

Flashing Lights: Two Perspectives

The Interview

These are exciting times to be a Flashing Light.

I managed to catch up with the Toronto-based band at Cedar's Eatery on Thursday, prior to their Prince Edward Island debut. Actually, as Henri Sangalang noted, it was the premiere for this particular incarnation of the Flashing Lights.

"We started as a sixties cover-band, and we played in the Barn back then," said Sangalang. The days as a cover-band long gone, the group has retained its sixties stylings, and are now making waves across Canada and beyond with their soulful rock sounds. And heck, they're still playing in the Barn.

"We just did music for a documentary about Todd MacFarlane who drew Spawn and Spiderman back in the day," noted guitarist and lead singer Matt Murphy, "and we recorded 'Raise A Little Hell' by Trooper [for an upcoming Trooper tribute album]."

"Which we are mighty proud of," interjected Gaven Dianda, organist and tabourine master.

With one full length album, *Where The Change Is*, under their belt, the group recently released a four song EP. The album, which is being released in Europe in January, has won many fans for the band.

Showcased on CBC radio and campus stations across Canada, it has led to touring across the country, as well as the occasional dip into the United States. The band is hopeful that the January release will lead to a European tour.

-Ryan O Connor

The Show

Last Thursday night at the Barn The Flashing Lights provided a musical revue that transcended time.

The Flashing Lights remain true to the spirit of 1960's British Invasion rock and soul without sounding the least bit retro. In performance, Matt Murphy avoids coming across as a mod rock poser because he finds the essence of the music he loves and combines it with his gift for catchy riffs and melodies. The result of these two things is a deeply entertaining experience which is enhanced by the energy and excitement of his band.

When they took the stage of the Barn on Thursday, the Flashing Lights filled the building with classic rock and roll, and good vibrations. On-stage antics included Murphy balancing on a barrier and leaping over monitors, organist, Gaven Dianda, smashing a tambourine, and an extended encore that shook the dance floor well into the night.

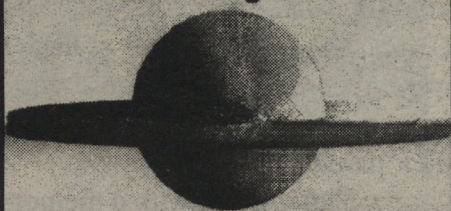
Thanks to their high octane performance and finely crafted songs, The Flashing Lights did not need to impersonate bands like The Who, or the Kinks to bridge the gap between music of the 1960's and today. Perhaps the reason they sound like they are from another time period is because they sound good, while the majority of their contemporaries do not.

-Stephan MacLeod



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**Wednesday,
October 25**

Baba's Lounge: **Jeff Morris Band**
Myron's: **Big Tilda**

**Thursday,
October 26**

Baba's Lounge: **Downtime**
Brennan's: **Black Suit**
Myron's: **The Posterboys/Poppa Shine**
Olde Dublin Pub: **Boys Next Door**
Panther Lounge: Halloween pub with **Fly Jimmy Swift**

**Friday,
October 27**

Baba's Lounge: **Christina & Sonic Roots**
Brennan's: **Groove Gurus**
Panther Lounge: **Downtime**
Olde Dublin Pub: **Boys Next Door**

**Saturday,
October 28**

Baba's Lounge: **Mitch Schurman Band**
Brennan's: **The Dogs**
Myron's: **Fiddler s Sons**
Olde Dublin Pub: **Boys Next Door**
Panther Lounge: **Groove Gurus**

**Sunday,
October 29**

**Monday,
October 30**

**Tuesday,
October 31**

Baba's Lounge: **Eyes for Telescopes**
Brennan's: **Groove Gurus**