

The Cure for February Blues

By: Alison Gair

The Joys, an exuberant band out of London, performed at Port Dover's 'The Brig' last Saturday night. And despite an initially sluggish response from the crowd, they won their audience as successfully as ever. The Joys' concert is an ecstatic experience for most, a form of sensory overload as the temperature rises and the music takes over.

The music they play is mostly original, although they do still have a knack for good cover songs. Rather than just playing a moderately changed version, The Joys tends to string several songs together, creating a work full of unexpected changes that oblige the conscious interaction of their audience.

And the audiences love it, crowding into any available space, dancing and pressing up to the stage; they sing along and protest when breaks are announced. As the night flies by, the party gets wilder, until the inevitable screaming end and darkness. This Saturday's show ended as all of The Joys' Dover performances finish: with the people calling for more, and part of the encore played in darkness as the owners try to convince their patrons to move on. The band took advantage of their first encore to introduce a new song, 'Feedback Queen,' a fast and powerful conclusion to their act – so powerful that the fans wouldn't let them leave, but insisted on a second encore.

The Joys will return to Port Dover for Friday the Thirteenth (May); until then, they will be touring across Canada, along both coasts. Their website, contains an up-to-date concert listing. Their May return will hopefully coincide with the release of their third CD, a ten-song disc tentatively called 'The Demolition Session'.



L – R: Mike Mckyes, Sarah Smith, Glen
"Archie" Gamble & Shawn Smith