

HARVEST JAZZ &

It's the largest and most musically diverse festival in Atlantic Canada, bringing in close to 70 000 music-lovers every year. With acts ranging from the folksy tunes of Grand Dérangement to jazz diva Molly Johnson to the legendary, New York-based Gov't Mule to the latin jazz and salsa of Cimarron - to a whole host of local favorites, including Matt Mays and El Torpedo and Grand Theft Bus - it's the Fredericton entertainment event of the year. Concerts span six nights, from Sept 11th to 16th over four city blocks in the downtown heart of New Brunswick's capital city.

Chillin' Room applauds the yearly Harvest

by Chillin' Room

The Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival has been a big stepping stone for Chillin' Room throughout the years. Our first show as a band took place four years ago, during the Galaxie Rising Star Competition. Since then we have been growing with the festival, and it's been

really great to see it grow just as we have as a band.

This year marks the release of our first album 'The Melting Pot' and after two tours into Upper Canada this past summer we are looking forward to showcasing new sounds to an enthusiastic Harvest crowd. We will be playing four shows this year, and are excited to share the stage with our friends Grand Theft Bus and the Fussy Part, as well as out-of-town friends, Vanderpark.

We feel it's important as local artists to really make an impact and play well

during the Harvest. Big crowds mean new fans and a chance to expose them to unique-sounding local music with a main stage feel. People who know Fredericton know that Harvest week is the biggest week of the year, music-wise. Everyone is hyped on the event and anxious to put their concert passes to work. With such a diverse line-up of international and local talent, who wouldn't be?

Chillin' Room will be playing The Barracks Stage on September 14 with GTB and Fussy Part and September 15 at the Capital with Vanderpark.

Harvest Jazz & Blues 'is the best festival we've played, period'

God Made Me Funky will be returning to Fredericton to play the Harvest Jazz and Blues

by Ashley Bursey

For Toronto funk band God Made Me Funky, getting balls-deep in apple pie was the highlight of their summer.

"We got a message on MySpace saying that a production company was looking for music from a Toronto funk band," says the group's emcee, Phatt Al. "But we got in touch with them, found out there were about 150 bands who had responded, and [the company] just whittled it down and said they would take our song [for an upcoming movie]."

"And then they went on MySpace and said they liked the way the band looked... [And they asked] 'Would you like to be in a movie?'"

The movie was American Pie Presents: The Beta House, the sixth film in the

series. The group performs two songs, 'Won More Time', and 'Luv T'Day', to what Phatt Al says was an appreciative crowd of partiers - and they didn't actually get to experience the apple pie thing.

"It was a toga party scene. We were all in togas," he says, with his signature belly laugh. "The set was different from every movie set I'd been on before. It wasn't stodgy; there was a real camaraderie between the actors and crew."

He puts on British accent. "[Not like], 'Oh, I'm here, and you're the crew.' It was like a party, up at this mansion for a couple days of shooting, a huge backyard with this gigantic pool, and we just had a lot of fun."

And the songs, a special hi-octane brand of nu-funk that makes dancing shoes mandatory, had partygoers buying CDs from the group on-set - just what this self-proclaimed 'party band' likes.

"We were running the tunes for two or three hours straight. [By that point], you expect people to be hating the tunes, [but] every time we finished there would be people cheering and it would be two, three o'clock in the morning and [everyone] would be really amped and hyped. We were like, 'this is really cool, we're putting on a mini concert' [Maybe] the Guinness World Record for the longest concert with two songs."

The band loves concerts, too, with a whole slew of different CDs in the tour bus' player.

"There's so much stuff out there but really, we're a weird band because most of the time we are listening to older stuff," he says. "I'm listening to a lot of retro stuff in terms of Amy Winehouse, Lily Allen; always listening to old school hip hop, RUN DMC, Grandmaster Flash and the Furious 5 and stuff."

"We tend to listen to Michael Jackson on the road - what can we agree on? Stevie Wonder, Jamiroquai...we just like that musically."

He adds: "Greening the songwriting element of it all, each musical form has a really strong pocket, and we just get into that pocket and say, that's really so amazing...you really don't need to get the latest keyboard or the latest drum machine and [need to] emulate Akon

to get a good sounding thing."

God Made Me Funky's musicians are no strangers to Fredericton, either.

"When we first started coming out east, we didn't know what to expect. We're a party band, fundamentally, and we come to get down and bring that nu-funk," says Al. "At the end of the day, we hope whoever's coming out is willing to leave their problems at the door, and have a good time."

"It's been amazing; the East coast knows how to have a good time, how to relax. It's like a working vacation for us, because there's no stress. We've always had a good time."

And the group, who's alternating between touring and working on a new album, says that's what it's all about.

"[Harvest Jazz and Blues] is the best festival we've played, period," says Al, who was here for last year's event.

For now, they're concentrating on bringing fans a little something different.

"When we started [recording the new album], we were thinking of doing real futuristic, electro-funk stuff," he says, "but what's come out is kind of like the '80s, just real fun shit from the '80s, but not -" he starts singing - "in a do do do do dooo silly pop way."

"It's more heavier stuff from the '80s, but combined with a lot of old school hip hop scenes and old school rock, and it's just really...pounding it out, having a good time with it."

In typical God Made Me Funky style, he adds, "It's been like, 'yeah, this is it, this is what's happening, but let's not fight this. Let's roll with this.'"

God Made Me Funky will be playing with Vanderpark and Dub Antenna at 8 pm at the Barracks Tent on September 13.



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Ginny Turner

Ginny is in charge of the payroll department at RPC (Research Productivity Council) in Fredericton and has been enrolled in the CGA program since 2003. The flexibility of the CGA program allows Ginny to take business courses through UNB Fredericton while studying for her CGA at the same time. Currently, Ginny volunteers her time on the CGA Fredericton Chapter board as a student representative. Ginny chose the CGA program to help her reach her career goal in the accounting profession.