

## East Coast Music Awards

by Melissa Buote

On Wednesday, January 3 there was a press conference at the CP Prince Edward Hotel which announced the nominees for the East Coast Music Awards which will be held here in Charlottetown from February 8-11 of this year. Besides releasing the names of the award nominees, this conference also announced different Maritime bands that would be playing showcases around town in venues like Myron's, the Confederation Centre and the Civic Centre. The Barn will also be participating in the showcasing of local talent with the "No Case" Showcases which will span February 8-10 and feature 18 of Atlantic Canada's most promising young artists such as Rebecca West, Cool Blue Halo, Plum Tree, Hip Club Groove, Coyote, Lamer, Mastodon

Ridge and PEI's own Strawberry and SuperCar. This is a joint project between CIMN Radio and the UPEI Student Union with the help of great Maritime record labels (such as No Records, Cinnamon Toast Records and MURDERRecords).

The No Cases originated last year in Sydney with the help of CAPR Radio at the University College of Cape Breton. Not all East Coast bands that applied were granted showcases from the East Coast Music Association, so the college radio station assisted in getting these bands shows to display their talent to the people of Cape Breton. This is the plan of those at CIMN, and hopefully people at UPEI, in Charlottetown and everywhere else on the Island will take the time to check out these bands who are the future of the East Coast music scene.

## Winnipeg's Primus Theatre Group Comes to Campus

Primus, one of Canada's most acclaimed alternative theatre companies, is coming to PEI. Since their founding in 1988, Primus has toured Canada and Europe and performed in venues that ranged from the traditional to the highly unusual.

There is an Island connection with Primus. Ker Wells, one of their founding members, is a native of Alberton. Mr. Wells and two of his classmates from the national Theatre School of Canada joined with director Richard Fowler to found the company in 1988. Since then, two other actors have joined the group.

The performances that are created by Primus are unique and elaborate in their visual, musical, physical, and dramatic detail. The performers train rigorously to develop the skills needed to bring their

multi-layered creations to the stage. The result is a stunning, provocative evening that will challenge the audience's expectations of a modern theatre performance.

Theatre PEI is pleased to present Primus at the Alumni Gym, UPEI campus, Friday January 19 through Sunday January 21. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors. Tickets are available at the door, but seating is limited, so those interested may wish to reserve by calling Theatre PEI at 566-0321.

In addition to their 3 performances, Primus will be offering a workshop Saturday, January 20 from 10:00-3:00 on developing the actor's physical and vocal resources. The fee for the workshop is \$35. You may register by calling Theatre PEI at 566-0321.



Howdy there folks, and Happy Tuesday! I have an eclectic collection of artists for you this week. Three blues releases, a diverse compilation, and something akin to dance music. Enough with the small talk; let's start takin' care of business.

Canada's own **Big Sugar** are breaking new ground, and all the rules with their new EP *Dear M.F.* (Bread and Butter/A&M/Hypnotic). Solidly based in hard core blues, but infused with influences from all other types of music, this disk has something for almost everyone. Frontman Gordie Johnson's funky and fuzzy guitar power is exceptional as the band rips through three blues numbers, a laid back jazz instrumental, and a seven minute reggae tinged experimental track. *Dear M.F.* is a very worthy purchase.

England's **Nine Below Zero** *Ice Station Zebro* (Pangea) is a little closer to the beaten path of heavy guitar blues-rock. That isn't a bad thing, because this under-known band is one of the best groove-heavy blues bands since on today's market. Skilled, energetic, and honest, there is little wonder why Eric Clapton booked them to open for him at his historic Albert Hall shows. Slightly more soul influenced than previous release *Hot Music For a Cold Night*, *Ice Station Zebro* is recommended to all blues fans.

*Walk On* (Capitol/EMI) is another solid release from American singer/songwriter **John Hiatt**. He has been twisting blues, rock, soul, and R&B into his own creations for

many years now, and *Walk On* is no exception. His distinctly Southern style is sure to appeal to many different walks of life, including fans of modern country. If you like Tom Petty, you'll love John Hiatt.

Groove-heavy, funkafied dance music is what **The Chemical Brothers** have supplied us with on this release *Exit Planet Dust* (Virgin). I make it no secret that I don't care a whole lot for dance music, but I'll try to be objective. The "songs" all seem to have the obligatory monotonous beats, plastic techno sounds, and interchangeability of tracks that most dance albums require. I must admit that the beats are a little infectious, and that *Exit Planet Dust* is the least annoying dance record that I have heard in a very long time. That is high praise from me, dance fans, so I guess that you could call it a recommendation.

Last and certainly least is *Triple Scoop*, a sampler release from **EMI records**. It features 20 tracks from 20 of EMI's hottest acts including **The Tea Party, Blind Melon, Blur, 13 Engines, the Verve, The Smoking Popes**, and many other stars. There are some great tracks, but many are far from the best that these bands have to offer. I have reviewed many of the records from which these songs came and I can say for certain that most of them are better than this compilation would have you believe. I would suggest that you leave this one on the shelf, folks.

Well, that's it for this week. Keep the music alive, support your local artists, and never pet a burning dog.

Watch the Entertainment pages in future issues for an exciting new contest from *Panther Prints* and EMI Music