

Spinner's Spin Off

by Daniel Hopkins

This last Saturday night, the Spinners performed at the Confederation Centre of the Arts to a packed house. They did two shows, one and a half hours each, and were well received by all who attended. It was one of the rare occasions in recent memory that P.E.I. was host to a big name band.

The show opened with a musical introduction of the orchestra (from Halifax) and the Spinners' regulars playing a few short solos. After a short introduction,

courtesy of CFCY, the show started. They did several songs from their album "Dancing and Lovin": "Tighty Love", "Then Came You", "I'll Be Around", "One of a Kind", "Games People play", and "Rubber-bandman". They also did several imitations of Tom Jones, the Supremes, Elvis Presley, Louis Armstrong, and the Inkspots. They then finished the show with a number of songs from their new album including "Working my Way Back to You", which rose to number two on the charts early this year, and Charlottetown's new hit.

"Cupid", closed the show.

The Spinners feature Henry Fambrough, Pervis Jackson, John Edwards, Billy Henderson and Bobby Smith backed up by their tour band and an orchestra.

John Edwards, the lead singer in most songs was very good, as were the rest of the group on vocals. However, it is too bad they don't have their own regular brass section because the boys from Halifax were lost in the dark.

Overall the show was well run. It went smoothly and maintained the

audience's level of interest; each song was followed by thunderous applause. The Spinners seemed to enjoy all of this, as noted by one groupie: "They seemed a little fake at first with all the dance moves but later on they loosened up and seemed to enjoy themselves."

Other comments made on the show ranged from "Very professional show", to "They looked like bumble bees" (they wore gold and black suits) to "They were all cute and hung like Horses" (made by an ecstatic female).

Speed the Plough

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Speed the Plough are giving a concert this Saturday night in the Steele Recital Hall at 8:00. It will be taped by CBC Radio Halifax for the Maritime Music Program to be aired later this winter.

The band members are locals of one sort or another. Lennie Gallant from Sout Rustico plays guitar and shares vocals with native Margie Carmichael who plays mandolin, guitar, and the bodham (Irish drum). David Papazian plays the tin whistle and flute.

Their musical style tends toward traditional Island music representing the Scottish, Irish, and Acadian sects. They have been described as Blue-grass types, but they deny this, preferring the traditional Island label. They are Islanders and consequently relate to Island people. This, they feel, is reflected in the music they write.

A few years ago Lennie and Roy were popular and common figures at UPEI pubs. They performed as a duo and were well received here. Two years ago several

of their friends joined the act and they became Lennie and Roy and Friends, only later adopting the name Speed the Plough.

Their recent history includes performances this summer at the Tracadie Folk Festival and the Atlantic Folk Festival in Nova Scotia. They have also played at Grady's in Summerside, the Avenues in Charlottetown, the Harbour Lights in Montague, and La Maison de Souris. Further credits include a Canada Council Grant. Starting in December, they will be playing Island music in schools and old age homes across the Island. They will also be busy researching traditional Island music.

Tickets on Saturday will be \$2.50 in advance and \$3.00 at the door.



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