



ANDREA WEBSTER/ INTERCAMP

Daniel Yarmon of Red Shag Carpet wails on the bass Saturday Jan. 28 at the Powerplant.

Red shag carpet feed off energy of crowd

“Killer” show to release new album

BY ANDREA WEBSTER
GRAPHICS EDITOR

Red Shag Carpet, a band I was completely unaware of until just over a week ago, has been on repeat in my CD player ever since.

Fortunate to have the sneak-preview pleasure of hearing the album before it's release, I was more than excited to attend the CD release party on Saturday, Jan. 28 at the Powerplant for their second album, *Lift and Drop*.

After speaking with a couple of the band members and doing a little research, high expectations were building for the upcoming show. According to Daniel Yarmon (bass), they had been planning this night for over a year. “It's what we've been looking forward to since we started working on the album.” Red Shag have been together for about three years, but only last year they quit their jobs and became full-time musicians devoting their time to developing *Lift and Drop*. When the night finally came, they did not disappoint. Band members Matti Barrah (piano), Ted Ani (guitar), Allen Pickard (drums) and Yarmon, are known for their energetic live performances and ability to fill the dance floor at even the most lifeless gigs.

With their music being described as

‘uplifting, energetic, rock,’ it's easy to understand why people can't resist moving to their music. With four guys rocking out on stage, all singing, smiling, and obviously loving what they do, and an equally enthusiastic audience, resistance would be futile. Yarmon was expectantly happy with the way the show went last Saturday; “Killer,” he said. “People were on the floor from the first song right to the end. We definitely feed off the crowd's energy.” After playing all the songs from their new album, they dug out a couple songs from the first album to satisfy the crowd's demand for an encore.

Red Shag have a lot of on-going supporters who just can't get enough of their infectious sounds, “there's a whole group of people who came up from Calgary” says Yarmon. But the band makes an effort to keep close and personal with their fans. “We always appreciate feedback and make every effort to reply to emails.” Red Shag Carpet will now be heading out on a cross-Canada tour, “from Tofino to Halifax,” stopping in Edmonton for a short break in between.

But are Red Shag ready to record again? “We're already starting to write new material and have a few ideas up our sleeves,” Yarmon said. “But for now...relax, enjoy, and ride this out for a while.”

Sidetrack spreads musical love in February

Last month of music at popular bar

BY CASSANDRA KYLE
ARTS EDITOR

Before the Sidetrack Café closes the doors at its 10333-112 St. location, the venue will be showering Edmonton with love in the form of live music for the entire month of February.

The historic Sidetrack Café has seen over 1500 acts since the building opened its doors in 1981, and has since seen the careers of artists like Hawksley Workman, The Constantines and The Sadies expand to put these names on the top of the Canadian Music hit list.

The Sidetrack Café is offering Edmontonians 25 years of music in 25 days before their last show featuring Captain Tractor on Feb. 25.

“This move is a bit bittersweet,” said Brent Oliver, Sidetrack's entertainment manager.

The Sidetrack's new home will be at 10238-104 St. and will open with a show by The Mad Bomber Society on St. Patrick's day, Mar. 17, 2006. The first week of shows at the new Sidetrack will be free of any entertainment charge - perfect for the student budget.

“What we're hoping to leave behind in this place is the walls and the ceiling,” Oliver said. Most of the furniture and memorabilia, according to Oliver, will be moved to the new location, with the exception of the famed Cowley Car.

The train car has been transport for gangsters and prime ministers, a playboy photo shoot location, and a mainstay in the Sidetrack Café since 1991. The Cowley car is up for sale.

The Sidetrack celebrates its 25th anniversary on Feb. 15 with Mikey Dread and the Dread-at-the-Controls band from Jamaica. Go to www.sidetrackcafe.com for more information.

Come out to the light

BY T.L. REID
WRITER

What: Darkness and Light

When: Feb. 1-5 at 8 pm, and Sunday, Feb. 5 at 2 pm

Where: MacEwan Centre for the Arts, Theatre Lab - lower level

Cost: \$7 plus fees, available at Tix on the Square

“Really, what the story is about is that the treasure you find in life is what you find on the road.” Theatre Arts instructor Kenneth Brown is talking about *The Alchemist*, a novel by Brazilian writer Paulo Coelho and the source material for one half of his current show *Darkness and Light*, running now at the Centre for the Arts campus.

The Alchemist is a classic quest story, leading a young man from his home in Spain to search for glory and riches in North Africa.

Brown's *Darkness and Light* is a set of two adaptations from classic stories. As you may have read on posters

around campus, Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* was originally proposed as the “light” piece.

“I just couldn't do it; it wasn't working,” said Brown. “Then I happened to read *The Alchemist*, and it's a very beautiful book. It touched me deeply when I read it, so I had the kids read it and they were totally enthused.”

The actors shift between characters as well as creating their own surroundings. “We have one massive piece of cloth that billows and flows and turns into a tent, and then it turns into the dunes of a desert, and water and a well. We tried to put in as much variety as possible,” he said.

Brown worked with Theatre Arts students to develop the style of storytelling, then went away and worked on the script. “It's a lovely story, because I started working on it long before I knew if we could get the rights. Then the letter arrived from Paulo Coelho's assistant saying that Coelho was very happy that we were working on this, and that as long as no one was doing the play for personal gain we were wel-

come to do the piece - which is sort of the response one would have expected from someone who wrote such a spiritual book.”

The second adaptation, *Darkness* is based on Franz Kafka's classic story *The Metamorphosis*, in which a man wakes up one morning to find he's become a bug.

“I happen to have acted in the Canadian premiere of Stephen Berkoff's version of that piece, and I've always remembered it as a signal moment in the life of a young actor,” said Brown. “I've always wanted to treat that piece again. We're doing this wild, expressionistic acting style. It's going to be a lot of fun. A strange, bizarre, twisted kind of storytelling style - it works very well with *The Alchemist*.”

Along with Brown, the production includes ten actors and one musician. Each play runs approximately forty minutes, with a break in between to change the space.

You might want to hurry and get tickets, as the February 2 performance is already sold out.