

Sex, Drugs, and Rock and Roll

*The ECMA's Tenth Anniversary
Supplement*

BY PETER GILLIS

For four days and four nights, the best of the East Coast music scene rocked the city of Halifax in the biggest awards weekend in the organization's history. It was cathartic, chaotic, and absolutely alcoholic. The following articles may not cover the entire event, but they give the best representation one lowly editor and his wonderful, sleep-deprived assistant could get.

In the next few pages, you will find a summary of the awards, divided into the five main regions of Atlantic Canada, with a nod to the Acadians as well. A special thanks goes out to every musician who remembered that university students listen to music too (considering that most of us are Maritimers, probably care a hell of a lot more than some subscriber to the *Globe and Mail* who lives in Bumblefuck, Saskatchewan).

If you run into someone featured in this supplement, tell them I loved their music. I think that I forgot to mention that at the time.

The 1998 East Coast Music Award Winners

Country Artist of the Year - Julian Austin
 Bluegrass Artist of the Year - Exit 13
 Roots/ Traditional Instrumental Artist of the Year - Richard Wood
 Pop/ Rock Artist of the Year - Great Big Sea
 Francophone REcording of the Year - Liberee, Michelle Boudreau Samson
 Alternative Artist of the Year - Super Friendz
 Classical Recording of the Year - Late Romantics, Symphony Nova Scotia: cond. George Tintner
 Video of the Year - "Building a Mystery", Sarah McLachlan
 African-Canadian Artist of the Year - Four the Moment
 Jazz Artist of the year - Johnny Favorite Swing Orchestra
 Dr. Helen Cheighton Lifetime Achievement Award - Don Messer
 Instrumental Artist of the Year - Richard Wood, Scott Macmillan
 Roots/ Traditional - Vocal Artist of the Year - J.P. Cormier
 Group of the Year - Great Big Sea
 Single of the Year - "When I'm Up," Great Big Sez
 Dance/ Hip Hop Artist of the Year - Jamie Sparks
 Blues/ Gospel Artist of the Year - Glamour Puss Blues Band
 Female Artist of the Year - Sarah McLachlan
 Male Artist of the Year - Lenny Gallant
 Album of the Year - Play, Great Big Sea
 SOCAN Songwriter of the Year - Sarah McLachlan, "Building a Mystery"
 Entertainer of the Year - Great Big Sea

Sound Bites

"Whenever I hear someone at the door complaining about the cover charge, I say to them 'Where do you work?' Really? Well, how about I come down to your place of work on Monday for three hours of free service?' They rarely say much after that." — Paul Boudreau, Glamour Puss Blues Band.

"A quick message to UPEI students? Rise up for a bloody revolt, I think." — Greg Toomi, *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*.

"The fiddle is a very sexy instrument. I sort of see myself as the Harry Connick Jr. of the fiddle world." — Richard Wood. Quoted in the *Chronicle-Herald*.

"It's not all necessarily about stardom. It's fun. You play because it's fun." Tony Ronalds, KILT.

"Is it okay for guys to wear make-up when they've had a rough night and are going on national TV?" — ECMA nominee Dave Gunning.

"I would hate to say that ECMA haven't done anything for our band's career. It is just that you need a whole bunch of things in place, and they are a piece of the puzzle." — Breakin Tradition

"People are going to get very excited. When they catch ECMA fever, this the place to come because it's all ages, there is no admission, and never sells out."
— Yamaha Canada 76 hour jam organizer Bruce Chapman

"I think a lot of people, if they knew more about the maritimes, would be here in a minute. Some people in Texas don't even know what the word maritime means." — Ingrahan Meglio (she and her husband live in Texas and won an all expenses paid trip to the ECMA through Maritime Trading Company)



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