

Noisy women in the dark

No, Studio XX is not the NFB feminist porn collective. Although last time Kathy Kennedy, maestra of Choeur Maha, presented *Noise from the Dark*, there was a bit of skin. "We're really vigilant about not letting any light into the performance so that people can experience sound with totally no distractions. But the last time we did this I built this little cave to cover the sound board and it got so hot I did end up taking my shirt off." Don't show up straining your neck in the total dark looking for the naked sound-women, though. This time around, Kennedy will probably just dress lighter.

Actually, Studio XX aims to get more women into the digital world by being a hands-on resource centre for women interested in learning more about sound technology. The fifth performance of *Noise From the Dark* is a showcase to let members of the centre practice their skills and will feature a wide range of musical experiences: electroa-

cousticians Claude Schryer and Peter Stollery; an eight-speaker installation piece by Michael Century; a text-based performance by Sandra Demetto and Michael Boyce; and a performance by dancer/cellist Brit Besson—to name a few.

All this is done in collaboration with Studio 303, where the event takes place (372 Ste-Catherine W., #303). And performing dance in the dark is another experience altogether. Says Kennedy "Yeah, things get kind of touchy."

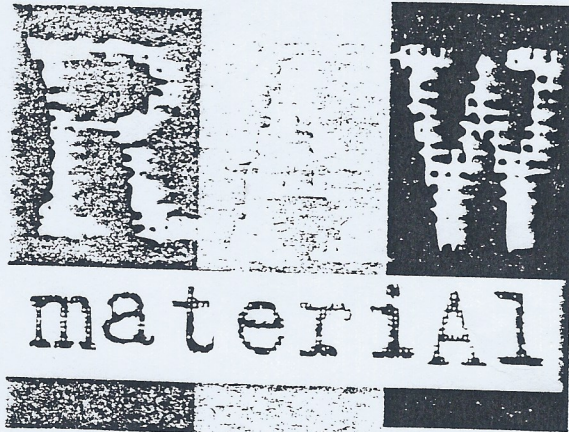
Apparently things can get kind of scary, too. "We try not to encourage it but performers can really freak out an audience in that environment. Choeur Maha once did a piece in construction boots. We were trying to do something about fear but there were a couple of people afterward who told us they thought we pushed the limit." Still, it's a popular event and spaces are very limited, so call ahead for reservations (393-3771). *Noise from the Dark V* takes place this Friday and Saturday (April 26-27), show starts at 8:30 p.m. and costs \$7.

Sackville's been around for about a year and a half, and they're going straight into the digital world with the *Low Ebb EP* on Mag Wheel Records.

Believe it or not, there's been no 7" or cassette releases beforehand, despite the presence of Derivative's Geneviève Heistek in the band. But band members aren't too worried about promoting

their CD launch at Café Sarajevo this Wednesday (May 1). If anything, they're worried about limited seating. Bassist Harris Newman asked me to let people know the show starts at 9 p.m., so ~~show up~~ early with your \$4.

Also, I don't want to create anymore buzz but there's a strong though unconfirmed rumour that the bluegrass collective, which includes Joellen Housego of The Snitches and Shelly Dion of Five Star Loader, might be making an opening appearance. Word around town is that they've smoked up every joint they've made an unannounced appearance at. So this may be a good night for eating your dinner early.



BY JULIET WATERS

Like most bands who went to Canadian Music Week, the normally upbeat Cheesecake Circus had downbeat things to say about the experience. They also had one ultra-cheesy moment that made the whole thing worthwhile—when ex-Platinum Blonde Kenny MacLean came up on stage to sing backup and play the cowbell for a few songs. At least two members of Cheesecake, Patrick and Olive, make no

apologies for having been big Platinum Blonde fans. They met MacLean last September when he launched his solo career, and they were the only two paying customers at his show.

Cheesecake Circus's gig at Founounes on Saturday (April 27) is another one of those get-there-early affairs, and is set to start at 7:30 p.m. with back up from Ottawa's Stum and Laval's Circle Square. This also marks the last show with their current accordion player. For any interested ska-reerists out there, Cheesecake will be looking for a replacement, as well as a new trumpet player.

Finally, I don't want to get involved in whatever seems to be happening between Paddy Walsh of the Kingpins and Chimney Sweep's Dom Castelli, but guess who sent me the press release announcing the "Punk vs. Ska" show at Cabaret on Friday (April 26), featuring the "Heavy Weight Roc 'em Soc 'em Rollers The Ripcordz vs. the lightweight whiny ska masters of North America, The Planet Smashers." Show starts at 9 p.m.; Paddy may have to scrape together five bucks if he wants to go, because he's probably not going to be on the guest list.

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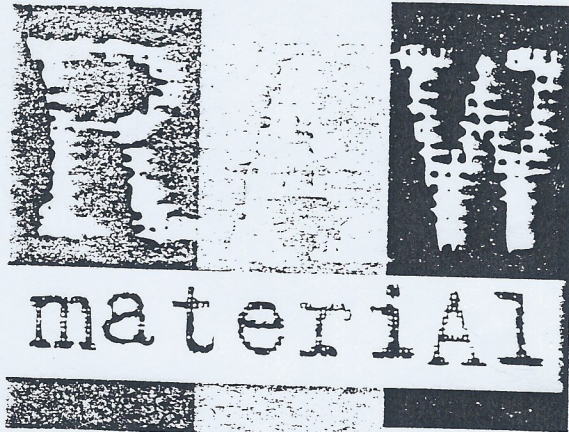
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