

Entertainment

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The Tea Party serves up a potent fusion brew

By Craig Wigley
Special to HHTW

Hailing from Windsor, Ontario, they call themselves The Tea Party. I saw the group live before I was really familiar with their music. Amazing (ask Dave)!

These days, stepping into RPM in Toronto is like stepping into the future; around 2025 or so. See the Tea Party there and step out of an early 70s incarnation of a godfather, heavy metal rendition similar to that of Led Zep and the Doors.

Their EMI debut release is called "Splendor Solis". On the radio, you might hear the band's first single called "The River". Chances are, when you hear that tune (especially if you grew up through the rock

Wig's Music Notes

era of the 60s and 70s) you'll think, "Oh great, another blues rock, Led Zeppelin wannabe band".

Dig deeper, get the CD, hear more. "The River" is an accurate indication of what they can do, but there's a lot more to it.

I once heard Kirk Hammett (among others) say, "To imitate is to create". That's an axiomatic statement relevant to the music of this Windsor trio which is comprised of bassist Stuart Chatwood, drummer Jeff Burrows and vocalist/guitarist/producer Jeff Martin.

These guys expand the realm of creativity by fusing various musical influences, including Brazilian,

Chinese, Middle Eastern, English folk and African Percussion. Such influences and the incorporation of various musical techniques, such as down-tuned guitars, the use of violin bows and various percussion arrangements add to the sound. Carefully piecing together these influences, The Tea Party has created a spectacle of thought-provoking mysticism. A sort of welcomed stupefaction, if you will, especially while experiencing their live show.

And now some facts; Fact is, The Tea Party recently did a tour of Quebec. Before the tour, they were basically unknown in that province. By the time they left, they were number one

on CHOM-FM (one of the biggest radio stations in Montreal - part of the CHUM group). They also had a top-selling indie album in 1991 (also produced by Jeff Martin).

Their recent Ontario tour has them sharing the stage with the great Roy Harper and guitarist son, Nick Harper.

Enough facts? How about one more? To learn how to get more out of his Les Paul guitar, Jeff Martin took a trip to the Big Apple to meet the legendary Les Paul and got one-on-one pointers on the instrument.

This isn't just a plug-in-and-make-noise situation. This is a musically inspired and knowledgeable noise "situation"! Remember, what's noise to one is music to another.

Do you remember the band "Kingdom Come"?

Put that aside, come...try some Tea!!!

* The Tea Party is playing at Sheridan College in Oakville this Wednesday - students only.

** For Rush fans - Geddy and the Boys have another one due out in October called "Counter Part"!

***Red Hot Chili Pepper fans - you might be interested to know it's rumored the Red Hots have acquired Dave Navarro (who was with Jane's Addiction) for their new guitarist.

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Freestone advice - Avoid the Real McCoy

By Patrick Freestone

Top Nine reasons to not see "The Real McCoy":

- 9) Script so bad, writers forced to put away their building blocks and stay after school
- 8) It's not "Nadine" (1987)
- 7) Director Russell Mulcahy made Highlander II, the worst film of 1992
- 6) Director Russell Mulcahy made The Real McCoy, the worst film of 1993

Movie Review

5) Oh no! Only three months until 1994

4) I got in free and even I feel gypped

3) No Buttafuco jokes

2) It's been held over

And the Number One reason not to see "The Real McCoy": Only one 30 second gratuitous shot of Kim Basinger's legs!

All joking aside, The Real McCoy is the worst film of 1993.

The script is pathetic. There are so many holes in it a Mack truck could go through it with ease. William Davis and William Osborne are responsible for this slop. If you ever see their names on a film again, run; run for your life.

Director Russell Mulcahy, whose showy camera moves betray his rock video past, doesn't

have a clue about what he's doing.

Is it an action film? No, it's a romance - wait, maybe it's a sensitive drama - no it's crap. Six months from now, Mulcahy will be directing adult diaper commercials in Korea.

The cast is made up of quality actors - Kim Basinger, Val Kilmer and Terence Stamp - who should all know better. I know three agents who are now looking for work.

If you've received a large blow to the head recently and still want to see "The Real McCoy", Kim Basinger plays a bank robber forced to pull one last job in order to save the son she never knew.

Yes, the Real McCoy is as dumb as it sounds. It is also second rate fodder, not fit for a TV movie. Avoid it...please!

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