bit different.

Coralie Gill