

# The London Free Press

## The Joys on the way up

Up All Night – By Jamie Vandermoer

The buzz is out and it's growing. The Joys seem to have people talking wherever they play. Call it punk, call it spaz rock, call it whatever you want, The Joys are fun, entertaining and they're ready to bust out.

Last year the band took home a London Music Award for favorite pop-rock band. However, accolades at home are just the start. Thanks to relentless touring and self-promotion the band has sold more than 9,000 copies of debut CD "Anyone Who Cares". That's a remarkable number from an independent band. The thing is, they're not slowing one bit. This weekend they head to Canadian Music Week in Toronto before taking off on a two-week Eastern Canada tour, quickly followed by a Western Canada tour.

With more pent-up energy than a bag full of grenades, The Joys seem to attack everything they do with passion. At a show at Max Silvers on Kipps Lane, lead singer Sarah Smith wandered through the crowd greeting almost everyone before jumping on stage and blasting into the set. Think Green Day, Sum 41 and Pink mixed with double cappuccinos. Their show was a mix of sight and sound.

They know more than just three chords too. To prove it, The Joys mixed in medley's of popular songs like "Highway to Hell", "She Drives Me Crazy", "Video Killed the Radio Star", and "Walkin' on Sunshine".



L to R: Glen (Archie) Gamble, Sarah Smith, Shawn Smith and Mike Mckyes

Guitarist Michael Mckyes and bassist Shawn Smith act as the pillars Sarah bounces off and veteran drummer Glen (Archie) Gamble keeps the beat going with his own flashy style.

I know The Joys don't make their way back to London for three weeks, but after seeing their packed show last week, I couldn't stay quiet. They play Norma Jean's on Huron Street, March 25<sup>th</sup>.