

ECMA

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bumping. We waited in line for fifteen minutes and then Vince used his JJ LaRosa name tag to get in for free.

The place was packed tight. I made my way to the bar and ordered an orange juice. They gave me Tang. I should have expected it in a place called Chandlers.

I saw a guy who told me he liked our show. He was about to go on stage, so I was curious to see what kind of music a Windom Earle fan plays. I pictured an organ grinder and a monkey for some reason. His band, Slowcoaster, started with super cool

rendition of "I Saw the Light" then ripped right into their first tune. They were unbelievable. Mixing funk and reggae, Slowcoaster did not take long to become my new favourite band. I was exhausted after their energetic set so I headed back to Brendan's with Vince.

DAY 3 SATURDAY

Brendan's mom cooked us breakfast at around eleven in the morning. Brendan stayed out at the bars until four in the morning (someone must have bribed the liquor inspector) and slept for two hours. His sleeping patterns frighten me.

All day and all night the 72 Hour Jam

Session was televised on Cable 10 in Sydney. Saturday morning we watched some of the acts. That frightened me too.

We had to push Vince's car across a parking lot to Canadian Tire. We spent most of the afternoon there reading tabloids. The car didn't get fixed, but we were told that it had to be filled with gas in order for it to start. Not that an empty gas tank was the main problem, but who cares? We were able to start the car.

The Media Center at the Delta Hotel was our next destination. We missed all the seminars, but I was able to use a computer and check my email.

We had dinner at Brendan's with some hippies. After eating we went to St Theresa's to see Julie Doiron. She played very quietly, but her soft voice had a lot of emotion. Her set was the most beautiful I'd seen all weekend. Half the crowd was mesmerized by her, the other half sounded

like they were at a basketball game.

After the No-Cases, I thought it would be a good idea if Vince and I took advantage of our ECMA passes to see some showcases for free. The atmosphere of the showcases was very different from the No-Cases. The audience had no energy, there were too many tables in the way for people to dance, and the audience was made up of old people.

When we arrived we caught the end of Fly Jimmy Swift's performance and they were smoking, but the crowd didn't seem to notice.

When the next artist was being announced, the introduction made me think he was going to suck. The MC listed his accomplishments of doing music for Due South and Black Harbour, playing with Hall and Oates, and his recurring character on Treehouse, the children's network. After the intro, the three most unhip, white guys came out and started playing jazz music. When I told Vince how much I hated these guys, a large, black man in sharp suit took the stage. He was Dutch Robinson and he is my new hero. He proceeded to sing

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and scat with style and charisma. The whole place went ape shit over his performance, and I was left speechless.

Chris Colpaugh and the Cosmic Crew and Fur Packed Action both played energetic shows but the showcase audience was not into them. During Fur Packed's show everyone started to leave.

After the show we went to Bunkers Peanut Bar for an all night jam session. While waiting in line to get in, the guy in front of us told a joke about a twenty three year old hillbilly in elementary school. The small bar was packed when we got inside. Aaron MacDonald, a friend of Brendan's, played some really cool acoustic music. Fly

Jimmy Swift arrived next and they brought a truck load of funk. Bunkers' crowd was a lot more receptive to Swift than the showcase crowd was earlier. Cape Breton alt rock veterans, Mastadon Ridge, took a half hour to set up and they left the crowd wanting more after only three songs. And then Slowcoaster finished the night off at 4:30 in the morning. I couldn't get enough of that band.

DAY 4 SUNDAY

It was a long drive from Sydney to Charlottetown. We didn't stay for the big awards show because Vince had to work on Monday. We listened to some of it on the radio and it didn't seem very exciting. I needed to sleep.

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