

LIVE

The Bats
Cricketers, July 31

This band is great, beautifully crafted pop songs which bounce off the walls of this pub and put fizz into your drink. The crowd responded to them and so they should, there was never a dull moment nor a bum note.

The evening hadn't started so well though, with the first band threatening to blow the PA with a "worst of the 70s" session. However the Bats blew away the cobwebs again with

their happy charm. 'Once Again' kicked off the night of uplifting, good feeling music. 'Danny's Highway' sounds good, as does 'Neighbours'. Malcolm Grant on drums is tight and he and Paul Kean on bass share excellent communication, keeping every song together as they drive us forward.

Everybody's up and dancing with 'Claudine' and voices join with the chorus. Well worth the mention is the excellent light and slide show on the Bats' current tour: wonderful colour mixes and rapid changes that help the impetus of live performance. Songs from the new album abound: 'Mastery' should be played by the commercial stations. Scott writes superb songs and this band knows

how to play them. Kaye Woodward on guitar picks out simple yet effective lines which support the rolling nature of the music and provides perfect vocal harmony to Scott's vocals.

Sadly, the night is over too soon, but the band certainly fulfilled my expectations and dispelled my fears generated by their showing on *RWP* recently. Yes! They did play that great song 'Made Up in Blue' and another equally brilliant new one, 'I Know I Am' (?) which will knock your socks off when the Bats hit your town. Be there!

Tim Byrne

Headless Chickens,
Jean Paul Sartre Experience
Gluepot, July 24 & 25

Jean-Paul Sartre Experience and the Headless Chickens — two bands from two islands, one looking back nostalgically over the past 20 years, the other shredding up and spitting out their influences from a combined harvester-synthesiser — came together for a memorable weekend in Auckland recently.

For two nights they packed the Gluepot, no small achievement for two uncommercial Kiwi bands with

lower star ratings than say the Verlaines, but certainly more originality.

JPSE however score sub zero in originality when it comes to lyrics. Wistful songs about a sweet woman of love, torn hearts, shadows, trees and other mundane items that have been sung about 10 million times before. They played simple catchy tunes with a low beat and laid back feeling. In fact you could (almost) call them boring. Certainly the handful of determined fans swaying self-consciously up the front to the plaintive crooning of singer/guitarist Jim looked as uninspired as the band-

members.

But the Experience warmed up towards the end of their set with some faster tempo numbers, leaning into early rock 'n' roll. These hard-edged songs held the punters' attention and had JPSE ending on a level nearly as high as when I saw them last year in Wellington. Pity most of their set was so insipid, something the Headless Chickens could never be accused of. Serious, ponderous and depressing maybe, but never insipid.

'Winter Came Early this Year' op-
CONTINUED ON PAGE 42

WALLS SURROUNDING ME

Wed 2 Sept — Metropole, Hamilton
Thur 3 — Gluepot, Auckland
Fri 4/Sat 5 — Auckland
Wed 9/Thur 10 — Harrington's Tauranga
Fri 11 — Motor Inn, Marama

Sat 12 — Hillcrest, Hamilton
Thur 17 — Superliquor, Palmerston Nth.
Fri 18 — Civic Centre, Lower Hutt
Sat 19 — New Plymouth

EMI RECORD RELEASE TOUR

LONDON

UNDERGROUND

HEAR THE UNDERGROUND SOUND
LIVE AT THE LONDON UNDERGROUND
SUPPORTING KIWI MUSIC WED-SAT

PHOTOS BY GRAHAM HOOPER



CIVIC TAVERN CNR QUEEN & WELLESLEY St, CITY



PROGRESSIVE
STUDIO

IF YOU THOUGHT THAT A RELAXED
ATMOSPHERE, REASONABLE RATES,
AND ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE WAS
TOO MUCH TO ASK FROM ONE
RECORDING STUDIO, TRY ASKING US.

ENVIRONMENTALLY
SOUND

Steve Garden: Engineer/Producer, Ross McDermott: Engineer/Producer, Tim Gummer: Manager
43 Anzac Av. P.O. BOX 4187 AUCKLAND 1. Ph 795 344.

BURNING HOUSE PROMOTIONS

ENQUIRIES
(03) 64198 CHCH
ANYTIME

SNEAKY FEELINGS
14th & 15th AUGUST

VIOLET SUMMER
21st & 22nd AUGUST

PHASE II
AUG 28-29

EBONY SYE
4th & 5th SEPTEMBER

NICK SMITH & THE BREATHING CAGE
11th SEPTEMBER

ALL FALL DOWN
THE GREENS

THE CAMELIAS
THE VERVE

ME A CULPA
12th SEPTEMBER

355 LINCOLN RD
OLD STAR TAVERN

RURAL to HARD-EDGED
CITY BLUES

VOCALS GUITAR HARP

Blistering Hot from New York
JOHN HAMMOND

5p.m. Sun. Aug. 16, Kingsgate Centre
Tickets at St. James Theatre
Postal Bookings Phone 656-973

BARBECUED IGUANA PROMOTIONS PRESENT:

HUXTON CREEPERS

TOURING SEPTEMBER

WATCH LOCAL PAPERS FOR DETAILS
Distributed through WEA