



The Dilemma | Sweet Love | The Decemberists
+ The most CURRENT listings & Night Life Snaps!



January 28th - February 11th Volume 13, Issue 2

**Swollen
Members On
Stage**

this issue

The Drawer Boy
Piatto Pizzeria & Enoteca
Jersey Shore's Vinny

**Carmen Townsend:
A Woman
with Heart**



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5 FAVES

NOREEN GOLFMAN

MUN CINEMA SERIES COORDINATOR OFFERS UP REASONS TO CHECK IT OUT
BY ALISON MURRAY



For many, occasionally checking out the latest Hollywood film at the cinema is a good weeknight pass-time to break up a hectic, never ending week.

Additionally, for some, the films also provide another outlet which insightfully entwines societies viewpoints on current events or circumstances with the Hollywood plots.

But, even with the insight, there seems to be those moments when you get the familiar feeling that you have already seen the same plot two years prior, just with different actors. For those who are getting that feeling of day old Hollywood and are intrigued by films beyond the mainstream, the MUN Cinema Series provides an alternative every Thursday throughout the fall and winter.

Current spoke with Professor, Dean of Graduate Studies and President of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Noreen Golfman, who runs the series, and asked what five fave aspects of the series that she feels make it a great alternative to the mainstream box office?

Beginning her five faves is the key ingredient - the films themselves, Golfman says "they are generally excellent, non-mainstream, award-winning gems from around the world that local audiences do not get a chance to see on the big screen otherwise."

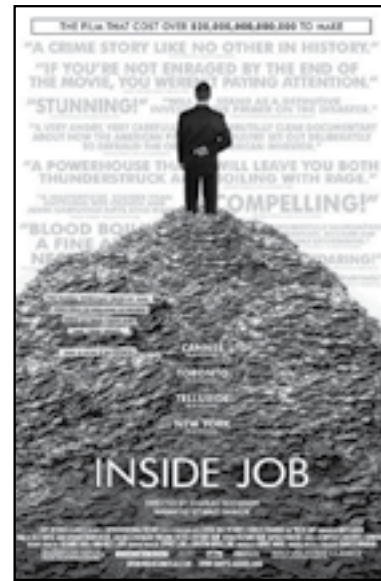
Secondly, Golfman lists "the crowd of passionate spectators." She explains, "there's nothing like being in an audience of film lovers, who don't talk or look at their cell phones or feel the need to comment and ruin everyone's time. This is a high-grade, respectful audience."



Next she adds that, "the crowd described above offers a kind of organic community experience: it's about more than just seeing a fabulous film. It's become a social event. People meet each other here."


Golfman adds the cost to her five faves mentioning, "the price is unbeatable, and if you buy a pass you are getting a great deal per film. The series sucks up the HST. It's not about making money; it's about breaking even and giving people the opportunity to see great stuff."

Rounding off her Five faves Noreen Golfman notes, "the Mall might be noisy but Empire's theatres are superbly equipped to show such high-quality stuff."



So, if you are looking to broaden your cinematic horizons, or you want to enjoy some of your favourite non-mainstream films on the big screen, check out the MUN Cinema Series who offer a wide variety of films including *Tales from the Golden Age*, *Inside Job*,


and *Blue Valentine* in the upcoming weeks. For more information on the MUN Cinema Series, their showing schedule and times, check out their website at <http://www.mun.ca/cinema>.

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STAGE

THE DRAWER BOY

A YOUNG CITY MAN LEARNING THE WAYS OF TWO OLD COUNTRY FARMERS
BY GARY MOORE



Danielle Irvine

When two separate worlds collide stories are bound to rise. Humor is often the result of the collision, but so is friendship. That's what happens in Michael Healey's modern Canadian classic *The Drawer Boy*.

When city born actor retreats to a rural area to study a farmer's

persona, the differences and learning curve are apparent. A young city man learning the ways of two old country farmers. They learn from each other, and it's more than meets the eye.

"(Audiences) can expect a lot of laughs as city meets country, arts meets farming, young meets old. But there is such beautiful humanity in there. The story of

our lives and how we create it, evolve it as we grow. Opportunities present, past, missed and taken to shape our lives," says award-winning director of the show, Danielle Irvine.

Irvine is directing *The Drawer Boy* which will be taking over the intimate atmosphere of the Basement Theatre at the Arts and Culture Centre, Wednesday, February 2 to Sunday, February 6.

"Doing and seeing shows at the Basement Theatre provides a level of intimacy between performer and audience that is special. There are only a few theatre spaces in the city you can do that. Being so up close and personal with the performer. It may also make you hungry - watching this show, we have lots of home-made bread, yum."

Much like the narrative of *The Drawer Boy*, the actors are a mix of veteran performers Steve O'Connell (*Republic of Doyle*) who plays Morgan and Bruce Brenton (*The Tempest*) who plays Angus as well as the talents of rising actor Brad Bonnell (*Troilus and Cressida*) who plays Miles.

"The three of them have excellent charisma together,"

shares Irvine who also admires the professionalism of the actors.

Irvine was approached to direct *The Drawer Boy* by O'Connell and Brenton, as she was finishing up working on *Republic of Doyle*, where she does Background Casting. Starving for some theatre, she couldn't resist the chance to work with the guys on this production.

Although *The Drawer Boy* is humorous, Irvine admits she is passionate about the story for reasons that hit home; "I love especially that it will speak to us here as a province with a high percentage of "producers". This play is about farmers but it speaks to us all from fishers, to farmers to artists to anyone creating something out of nothing but passion and commitment."



Steve O'Connell

BUSINESS

PLEASING THE SENSES

PIATTO IS SERVING UP OLD COUNTRY TRADITION TO A NEW GENERATION
BY CHRISTOPHER GORDON

For years as she was young, Kate Villais and her father, Brian, traveled all over Europe gaining an appreciation for the culture, people and more importantly the food. Noticing that St. John's lacked the authentic Neapolitan cuisine they had become accustomed to, the duo set out to change that, and Piatto Pizzeria + Enoteca was born.

Neapolitan pizza has to be made by strict Vera Pizza Napoletana (VPN) guidelines, which the staff follow religiously. "The commitment to authenticity is the biggest thing we have to offer," Kate explains. "Being an authentic Neapolitan pizzeria is very important to us." Ingredients have no room for substitution when it comes to VPN style - Tipo 00 flour, San Marzano

tomatoes (the tomatoes coming from the base of Mount Vesuvius are less acidic because of the volcanic ash), all natural mozzarella, fresh basil, sea salt and yeast.

Perhaps the most amazing thing is cooking time for these pizzas should not exceed 90 seconds, thanks to a 4,000 lb. Newfoundland birch-burning oven affectionately named "Josephine" that hovers around a scorching 800 degrees.

One thing you will notice when you sit down is that the wine is served in a tumbler and not a wine glass, staying true to Naples tradition. According to Brian, even the atmosphere has been tailored to resemble

the traditional Italian family gathering. "What we tried to accomplish here was to create a gathering place that was warm and friendly where people could come and catch up to meet and eat." Producing everything by hand is the rule of law inside his building, "Using machines such as mixers changes the taste and changes the texture."

For a refreshing family dining experience with a modern European feel, check out Piatto Pizzeria + Enoteca at 377 Duckworth Street. For hours of operation call 726-0909. Check out their menu and more about Piatto's origins at <http://www.piattopizzeria.com>.





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FITNESS

SETTING GOALS TO IMPROVE YOUR LIFE!

HEALTH AND FITNESS CHALLENGES

BY JENNIFER CRANFORD



Over the years, fitness routines and lifestyles become more and more broad. We've all seen the Tony Little infomercials and the "quick fix" diets, and you would think that as time goes on seeing more of the quick solutions being introduced that consumers would catch on to the fact that most just don't work as

promised. Speaking from experience having tried a fair share of them, it's only gone to show that there are simpler and easier ways to go about weight loss and fitness.

The truth is, there is no quick fix that leads to a healthy lifestyle or to become physically fit. It takes hard work, willpower, dedication, motivation and patience, which everyone possesses deep down but most just don't give enough credit to actually go out and do it. In actual fact people are their own worst enemies. You don't even realize what you're actually doing to your mind and body.

For example, take this challenge (starting with an easy one): get a small notebook, one that is easily accessible and can be brought with you at all times. For one entire week write down everything that goes

into your mouth, including beverages, and next to each item write down the time that you ate it.

By doing this simple task you will begin to see where you need to improve on your eating habits, and this alone will play a big part in your lifestyle change.

In the next few issues, fitness advice and knowledge will be covered to help you reach your goals, including, small challenges, healthy eating tips, fitness routines and options, and delicious healthy recipes!

Consider this quote from Eleanor Roosevelt as a final note: "You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing which you think you cannot do."

SOUNDS

THE DECEMBERISTS – THE KING IS DEAD

OREGONIANS ABANDON ROCK-OPERA, RE-EMBRACE AMERICANA

BY JONNY HODDER



The Decemberists have been making waves in the indie ocean since the release of their first EP, *5 Songs*, in 2001.

Their music is generally difficult to

peg down to a single genre, but a dotted line of alternative folk is easily traced throughout most of their catalogue, often incorporating harmonica, accordion, standing bass and various organs into their unique sound. Lead singer Colin Meloy accentuates their eclectic sound with his love of lyrical storytelling, characterization and arcane diction.

No album strayed further from their trademark style than 2009's *The Hazards of Love*, a complexly layered, theatrical concept album filled with operatic rock and a narrative thread about a fairy queen's seduction at the hands of a shapeshifter. The album was a critical success, ripe with climactic arrangements and 'epic' storytelling, but there were several moments where it threatened to split open at the seams, and altogether too many moments where it fell off the edge completely. In the end, it wound up sounding more like a troupe of travelling minstrels tweaking on high-powered acid than a handful of bookish Oregonians.

With their most recent album, *The King is Dead*, The Decemberists take a moment to clear the air of any lingering *Hazards*. Opening track *Don't Carry it All* could easily be mistaken for a Tom Petty tune if

not for Meloy's voice, which takes only seconds to escape the range of Petty's down home, nasal twang. A cameo appearance by R.E.M.'s Peter Dinklage is not as obvious as his presence in *Calamity Song* and *Down by the Water*, the latter of which is coloured by shades *The One I Love* from R.E.M.'s 1987 album *Documents*. *All Arise!*, meanwhile, is pure grassroots Americana with tastes of The Rolling Stones' *Country Honk* and The Tragically Hip's *Boots or Hearts*, ironically, neither of whom are American bands.

January Hymn marks the midway point of the album and finds Meloy romanticizing winter's beauty while reminiscing over lost moments in love. The album's other 'hymn', *June Hymn*, celebrates the new life of spring, and the innocence of summer. Both conjure up images of carefree children running along the edge of a creek, but in one the creek is frozen and snow-covered while the other is alive with lush flora.

This is Why We Fight is an anomaly in the realm of rock music in that it appears to be a pro-war, or at least not specifically 'anti-war' song. Lyrically, the song's protagonist appears to be chastising his enemy to bring on "war, avarice, the reek of bones, archers, and infantry" all of whom he will face in the name of dying "with his arms unbound."

Given Meloy's gauntlet of past characters – which include Chinese trapeze artists, gymnasts, chimbley (not chimney) sweeps, mariners, rogues, and a stable of fairies and damsels – it would be fitting to throw an unnamed courageous soldier into the mix. That being said, it's just as likely that the song is little more than an extended metaphor for overcoming life's many struggles.

The King is Dead marks a return to form for The Decemberists. While their foray into the world of



quasi-progressive, theatrical rock was successful by most standards, it peered too far over the edge and nearly lost itself in the abyss. By contrast, "King" turns heel at the cliff's edge and runs back to the ranch towards a warm embrace in familiar arms.

Rather than a series of meticulous 7-minute conceptual rock-operas about sprites and shapeshifters, they focus on a simpler, organic musical experience as we are presented with 10 compact alt-folk gems that seem utterly effortless (though, in truth, were probably planned just as meticulously as anything on *Hazards* or *The Crane Wife*).



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ART

AN INTRODUCTION

CURRENT WELCOMES GREG BLACKWOOD TO PRESENT ART AND ARTISTS
BY GREG BLACKWOOD



talent here in this small province and the visual art medium is no exception. It will be a personal mission

Coming up in the next few issues, Current will start to introduce more and more art and artists to its readers. It will be a great opportunity to both extend myself further into the rich local art community while at the same time expose as many emerging and established artists, as well. There is so much

of mine to bring as much to your visual palette in 2011 as possible.

So let's get started. First, a little bit about your new arts guy. For those who are not familiar, my background includes being a proud local artist that's been involved in the art scene here in Newfoundland and Labrador since 2001. Some of my work has shown in over ten group shows and with another five hosted solo shows since going professional.

My body of work varies from faces, landscapes and florals to rock and roll themed pop art with different works demanding different techniques. Using brush work gets a smooth flow and a number of different palette knives for paintings to add a hint drama and texture. A favorite style right now would have to be heavily textured oils with a palette knife. There is just something about the roughness and layering of paint that is really inspiring, when you use the knife.

Listening to music is an absolute must while working. The brush flows with smooth melodic strokes or a knife takes rough, textured scrapes of paint. As much as using oils can be great, my preference has always been to broaden technically and learn to use other mediums. Lately, mixed media is standing out. There have been a number of charcoal pieces, as well as a



few pastels in the past; so the styles can certainly be pretty varied.

So enough about me, let's talk about you. If you are a creative being of any nature and want to get your works seen, or at least talked about, reach out: currentmag@gmail.com or www.blackwoodart.ca.

Check out the next issue, which will feature local artist Mel Smith. Mel is going to talk about her own art as well as her business venture: Weekend with an Artist and Chef!

UPCOMING SHOW: Raw Refrains 12. February 26, The Brimstone Public House, featuring song writers, short film, comedy, dance, and visual art.



COVER

SWOLLEN MEMBERS ONE ON ONE

THE DIRTY ON THE NEW ALBUM, NEW BEGINNINGS, AND A NEW WORLD TOUR
BY CHRISTOPHER GORDON

The entertainment scene heats up despite the winter and local promoter Sure Fire Entertainment is bringing the crowds what they want. As a preview to their upcoming Club One show, Prevail from Swollen Members gave up some time to dish about coming back East.

Kicking off a new World Tour to promote their new album *Dagger Mouth*, the Swollen Members triffecta consisting of MC's Madchild and Prevail and producer Rob the Viking are very excited to tap into the

savage and chaotic energy they've shown fans in the past, both live and on the album.

"When we hit the studio to undertake the recording of *Dagger Mouth*," says Prevail. "We collectively agreed that we wanted to return to the signature Swollen Members sound of captivating beats and abstract lyricism. The truth and purity has returned ten fold."

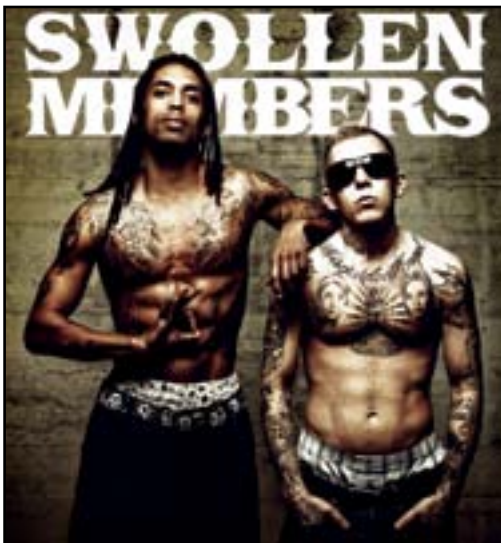
Having played in the province before, the guys have a heart-felt respect for the island. "The first Swollen gigs in Newfoundland were off the hook!" they explain. "It's been awhile but we are excited to come back and re-familiarize the island with our unique approach to the live show. And, I must say, your reputation for being the friendliest people on earth proceeds you across the country and beyond."

The band has not gone without troubles since. Madchild recently kicked a severe painkiller addiction that put the band on hiatus for three years and nearly crippled their record label BattleAxe Records. With a newfound respect for their craft, fans, and each other, the group are thankful their fans have stood by them. "One of the gifts of being in Swollen Members is the massive support of our listening audience, not only in times of celebration but also in times in controversy."



With the hip hop scene in St. John's becoming more and more relevant and dynamic, Prevail reminds those up-and-coming local artists who have dreams of making it big just what's important; "My steadfast advice is always to get exposure. It may start at open mic nights and lead to full time gigs, but in this musical climate, I feel that by letting an audience see you live can separate the anonymous performers from those who have presence."

Swollen Members kick off their island wide tour at Club One on February 17 with additional shows in Corner Brook and Clarenville on February 18 and 19 respectively. Tickets are available at The Sundance, Big Ben's and Ballistic. For more information check out Sure Fire Entertainment on Facebook.



JUST 2 CRAFTY

GIVING WITH A PERSONAL TOUCH

HANDMADE VALENTINES COME STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART
BY DEBBY WINTERS



What better way of saying "I love You" or "You're important to me" then making a special gift for Valentine's Day.

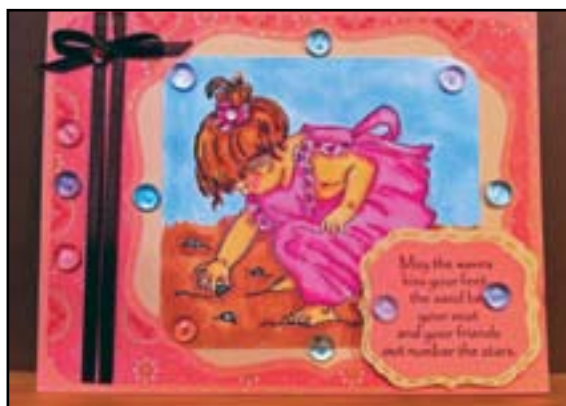
You can be clean and simple or as elaborate as you like. The main thing is that the gift is coming from your hands and your heart. How about a gift

card from their favourite bookstore? You can make a beautiful gift card holder and a bookmark to match! If you need to satisfy a sweet tooth make a trip to the bulk food isle in your local supermarket for some cinnamon candy hearts, wrap them in some coloured cellophane add a bow and a handmade gift tag.

For a Valentine gift that keeps giving, make a coupon book using cardstock cut to a smaller size, write, stamp or print out things like; good for one night out or a night in as the case may be! Use your imagination! Then stack your coupons and use a hole punch to make holes down one side, thread a ribbon through,

tie a bow and there you have it! If you have a bind-it-all you can make a binding for your coupon book. Many paper cutters, both large and small come with a scorer and a perforator. Either can be used so that the coupons can be detached easily.

Then of course, there is the card. Hand-made cards tell people you care before you even put a word on them! Choose a style card that speaks to the person you are giving it too. It can be cute and cuddly, like the cherub card pictured. The images were cut out using a Cricut Expression Die cut machine and a companion computer program – Sure Cuts a Lot. Programs like these give you creative freedom to change the size and orientation of your projects. The same bear that is on the card can be



made bigger to put on a candy box or other gift. The image was bought online and downloaded so you have it instantly and it's part of a set of cherub bears.

You can be dramatic and romantic like the silhouette card. Using colours such as red and black that offset each other adds a simple but striking effect. A little bling can be added with some rhinestones or crystals if you wish.

All Valentines do not have to be mushy or full of love, you can also send warm wishes to people you care about. The third card does just that. The image is stamped in black ink and then coloured with watercolour pencils. The dew drops are added for effect. The sentiment on the front is simple, sweet and heart-warming.

This Valentine's Day, give a handmade gift of love that will be appreciated and kept for many years. For more information check out <http://www.just2crafty.blogspot.com>.

SNAPS!

NIGHT LIFE

THE HOT SPOTS OF ST. JOHN'S
PHOTOGRAPHER: TREVOR LINEHAN



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SOUNDS

CARMEN TOWNSEND

A WOMAN WITH HEART
BY GARY MOORE



As a young musician in high school, going through an impressionable stage, you perform songs that are written by your heroes and songs that you can relate

to, or even rebel with. This is a common theme amongst teenagers. But every now and then you will hear about that one particular person who stuck to their guns and stuck to who they aspired to be as a teenager. Meet Carmen Townsend.

Carmen Townsend, from Cape Breton, has just released her debut album *Waitin' and Seein'* produced by Gordon Gano of Violent Femmes, a band she once covered songs by when she was in high school.

"We had met Gord in his apartment in New York City almost a year or more before the record production began. We got to talk music and he had on a Cape Breton ceilidh t-shirt when I met him. He was really interested in the project, which felt awesome. I mean, I covered his songs in high school, so it was really great meeting him!" shares Townsend.

Townsend cites sticking to her guns and sticking with the people that started with her in the beginning and through the whole project as her biggest accomplishment with *Waitin' and Seein'*.

Carmen is headed out on a cross Canada tour with Heart. A true honor in itself, but the honor is the fact Heart hand-picked Carmen to join the tour.

"It's really hard to explain the feeling. It's really hard to describe 'cause there are so many emotions swimming around in my body right now. It is sort of a validation that I've taken a lot of risks to get everything happening for this record. It shows that I've had the right people on my team from the very beginning. I was so excited to know that Heart was even listening to the record. Now that they've choose me its really surreal," says Townsend.

Carmen Townsend and Heart kick off the tour in St. John's followed by a visit to Corner Brook, January 28 and 29 respectively. No stranger to Newfoundland, Townsend is eager to return; "I remember awesome response from Newfoundland audiences and really friendly, open people who really love their Rock! I get a lot of support and love from Newfoundland and I love it. It is definitely one of the most beautiful parts of Canada that I don't get to see enough of."



Townsend admits that she's looking forward to getting the opportunity to get to know Ann and Nancy Wilson (Heart), and to be a fan of the band and watch their set every night.

"They are probably one of the most influential bands, because not a lot of females were doing what they were doing in their time. It's so awesome to see that they are still playing and performing and that they can still bring it. Really excited to just see the show!"

EVENT

HAVE YOUR CUPCAKE AND EAT IT TOO!

LOCAL BUSINESSES PARTNER FOR LOVE AND CHARITY

BY DEBBY WINTERS

What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day then with a hand-made card and a locally made cupcake! The Paperie has teamed with a new and blossoming business, Sweet Love Bake Shoppe to bring you Gourmet Cupcakes and Sweet Greetings - an exclusive, weekend event giving you a chance to make some pretty make-and-take cupcake cards, sample some delicious home baked cupcakes while supporting your local food bank. Its all happening in time for Valentine's Day!

Established in 2004, The Paperie was the first dedicated scrapbooking and stamping store in the province. Sweet Love Bake Shoppe is a home-based business, just a few months old but gaining local notoriety with their wide variety of mini and full-sized gourmet cupcakes. When asked about the start of their business co-owner/operator Joanne Metcalfe explained; "The idea came about pretty quickly. I have been baking yummy treats for years but cupcakes have always been my favourite to create (and eat!). My fiancé Gary and I made about 100 mini cupcakes for a party one night and the guests were bubbling with excitement about how delicious and cute they were. It was impossible to ignore the strong response. The next day we did a bunch of research and came up with a plan for Sweet Love Bake Shoppe."

Sweet Love has provided cupcakes for every kind of petite party and opulent occasion! Their cupcakes have appeared at dinner parties, staff functions, baby showers, birthday parties, girls' nights and special holidays. They will be catering their first wedding in February and have more booked for this summer.

Meghan Fahey, The Paperie manager explains how the event came together; "I was admiring the gorgeous cupcakes on the Sweet Love Facebook page when I read a comment asking if they had a storefront. I emailed Janna (co-owner of The Paperie) to see if we could invite Sweet Love Bake Shoppe to our studio for an exclusive event. We make a lot of custom invitations, so both of our businesses attract a similar clientele - it was obvious to cross-promote!" Gourmet Cupcakes and Sweet Greetings takes place February 12 and 13 from 12 - 5pm. The Paperie will offer a discount on registration for upcoming Sweet Greetings Card Classes to any new customers who sign up for the newsletter. For info go to <http://www.facebook.com/sweetlovebakeshoppe>.



FILM

THE DILEMMA

STARRING VINCE VAUGHN, KEVIN JAMES AND JENNIFER CONNELLY
BY TIM CONWAY



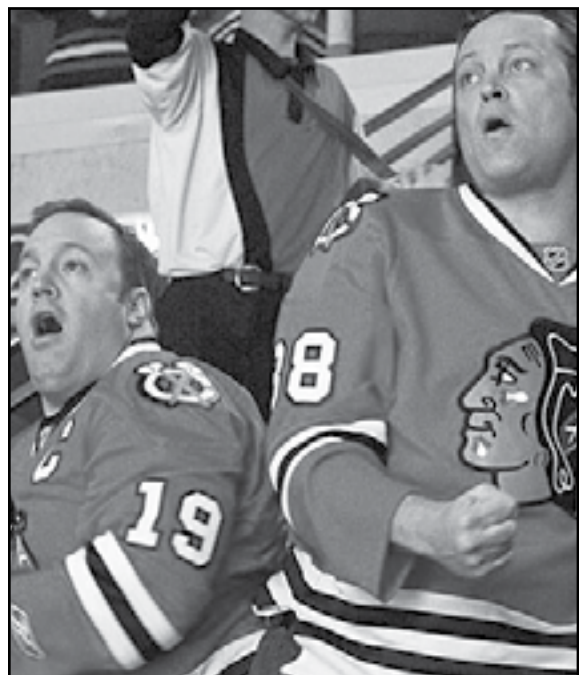
Winona Ryder

118 mins.
* 1/2 (one & a half stars)

Ronny Valentine and Nick Brannen have been best friends since college, and that wasn't yesterday. They also share a small automotive design company from which the fruits of Nick's engineering smarts are sold by Ronny to the big car companies. After years of hard work, they've finally come up with something that could take their business into the big leagues, and thanks to Ronny's machinations, they score a meeting with a group of Chrysler's top brass to pitch their product.

This is just the first hurdle, since they're looking for money to complete their work. Still, Ronny is in control of his game, and when the big day arrives, he manages to win them over enough to get a substantial financial commitment. Unfortunately, it's only after the deal is done that Ronny discovers that Nick is not as close to completion as he'd thought, and meeting their deadline would be a lot tougher than anticipated, especially since Nick apparently doesn't handle pressure very well.

The anxiety level is turned up a few more notches, however, when Ronny discovers that Nick's wife, Geneva, is having an affair. Having always regarded them as his "hero couple," this is shocking enough, but Ronny is even more shaken by his obligation as Nick's best friend to tell him, especially since he also doesn't want to compromise Nick's ability to meet the upcoming deadline with Chrysler. As he wrestles with the questions of how, and when to break the news to his friend and business partner, Ronny seems blind to the fact that as time goes by, he's creating more problems than the one he's trying to solve.



Directed by Ron Howard, *The Dilemma* features Vince Vaughn as Ronny and Kevin James as Nick, with Winona Ryder in the role of Geneva, and Jennifer Connelly as Ronny's girlfriend, Beth. With this line-up, and Queen Latifah besides, you shouldn't have to be a super-salesman to sell tickets to this. However, considering that the trailers for the film mislead viewers to expect much different fare than is presented, perhaps the studio should have had a few real life incarnations of Ronny Valentine on hand after the show, explaining why you shouldn't feel cheated out of your money.

That's not to suggest that *The Dilemma* has no redeeming qualities. On the contrary, almost every scene offers something of value, and to their credit, it's often difficult to determine if the cast are delivering lines written for them, or improvising, although chances are that Vaughn is winging it more often than not. Whichever the case, within their own parameters, scenes are played out rather well. The problem is that they seem more appropriate to a program of workshops than a motion picture, where each scene is taken individually, and played in a number of ways, without regard for a larger, cohesive story. There are lots of interesting trees here, but a pretty shabby forest.

Compounding the problem is that Ronny Valentine, the typical Vince Vaughn fast-talking creation, is not a character that plays upon your sympathies, and as a co-producer of the film, Vaughn is probably given a little



Jennifer Connelly and Vince Vaughn

bit more latitude with Ronny than is good for the film. Perhaps there are viewers who'll delight in watching him make a muck of things, and occasionally get his comeuppance, but for most, it's just not entertaining.

If there is one thing that *The Dilemma* is trying to do, it's making an indie-style film on a Hollywood budget. As an end unto itself, however, this is just a cheap gimmick, which in this case, seems to have distracted from the more basic goal of writing a good story, and telling it well. Perhaps folks are better off if, with his years of experience with comedy in front of the camera, Ron Howard had taken on the lead role, and let Ronny Valentine work his magic behind the scenes.

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REVIEW

THE RESTAURANT REPORT CARD

THE MYSTERY REVIEWER REVEALS THE REPORT CARD

BY CRITIC.CURRENT@HOTMAIL.COM

With the recent and ongoing economic boom that St. John's has been experiencing, diners are being treated to more options to consider for a meal out. There are plenty of interesting choices available beyond the cookie cutter franchise world of frozen or processed foods that are out there.

Current has enlisted the services of a trained and established chef to do the dirty work. Although the mystery report card doesn't involve cooking, it will focus on taste among other things like selection, quality, service, presentation and even down to the

quality of washrooms! The hope is to tell you what you need to know so you too can give featured foods and spots a try!

Maybe it will get some dialogue flowing with respect to what consumers think of their experiences, and perhaps influence some local restaurateurs to follow suit and further entice folks to try and retry their menus and specials.

Look out for the new restaurant report card, and if you like, email the critic (critic.current@hotmail.com)

RESTAURANT REPORT CARD

	MENU SELECTION
	PRESENTATION
	TASTE
	SERVICE
	QUALITY
	WASHROOMS
	OVERALL EXPERIENCE

with your comments, questions or whatever is on your mind with respect to the feature.

TOUR

THE IDLERS TOUR AGAIN!

CROSS CANADA WINTER ROAD TRIP TIME!

BY GARY MOORE

Since forming in 2006, The Idlers have exploded quickly onto the dance floors, in St. John's and across Canada. In May 2010 Idlers went the distance and toured across Canada, spreading the love, music and most notably, the dance floor.

"The tour was a stepping stone, a musical escalator. We started on the third floor and made our way up to the fifth floor. There were sellout crowds out west combined with a show in Nelson, BC with 12 people. We dropped down to the first floor there for a minute," says Idlers guitarist Pahl Schiralli-Earle.

In February, The Idlers will set out on that same distance for a winter cross Canada tour returning to those same cities.

When The Idlers started their tour in 2010 the opening date was with the English Beat, and that performance couldn't have been a more alarming and amazing experience at one time.

"The first show was opening for the English Beat who beat the #\$\$%^ out of us. After that show we realized that we had to make our show more cohesive, diverse and intense. So we started building a set with transitions and started thinking more about the overall performance," shares Earle.

The Idlers are in the pre-production stage of their next album and have new tunes that they will be breaking out on tour. The winter tour will see the band start out west and work their way back home,



to Newfoundland, in hopes of avoiding some of the winter road conditions.

There's a tour fundraiser show February 4 at the Rockhouse with Bonavista Chainlocker. When The Idlers return home in April the focus will be set on shows in the United States and summer festivals.

WORD UP

LOCAL COOKBOOK WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD

DILDO AUTHORS OFF TO PARIS FOR FINAL COMPETITION.

BY DEBBY WINTERS

Every year, there are approximately 26,000 food and wine books printed worldwide. One of those cookbooks, *George House Heritage Bed & Breakfast Kitchen Recipes* is the winner in the Canada – English category of the Gourmand World Cookbooks Awards 2010. George House Heritage Bed and Breakfast is located in Dildo. The owners and operators, Dale Cameron and Todd Warren are the authors of the cookbook published by Flanker Press.

Warren and Cameron explain the creation of their cookbook; "Each season our guests would dine with us and ask for recipes for dishes that we serve in our dining room at the bed and breakfast. Initially we would hand write down the recipes, then we began to email them to guests if they left their email with us upon departure. Then two seasons ago we casually said to guests that they would have to wait until our cookbook came out to get the recipes. While we said this in jest the guests were so happy to have a whole collection of recipes that they said 'put us down for a cookbook when it comes out.' As luck and good

fortune would have it the folks from Flanker Press heard that we wanted to produce a cookbook and we pitched the idea to them that we had and the cookbook became a reality."

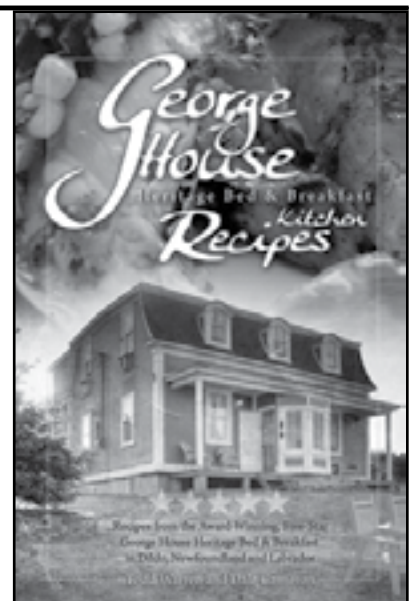
Their cookbook is a collection of over 300 tried-and-true recipes that are guaranteed to tempt your taste buds. Included with these mouth-watering recipes are helpful cooking tips and suggestions, interesting facts and trivia, and delightful comments from guests of the George House Heritage Bed & Breakfast.

Warren and Cameron received the news by email and were so shocked to learn they had won they had to read the email several times before it really hit home. They are delighted that their first publication would be received so well. The authors credit Adam Freake of Freake Designs for the fantastic cover and making the publication stand out.

The pair will be traveling to Paris for the final judging and announcement on March 3, 2011, at the annual

awards event. It will take place in Paris at Le 104, the new artistic centre of the city of Paris, on the first day of the Paris Cookbook Fair at the same location.

Of the upcoming trip they said, "We are excited to be in Paris, to attend the World Cookbook Fair and to participate in the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards. It is nice to see a Canadian cookbook being put forward for the competition and more so that it is from two guys who love to cook in the outport of Dildo, Newfoundland and Labrador."



LISTINGS

WHAT'S ON!

CHECK OUR LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, January 28

Club V: Dr. Drake & DJ Sina
Loft 709: Kid Cue
Quidi Vidi Brewery: Happy Hour 'till 8
Shamrock City: Connemara
Spin: Funktastic Friday w/Leo van Ulden & Kid Cue
Stanley's: Karaoke
Turkey Joe's: Triple Threat Fridays w/ DJ Scrappy

SATURDAY, January 29

Spin: Mike the Tailor
Stanley's: Karaoke
Turkey Joe's: Sexual Saturdays w/ DJ JayCee

SUNDAY, January 30

Greensleeves: Damian Follett
Grumpy Stump: Karaoke
Kelly's Pub: Fred Jorgenson
O'Reilly's: Traditional Jam Session w/ Elizabeth Siegel
Turkey Joe's: Ladies Night, first 50 get 3 free drinks

MONDAY, January 31

Greensleeves: Damian Follett
Grumpy Stump: Open Mic
Loft 709: Martini Monday's w/DJ Diamond
O'Reilly's: Sing-a-long Jam Sesson
Turkey Joe's: Manic Mondays: Happy Hour All Night

TUESDAY, February 1

Bella Vista: (8:30PM, \$5) Sizzlin Salsa Tuesdays
Greensleeves: Damian Follett
Grumpy Stump: Karaoke
Shamrock City Pub: Connemara
Turkey Joe's: Two for Tuesdays w/Carl Peters & Dave White

WEDNESDAY, February 2

Greensleeves: Kronik
Grumpy Stump: Karaoke
Headquarters: Adam Baxter
The Fat Cat: Chris Kriby (acoustic)
The Martini Bar: Acoustic Trio Wednesday with Stixx and Stones
The Ship: Folk Night
Stanley's: Karaoke
Turkey Joe's: Draft Wednesdays w/ Radio Suitcase

THURSDAY, February 3

Greensleeves: Unlisted
Headquarters: Noise Terror Thursday
Kelly's Pub: Fred Jorgenson & Arthur

O'Brien
O'Reilly's: Acoustic Punters
Shamrock City Pub: Middle Tickle
Turkey Joe's: \$1.75 Thursdays with DJ JayCee

FRIDAY, February 4

Majestic: The Heart Truth Fashion Show
Stanley's: Karaoke
Turkey Joe's: Triple Threat Fridays w/ DJ Scrappy

SATURDAY, February 5

Loft 709: Dance League Saturday w/ DJ NuRock
Spin: Seamless Saturday w/Mike the Tailor
Stanley's: (10PM) Karaoke
Turkey Joe's: Sexual Saturdays w/ DJ JayCee

SUNDAY, February 6

Greensleeves: Damian Follett
Grumpy Stump: Karaoke
Kelly's Pub: Fred Jorgenson
O'Reilly's: Traditional Open Session w/ Elizabeth Siegel
Shamrock City Pub: Arthur & Con O'Brien
Turkey Joe's: Ladies Night, first 50 get 3 free drinks

MONDAY, February 7

Grumpy Stump: Open Mic
Greensleeves: Damian Follett
O'Reilly's: Larry Foley & Patrick Moran
Shamrock City Pub: Anthony MacDonald & Ronnie Power
Turkey Joe's: Manic Mondays - Happy Hour All Night

TUESDAY, February 8

Bella Vista: (8:30PM, \$5) Sizzlin Salsa Tuesdays
Grumpy Stump: Karaoke
Greensleeves: Damian Follett
Shamrock City Pub: Connemara
Turkey Joe's: Two for Tuesdays - "2 for 1" w/Carl Peters & Dave White

WEDNESDAY, February 9

Greensleeves: Kronik
Grumpy Stump: Karaoke
Headquarters: Adam Baxter
The Martini Bar: Acoustic Trio Wednesday with Stixx and Stones
The Ship: Folk Night
Shamrock City Pub: The Navigators
Stanley's: Karaoke

Turkey Joe's: Draft Wednesdays w/ Radio Suitcase

THURSDAY, February 10

Greensleeves: Unlisted
Headquarters: Noise Terror Thursday
O'Reilly's: Acoustic Punters
Turkey Joe's: \$1.75 Thursdays with DJ JayCee

What To Do? (For Artists)

Secure Footing in a Changing Literary Landscape Professional Development Symposium for writers in all phases of their careers (Feb 7, MUN, Junior Common Room, Main Dining Hall, Irwin Road) Sponsored by the Writers' Union of Canada and Canadian Heritage.

Professional Festivals Program: The Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council (NLAC) is accepting applications for the Professional Festivals Program (available to professional not-for-profit arts festivals or series that exclusively run during a concentrated period of time). Deadline: 15 February 2011. Festival or series must start on/after 15 April 2011. For info: 726-2212, nlacmail@nflc.net; www.nlac.nf.ca.

Call for Nominations - NLAC Arts Awards - The Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council is accepting nominations for the 26th annual Arts Awards. Members of the public may submit one nomination for each of the following: Artist of the Year, Arts Achievement, Arts in Education, Emerging Artist, Hall of Honour, and Patron of the Arts. The deadline for nominations is January 31, 2011. For more information or to request nomination forms contact the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council: 726-2212, Toll Free (NL only) 1 (866) 726-2212, nlacmail@nflc.net or visit www.nlac.nf.ca

Talented female lyricist/poet for semi-pop song writing collaboration (ie: Joni Mitchell, Sarah McLaughlin Paul Simon etc. Singing/instrument an asset but not essential. Email aewpike@hotmail.com

Anna Templeton Centre (Duckworth) contact for info re: adult and youth classes, workshops

Clay Cafe (39 Commonwealth Ave, Mount Pearl 745-2345): open til 9PM

Devon House Clay Studio - open studio times, contact for info

GALLERY LISTINGS

Leyton Gallery - Info: www.theleytongallery.com or 722-7177.

The Craft Council Gallery (Devon House, Duckworth Street; www.craftcouncil.nl.ca)

Eastern Edge, An Artist-Run Gallery (72 Harbour Drive). Open Tuesday to Saturday, 12-5pm. For info on exhibitions and events visit www.easternedge.ca or call 739-1882)

The Rooms: (www.therooms.ca Wednesdays 6pm-9pm are Free, 9

Bonaventure Ave. 757-8000).

SPECIAL EVENTS LISTINGS

The Drawer Boy (Feb 2- 6) stars Steve O'Connell, Bruce Brenton, and Brad Bonnell. This funny and heartwarming show plays the Basement Theatre at the Arts and Culture Centre.

IN THE NAME OF LOVE CAKE WALK (Eastern Edge Gallery, Feb 12, 2pm-5pm). Join us Saturday February 12th for an oh-so-sweet and tasty afternoon fundraiser. Listen carefully to the honeyed voices of pop music's best crooners, heartthrobs, and dreamboats; when the music stops, you stop, and if your number is called you win scrumptious cake for your friends, family or loved one. Admission \$15.

ANDY JONES PRES. THE ABBIE TABLE (Eastern Edge Gallery, Feb 19, 2pm). Andy Jones, concludes his month-long residency at Eastern Edge with a performance based on the Abbie Table, a collaborative work narrating the life of a Newfoundland family engaged in the salt fishery from the 1920's to the 1950's. The afternoon will include a traditional Newfoundland meal featuring salt fish and other outport goodies. Contact the gallery in advance to reserve a meal ticket, just \$10.

The Holy Heart of Mary Class of 1990 20th Anniv. Reunion Planning Committee is looking for grads of the Class of '91. We have started planning for the Holy Heart of Mary 20th Anniversary reunion and want to ensure all graduates are aware. The dates will be August 5 and 6, 2011. Email HHM1991reunion@gmail.com for info.

Botanical Gardens Fall Hours start Oct 1; Open daily from 10am - 4pm with reduced admission

CLUB DU SAMEDI - FALL 2010 If you plan to register your child on site on Saturday morning, please arrive by 8:45. The Club du Samedi meets on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. for fun-filled French activities for children aged 5-14 - language-based activities, arts and crafts, music, gym, drama and more! The spring 2010 session begins on October 2nd and continue for 10 weeks. For more information, visit www.acfsj.ca/club

Mile One Centre 2010-11 ice skating season! Public skating has started with a variety of skating sessions offered - Parent & Tot, Senior, Adult, and Family - plus Lunch Time sessions each weekday from 12:15-1:45pm. For a complete list of skating sessions, visit www.mileonecentre.com

Early Bird Watch (MUN Botanical Garden, every 2nd Sunday, 8am) Meet in the parking lot, free, call 737-8590

Tango on the Edge (Every Thursday, RCA Bldg., 8:30pm) Social Argentine tango. An interest in tango is all that's required. For details and info, visit www.tangoonthedge.ca

Comic Jam (Hava Java, last Monday of every month, 7PM, free)

St. John's Farmers' Market end-of-season and Special Holiday Market (Dec 18, Lions Club Chalet, 9am - 2pm) The market returns in 2011, Saturdays, June 4 - Dec 17, 9am - 2pm, Bonaventure Ave.

Free Internet: Love of Learning offers free internet and computer use for resilient youth between 15 & 35, noon to 6pm, weekdays, Gower Street United Church. For info, www.fortheloveoflearning.org or call Darcy at 722-8848.

Hurling & Gaelic football training on-going weekly. Contact Brendan at GAA_SJ_NL@yahoo.ca for details, or see St. John's GAA Club on Facebook

Avalon Wesleyan Church meets every Sunday Morning, 10 AM @ The Rabbittown Theatre (106 Freshwater Rd.) Join us for a casual atmosphere, current music, and coffee. www.avalonwesleyan.ca or 576-6937.

For The Love of Learning (weekdays, 12pm-6pm, Free to youth 15-35): 99 Gower Street. Classes in world religion, philosophy, folklore, art, theatre, resume-building. Free lunch at 1PM (722-4846)

Mall Walkers' Club: (Avalon Mall, Thursdays, 8:45am) (737-2333)

The Pottle Centre: (323 Hamilton Avenue, social and recreational programs for users of mental health services) 753-2143

Seniors Bridging Culture: (Seniors Resource Centre, Thursdays, 2pm) Tea, guest speakers, and conversation (737-2333)

Seniors Friendship Club: (Seniors Resource Centre, Fridays, 2pm 737-2333)

Shambhala Meditation Group: (Billy Rahal Fieldhouse, rear Elizabeth Towers) Free meditation practice. Call 576-4727 or visit http://stjohns.shambhala.org

Traditional Latin Mass: The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin) celebrated on Sundays, 5:15PM at St. Pius X Church, Latin-English Missals & resources provided. For info or a free Visitor's Guide to the Latin Mass call 722-4842 or unavoce.sopc@gmail.com

St. John's City Council Meeting: (City Council Chambers, 4th Floor, Mondays, 4:30pm) Public welcome, see agenda www.stjohns.ca, posted Friday afternoons

Overeaters Anonymous: If your eating habits are making you unhappy and putting you at risk for serious health problems, you can do something about it. Call 738-1742 or www.oa.org

It's never too late to Quit Smoking Are you planning to reduce or quit smoking? Ask about a personal or group presentation. Participants receive a Coping Kit. Call Paula at 800-563-5599

ThyCa Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly meetings 4th Sat. every month, 10:30 - noon, Conference Room "C" Eastern Health Admin. Offices 306 Waterford Bridge Rd. Go to: http://www.thyca.org/sg/nf-lab.htm for info.

MY MESSY BEDROOM

AFTER THOUGHTS

DOES YOUR GUY PRESS "SNOOZE" AFTER SEX?

BY JOSEY VOGLES

One of life's sweet moments is in that blissful state after sex when you're laying there, bodies entangled, drooling slightly, and everything looks kind of blurry. Before you have to get up and grab whatever's in the laundry hamper to clean up the mess.

The time when guys notoriously want to roll over and go to sleep. One guy one guy from the past was the worst for this. He would try desperately to stay awake. He was good for about 30 seconds. There were jokes that he was like one of those dolls whose eyes close when you lay it down. Except it wasn't all that funny when it happened.

Coming down off sex alone - when you're not alone - is a drag. "Depending on the time of day, going to sleep is definitely my favourite thing to do after sex. Well, actually, anytime of day," one Rip Van Winkle-type friend admits. "Cuddling is definitely not my thing. And yes, it's a source of a tension in our relationship."

And it's certainly the stereotype. Women enjoy basking in the afterglow, while remaining relatively conscious, more than men. Well, sleepy boys, rest easy -- biology apparently backs you up. When it comes to men and women sexual response cycle, the last phase after arousal, plateau and orgasm is resolution. The big difference is that, after orgasm, the male cycle takes a nosedive with the resolution phase lasting about a minute, while women enjoy a more gentle descent, taking about five or 10 minutes to come down.

Add to this the fact that, once the orgasm-administered dopamine subsides, prolactin is released, which acts a bit like taking a Valium to bring you down.

As for women wanting to cuddle, blame oxytocin, the cuddle drug. Women release scads of it during sex apparently, it is thought, as part of their role in contraception. Oxytocin, it seems, causes her uterus to contract, helping to encourage those little spermatozoa upward.

Falling asleep right afterward once in a while isn't such a big deal. Especially if it's 5am and you have to get up at 6am. It also depends on the intensity of your orgasm. If it's one of those ones that leaves your legs rubbery and your ability to speak impaired, some quiet spooning time is definitely required - until a limb falls asleep and you both finally give in and curl into fetal positions and pass out.

Though while you're lying there feeling relaxed and satiated, with that big grin on your face, you should be able to at least squeeze in an expression of gratitude. Whispering a gentle, "That was wonderful," into your partner's ear is a lovely way to drift off. Toss in a few meaningful appreciative kisses after the act says "thank you" and keeps you physically connected.

For some couples, this feeling of connectedness naturally lends itself to verbal intimacy. "It's our catch-up time," one couple says. "We reconnect when we



have sex, so afterward, it's like, 'Hey I know you. What have you been up to?'"

That post-sex grogginess is a bit like being drunk - you're more open and apt to spill your guts. But, as when you're drunk, it's best to avoid the really heavy topics. Sometimes after sex is the best time to explore fantasies -- to talk about what you'd like to try. Since you've just had sex, there's no pressure to do anything about it right away.

In fact, why not use this time to drop a hint about something you liked about what just transpired and maybe add a new twist you might like to try in the future. And just like that, suddenly afterplay becomes foreplay for next time.

What do you like to do after sex? Frustrated because he isn't a cuddler? Tell me about it? For questions and discussion go to <http://www.AfterSexBuddy.com> where you can also get your own After Sex Buddy.

EVENT

IT'S A JERSEY THING, VINNY'S COMING!

SURE FIRE ENTERTAINMENT HEATING UP ST. JOHN'S

BY CHRISTOPHER GORDON



Vinny from Jersey Shore

2011 is already shaping up to be a year to remember on the entertainment front, and Sure Fire Entertainment is kicking it off right by bringing one of TV's biggest reality stars to

celebrate their new home at DUSK Ultralounge.

For the official launch of 'Frequency Fridays' at the ultra-swank DUSK nightclub, Sure Fire is bringing in MTV's Jersey Shore nice guy Vinny Guadagnino to host the night's entertainment. Vinny, as he is aptly known on the show, has just finished shooting the third season of the hugely popular reality show based on the drama filled lives of 8 Italian-American housemates who work, party, and hook-up in nearly every episode.

Sure Fire Entertainment has big plans for the local music scene by bringing high demand artists and celebrities to the area and mashing them up with Newfoundland's premier entertainers. The result is high powered, high energy shows the likes of which St. John's has been in need of.

The past year has seen tons of top shelf talent pass through the city thanks to Sure Fire's efforts, including JFK of MSTRKRFT, Lil' Jon, Xzibit, Far East Movement, Marianas Trench, Danny Fernandes, JRDN, Keith Dean, Girlicious, Karl Wolf, Belly, and Bam Margera to name a few. The promoter even hosted Drake's Juno after party this past summer. Venue's have been all over the city, from an outdoor concert in Torbay to several of George Street's hottest clubs and bars.

Catch Vinny at DUSK Ultralounge Friday, February 4 starting at 10pm. Tickets are available at the door only, so get there early because there are no pre-sale tickets for this show. 19+, ID Required and \$20 per ticket. Catch more info about the event on the Sure Fire Entertainment Facebook site.



\$3 BILL

A GIRLY-BOY'S BEST FRIEND

WHAT ARE DIAMOND RINGS? (PHOTO CREDIT: NORMAN WONG)

BY RICHARD BURNETT



It was easy to flip for rising electrodance pop star and wunderkind John O'Regan – who donned rainbow eye shadow and rechristened himself Diamond Rings (but is better known to his buddies as John

O) – when he described himself as “the only kid on the block that wanted to pair a ballerina tutu from the tickle trunk with hockey gloves.” If anybody can pull off that hybrid look, it's our boy O'Regan. “I have photos of me wearing that as a kid!” John laughs.

“[But] when I was a teenager I spent most of my time playing sports and music really wasn't central to my life at all,” the six-foot-five-inch Oshawa native says today. “I wanted to be a basketball player. But in university – I was on the volleyball team by then – I figured a professional career wasn't going to happen. But I've always been athletic, active and in tune with my body.” And what a body it is. The gender-bending glam fashionista then pointedly adds, “But I was never a jock. That whole culture is uninclusive.”

So O'Regan played guitar for The D'Urbervilles, a band he formed at the University of Guelph. By the time he became a regular in Toronto's west-end indie-rock club scene a couple years later, O'Regan was writing songs alone in his bedroom and began performing shows for friends at loft parties. His roommate, videographer Colin Medley, directed the home-recorded video for the song *All Yr Songs*, a video that featured green-screen trickery, over-the-top choreography and daring androgynous outfits. Then the world came knocking: Diamond Rings – his one-man live-to-track act much like the Pet Shop Boys (“I saw them two years ago and was blown away by how much of the stage they were able to fill”) – has sold out SXSW showcases and opened for acts like La Roux and Owen Pallett. Then in October 2010 Montreal-based indie label Secret City Records released Diamond Rings' debut album *Special*

Affections. Rock critics went nuts. “Completely irresistible!” Pitchfork swooned, as NME raved, “Pretty much the best thing we've heard all year!”

“The attention wasn't overwhelming,” O'Regan says. “But when you're in the middle of the [whirlwind] there's not too much time to sit down and reflect. I don't spend much time reading every word [written about me].”

Though it's doubtful O'Regan didn't read about himself when Postmedia (formerly Canwest) recently opined, “It's difficult to exaggerate the contrast between O'Regan's everydude look as lead singer of the post-punk band the D'Urbervilles (big blocky glasses, tee, hoody and jean jacket) against the glam and glitz androgyny of his Diamond Rings persona.” But O'Regan says, “I'm not into the world of high fashion, but more into using clothes as way to express myself. I really believe clothing can be really liberating [because] music can be just as regimented [as sports]. If you're in the new rock band, you wear this. If you're in the new punk band, you wear that. I started to find characteristics [I thought] were exclusive to the world of sports and athletics carried over to music. I mean, I've got guitar-rock songs but I'm doing them in make-up and tights! The mash-up of all that stuff shows people things should not be as exclusive as they are.”

That, of course, is a fabulous post-gay way of looking at the world. If anything, John O, now 25, identifies as queer. “I don't know if being openly queer will affect my career but I'm young and relatively naïve,” he says without blinking a rainbow-brushed eyelid. “But the idea that I would ever really sell any records doing what I do never really entered my thought process. People might actually buy this?”

O'Regan continues, “Maybe for an artist [like Rufus Wainwright] who came out in the 1990s when things were less open than they are now, that might be true. But at this point I think people are generally more accepting. My parents have been fully supportive of me ever since I came out.”



When chatting with him, O'Regan is prepping his choreography and wardrobe for his slot opening on Robyn's current North American tour. Between shopping and rehearsals, John O is tweeting (his Twitter handle is “stayfierce”). And he's tweeting about Stevie Nicks. So conversation turns to the love for women rock stars. “I love women pop stars!” John O says happily. “I love Janet Jackson, Kylie Minogue – there's something really fun and sincere and earnest about pop divas. [But] it'll take a long time for me to get there [too]!”

Speaking of tweeting, Jian Ghomeshi of CBC's *Q* wrote in the *National Post* a couple weeks back, “Diamond Rings was a great revelation to me (and I would imagine, most of us) in 2010. His emotional and powerful songs are impressive. And I think he's just now hitting his stride. While his presentation is captivating (the boy is undeniably pretty), it's his voice and writing that's the star. This will likely be a year where he gains a great deal more attention.”

Really, unable to have put it better myself. As for John O, he tweeted Jian in response, “I'm blushing! Thanks!” But no one would really see John O blush beneath all that fabulous make-up.



ARTISTIC FRAUD
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