

STREET SCENE

The Push Stars bring sparkle back to 7th House



For anything that Chris Trapper can't conjure up in his mind, he has songs. For all he's dreamt about while gazing out of his window, he has music.

'I'm an escapist at heart. All people are. All people wish they could be richer ... making the most of their daily life and personal relationships.'

Chris Trapper
Push Stars



Stellar: Chris Trapper, Dan McLoughlin and Ryan MacMillan are pushing for the stars.

The singer-songwriter and guitarist of Boston-based trio, the Push Stars, writes expressive lyrics and music draped in vivid imagery. Complemented by the creativity of Ryan MacMillan on drums and Dan McLoughlin on bass and keyboard, the Push Stars are beaming with praise of music industry moguls, critics and fans alike.

Countless references to "the next big thing" were tossed around three years before their Capitol Records debut, "After the Party," was released last May. And the album, produced by Jack Joseph Puig (The Verve Pipe) and Gavin MacKillop (Toad the Wet Sprocket), has already generated two distinct singles: "Any Little Town," and "Drunk is Better Than Dead."

Everything truly seems to be shining for this band.

Despite nearly non-stop touring for eight months, Trapper had a few days off when he called from his Boston home on the evening of Monday, Jan. 24, just before the band's return to Pontiac's 7th House. The Push Stars headlined a show there

last November. "It was a casual night as I recall," said Trapper. "I had no idea what to expect. People actually came out."

Those humble words come from a man whose music has matriculated from the dressing rooms of Gap stores, to George Clooney's final episode of "ER" on prime time television, to the much-successful film "There's Something About Mary."

Perhaps the Push Stars sound finds its way into popular culture so easily because it speaks to the common person. But it does so with a certain elegance. Lyrics like "So smash all your mirrors/And look into me/Cause you're the most beautiful thing/I'll never see" ("Too Much Pride") reveal the delicate beauty in the band's music.

To think it all started in Trapper's New York home. He began writing songs at age 14. His brother taught him how to play the "Batman" theme song on his sister's acoustic, which she hardly played. He was first inspired to write his own song after being picked on in school. Many songs and a college degree later, Trapper moved to Boston seeking

stardom with another band. "There was a big scene. We crumbled very quickly."

So he took a job at a hotel, but continued to write songs — sometimes on wine boxes in the storage room of the hotel. With the encouragement of his parents, Trapper decided to give music one more shot and began performing at coffee houses, open mike nights and poetry readings. At one of those gigs, he met MacMillan. All it took was one promise from the drummer — "If I play with you, I'll get you a major label (deal) in two weeks" — and they were a team.

Enter Dan McLoughlin, whom Trapper met through a college friend. McLoughlin worked at Dreamland Studio and agreed to fill in on bass for a few songs on a recording. The result came to be known as the Push Stars.

The name itself alludes to the bandmates' perseverance in pushing to attain their dream. While Trapper said he feels they are three "nice guys in a cut-throat business," the Push Stars music reflects his sentiment of "choosing a dream and dreaming about where it's going."

Most songs on "After the Party" were written before Trapper had ever toured, written while sitting in his room fantasizing about the lives of different people. "I'm an escapist at heart," he mentioned. "All people are. All people wish they could be richer ... making the most of their daily life and personal relationships."

"Every song captures a major realization, a point in my life," he added. A writer, he said, is some-

one who "sits in the corner and watches the party go on." "After the Party" flaunts that polished insight with evocative style.

That sensitive, story-like songwriting deserves to be showcased on stage, where the band emanates an approachable style — something like watching your friends perform. And what a stellar performance it will be.

Listen for The Push Stars single "Drunk is Better Than Dead," during the opening credits of

"Gun Shy," a film starring Sandra Bullock opening Friday.

Catch them shine as they open for The Samples 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, 7th House, Pontiac. 18 and older. \$15. (248) 645-6666. Check out www.pushstars.com.

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STAY TUNED

Calling all metal-heads: Hip-O Records remembers how much those '80s power ballads meant to the listening public. That's why they've released a collection "Heart of Metal" containing 12 selections that will make sentimental fans bang their heads once again. The collection includes Cinderella's "Don't Know What You Got (Till it's Gone)," L.A. Guns "Ballad of Jayne," Extreme's "More than Words," and Meat Loaf's "I'd Do Anything for Love (But I Won't Do That)." Rock away.

Reel Big Fish has a real big announcement, the band is re-releasing "Everything Sucks," the first hard-to-find recording. The album was originally released independently in May 1995. The re-released version includes two "lost" recordings "Superhero #5" and "I'm Her Man." This should satisfy Reel

Big Fish fans until they begin the follow-up to the 1998 release "Why Do They Rock So Hard."

Just in time for Valentine's Day Hip-O Records has released "Heart of Soul: Classics" with songs like Montell Jordan's "Let's Chill," Brian McKnight "Your Love's Supreme," and Boyz II Men's "50 Candles." Grab a copy, light some candles and find out what it means to be romanced on the most lovable holiday of the year.

Moonshine Music has a lot to talk about these days. The label will release progressive trance albums for DJ Micro and Christopher Lawrence. DJ Dars and Dieselboy will release new drum 'n' bass CDs. And DJ Dan is set to give fans a follow-up CD titled "Another Late Night" in March. For more about Moonshine check their site at www.moonshine.com.

Online film, music festival reaches industry moguls

PRNewswire — A diversity of prominent entertainment industry managers, producers, directors, actors, agents and entrepreneurs will serve on the Advisory Board for the StreamSearch.com Internet Film and Music Festival, Sunday, Feb. 20-Monday, March 20, 2000.

The first-of-its-kind online festival will allow participants worldwide to view and vote on a combination of full-length feature films, short films, animated features and music titles from new and established artists.

The Advisory Board appointments signify powerful support from prominent film and music industry leaders for StreamSearch.com's objective of creating unparalleled entertainment events to demonstrate the potential of audio and video streaming.

Each member will help guide the launch and implementation of the Internet Film and Music Festival, serve on the primary Selection Committee for video and audio entries, participate in informative consumer-oriented

online chats during the event, and recommend future improvements.

The StreamSearch.com Internet Film and Music Festival Advisory Board members include: Steve Collins, Vice President, Film & Music, Chrysalis Music; Dan Cox, Journalist, Variety; John Fitzgerald, American Film Institute and

Kevin Foxe, Producer, "The Blair Witch Project."

"The board will add tremendous legitimacy to the StreamSearch.com vision of maximizing the Internet's potential as a powerful entertainment medium," says Robert Shambro, CEO of StreamSearch.com.

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