

THE BRUNS Entertainment

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Since August hits the big time



Special to The Brunswickan

Since August reaches out - from left to right, Pat Walsh, Ethan Young-Lai, Doug Larlee, Joel Green, and Derek McLaughlin.

Sean Patrick Sullivan The Brunswickan

The past year has been very good to Since August.

The Fredericton band has opened for Kid Rock in Toronto, played the infamous Mercury Lounge in New York, and were showcased at the Viper Room in Los Angeles. They just finished recording their major-label album debut and have a video that just premiered on MuchMusic a few days ago.

Quite a bit for a bunch of guys who started jamming here at UNB four years ago, not knowing what they were getting themselves into.

The group, consisting of lead singer Doug Larlee, lead guitarist Ethan Young-Lai, rhythm guitarist Pat Walsh, bassist Joel Green (who also contributes to the vocals), and drummer Derek McLaughlin, began as a cover band called Even.

They quickly rose in popularity, often venturing out of town for gigs around the Maritimes, and began writing original tunes. Eventually it became time to put together an album.

A three song demo recorded at Fredericton's Reel North Studios

was only to be a precursor for what would come.

A friend of the band had heard of a North American Battle of the Bands Contest on the website beer.com in March 2000, and suggested the group enter it. Choosing one of the tracks, 'Can You Feel The Rain,' they entered, never expecting what would happen.

After having completely forgotten about the contest, McLaughlin was surfing the net and came across the site again. To their astonishment, they were in second place.

Through both Internet visitors and promotion at shows, the band secured the number one spot until the contest closed at the end of April 2000.

The prize? The shows in Toronto, New York, and Los Angeles.

Sensing that big things were to come, Even recorded a full length album, again at Reel North. Andrew McCain, president of Loggerhead Records, heard it and signed the group immediately.

"Andrew's a great guy - he's in the business for all the right reasons," says Larlee.

The name had to change though, since a band in Australia had already claimed it. In searching for a new moniker,

Since August
SUB Cafeteria
October 11

Young-Lai happened across the phrase "since august" in a line of poetry. It

stuck, partly because of their achievements since August of 2000.

August of 2001, however, was an even bigger deal - it ushered in the release of their self-titled major-label debut.

Recorded in Montreal with producer Paul Northfield, who has worked most recently with Marilyn Manson, I Mother Earth, and The Headstones, the album is a crisp collection of solid rock tunes. The songs are smoothly produced, but retain the gritty edge that the band is known for.

Since August is mostly energetic, straight-forward rock (take a listen to the first single, 'If You,' to get an idea), often starting with a whisper and ending in a full-out

assault. 'If You' has already gotten excellent support across Canada, with more stations picking it up each week.

So, with all of this, what's left to do?

"Playing the shit out of it for the next year," laughs Larlee. A national tour will start later this fall, although the group will be doing a few shows around the Maritimes to get some promotion and hone their live show a bit more.

If the past few months are any indication, Since August will be hitting the big time soon. Both New Brunswick and national media are clamouring for interviews with the group, and the album sold out of Fredericton record stores on the first day.

The band seems ready for the attention. "We're not just students doing this on the weekend anymore - we're trying to make a career out of this," says Larlee.

"Everybody's pretty hyped. We know there's a job to do and we're going to do it."

This Thursday will see Since August performing at a Red Cross Benefit Show in the SUB Cafeteria. Tickets are \$12 and all proceeds go towards the Red Cross Relief Fund.

Win a Since August CD!

Drop this coupon off to The Bruns' office (Room 35 SUB) by Tuesday at 5pm

Name: _____
Email: _____

What is the name of Since August's debut album? _____

Bruce Guthro Top Maritime talent visits The Playhouse

Andrew Culberson

The Brunswickan

Bruce Guthro is touring in support of his new album *Guthro*, and he is blowing the socks off his audiences.

Bruce is a true Maritime artist that draws the audience into the show, though it does not really feel like a show - it was a very intimate concert ambience.

The concert consisted of two sets of music and stories from both of his albums, with more focus on his latest release. No matter what song he performed it was well accepted by the audience. He closed the evening with "Falling," a hit from his first album which tells a story about a father who writes a letter to the son he left at a young age. The first song of the encore was "Don't Go," the sequel to "Falling," which is a reply from the son. The Playhouse was silent during these two touching ballads.

Guthro painted beautiful pictures and told captivating stories with his lyrics. The song "Songsmith" was performed as an acoustic solo number at the beginning of the second set. This song shows just what a talented singer, songwriter, and musician Bruce Guthro truly is. He really did paint a picture with words - this is hard to do!

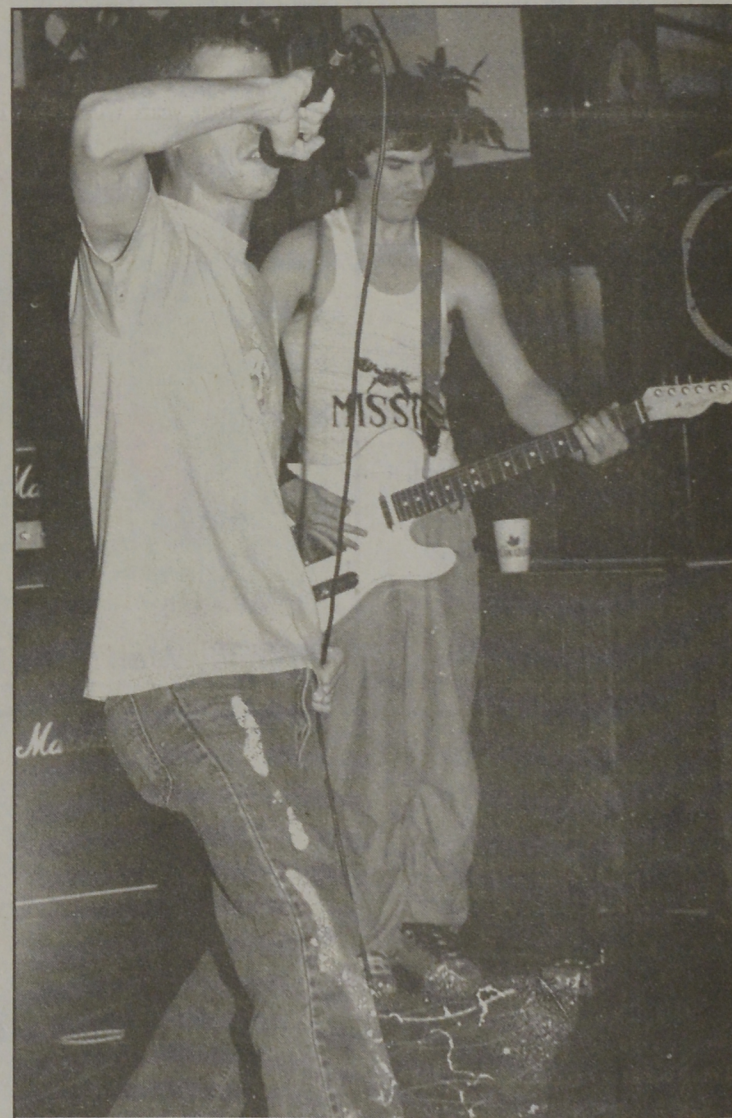
Often having fun with the audience, Guthro made people get out of their seats to sing and clap with the band. Bruce dubbed the crowd "The Fredericton Memorial Tabernacle Shitkicking Choir," as we sang the song "Squeezed" with him (a song about "getting laid," whatever that means).

At one point in the show he staggered onto the stage and talked about the different drunk walks you see. He had many stories to share, making the whole concert more of an experience.

The young band playing with Guthro was excellent; this is a group of talented musicians. Darren Moore played the sax, flute, and djembe. Cathy Porter sang and played percussion, keyboard, and the accordion. She gave the band the 'Maritime feel' with the accordion and washboards. Stefan Morin played the drums - he was solid. Joe Butcher sang backup and kept things a little funky with the bass, while Chris Ianneti, who also sang, helped round out the band with some excellent lead guitar work. Guthro sang and played rhythm guitar.

The band had some excellent jams in which everyone had a turn to be the center of attention. This reminded me somewhat of the Pat McGee Band, or the Dave Matthews Band. Bruce Guthro and his band have a very full sound that will aid them in catering to a large spectrum of listeners.

Make sure you get a chance to see Bruce Guthro next time he is in town. This is some of the Maritimes' best musical offerings.



Stephanie Brunet / The Brunswickan

Steve Duguay and Matt Bowie of The Missing at Bugaboo Creek last Sunday. The Missing, along with Das Radio & Scapegoatz opened for Massachusetts rockers Smackin' Isaiah.

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