



PleasingMary

Invited on Dublin tour

By Carol Baldwin
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

First Ireland, then the world. That's what PleasingMary is hoping to do – ultimately dazzle the world with its music.

Even though it all started right here in Oakville, the four-member band is heading off next week for a two-week tour in Dublin before it settles down to convince the rest of the world that it is a band to be reckoned with.

Founding members Mark Bagley and Karl del Puerto, lead singer and guitarist/vocalist, respectively, say it's just a matter of time, or is that timing, before they hit it big. In fact, PleasingMary has already been a hit on the club scene in Toronto, and was booked for the Irish tour when a promoter heard them during a gig at W.C. Fields Sports Bar.

"He was happy with what he saw and invited us to go to Ireland, right there and then," explains del Puerto. "We're playing six shows at Debase-ment...and we're playing at the Temple Bar Music Centre."

Despite the religious, or possibly even sexual, connotation in the band's name, Bagley says its origin is neither.

"We all worked at a gas station, except for our drummer Andrew (Florjancic), and our boss's name was Mary. We were looking for a name," he says, noting that most struggling musicians have jobs that pay the bills while they attempt to scale the musical ladder of success. "We had called ourselves Fluid before, and we just didn't like that name. So, since

our manager's name was Mary, we decided to call it PleasingMary. And we liked it. It's catchy."

Another name that seems to have caught on, for Bagley anyway, is Always Injured – a moniker he comes by quite naturally.

"I recently had knee surgery on my left knee. Right now I'm recovering from bronchitis. I'm always either sick or injured before every gig," he says, with a laugh. "I broke my fist before a gig, sprained my wrist, broke an ankle. If you look at our pictures, I've always got a brace or a cast or something like that on."

Yet, despite his warnings, his fellow band members are still willing to fly with him on the same plane to Ireland.

Bagley and del Puerto are also the promoters and composers for this alternative band. They compose and play everything from ballads to punk, using no simulated or computer sounds. Influenced by The Beatles, U2, Radiohead and Pearl Jam, del Puerto pens the notes

to accompany Bagley's lyrics – lyrics that reflect a maturity not often heard in today's pop culture. Subjects such as communication in relationships in their song *Looking* or perception and judgmental behavior in *Real Me* – cited as a favourite by three of the four band members – are part of their repertoire.

"Certain people in my life don't listen to what I say, but hear what they wanted to hear...That's where that song (*Looking*) came from," Bagley explains. "Everybody sees you as someone different, but nobody really knows you, except those close to you."

PleasingMary's newly released, self-titled CD features *Looking* and *Real Me*, along with eight of their 26 other original compositions.

A copy of the CD will be included in the \$10 admission price of their next gig – a fundraiser for their Ireland trip – at Toronto's W.C. Fields at 50 Cumberland St. on Saturday, July 21, beginning at 8 p.m...

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The Oakville band PleasingMary is preparing for a gig in Dublin. They are, clockwise from left, lead singer Mark Bagley, guitarist Karl del Puerto (with Bagley), drummer Andrew Florjancic, and bass player Jolyon Hess (with Florjancic). The band is holding a fund-raising concert on July 21 at W.C. Fields Sports Bar in Toronto. Call 416-921-3129 for more details on the concert or visit www.pleasingmary.com for more on the band.

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