

STRANGER'S BLUES

by Summer & The Sinners

Originally recorded as a demo to procure live club dates, Summer and the Sinners' first foray into recording is a tight, concise blues album. Mostly covers, befitting a disc meant as an audio snapshot of the group's live show, prerequisite standards, and clever, seldom heard choices, this album bears repeated listening. Stranger's Blues



is getting substantial airplay in Canada, Europe, U.S. Australia, etc. This translates into tour and booking inquiries, so expect Summer and the Sinners to be leaving Southern Vancouver Island in the near future. Mainly R&B tracks, Stranger's Blues showcases cool Hammond organ by Chris, "the most dedicated sinner", Van De Water-blues guitar played with economy by "Buddy Love" and "Ruthy" his red Gibson ES-335, tasty sax by

Paul Wainwright, and a crazyglue rhythm section with Bob "Teflon Boots" Miron and Mike "Sammy Nova" Speer. Where do they get these names? Let's not forget Summer herself, pouting and belting it out in true blues fashion! The girl has come a long way from her Mayne Island roots. Standout tracks include "Bad Track Record," a real burner and the Sinners' unofficial theme song, and "Strangers Blues," a Sinners original, on track with the group's collective vision of "blues for blues sake." Lots more kickin' blues on this debut. Expect a new album sometime in autumn 2005. Contact: summerandthesinners.com or summerandthesinners@shaw.ca

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c/o: Don Peterson

Music Editor

Insight Magazine

#201B - 428 Burnside Rd., E.

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BETTER THE DEVIL YOU KNOW...

by Devil You Don't

Devil You Don't, a Southern Vancouver Island band, originally formed as Victoria Secret. I saw them a few times at Victoria's Blues House, and the thing I remember best about the group is their kick-ass rhythm section.

They still have that going on! Winners of Vancouver Island's 2005 "M" award, Devil You Don't reportedly has a not-to-be-missed live show. Their album, Better The Devil You Know, is all over the place, not necessarily a bad thing in this case. "Wrong Side Of The River" moves through Squeezish vocals and (oh my God) Rush style guitar. "Turn" is a pulsing rhythmic groove with lyrics that



weave in all kinds of imagery and effectively leave the song's meaning up to the listener. "Rope," a funk/rock send-up, is a co-write with Victoria teacher/musician Dave Augustine. "Bury My Heart" (not the Jason McCoy tradcountry hit) would make a decent single if these guys had their eyes on radio play, underground or mainstream. "Skin" gives us a twist on Neil Finn's "Into Temptation" - nice and bleak, slightly jazzy, and pretty cool. The lyrics ask the object of desire to be real and give the suitor honesty for a change - at least that's what I get out of it. "Zero" is a saga of love and love lost. C'mon, does that really still happen? "Small Talk Waltz" and "Mistress Mona" finish the set and are arguably the best of the bunch. On a lot of these tunes I found myself waiting for the hook but came to the realization that this album is really about grooves and funky group interplay. Don't get me wrong, there are hooks here, but sometimes it is truly just about the vibe. With intentionally obscure lyrics (and album art), Better The Devil You Know has a deceptive "let's throw it against the wall and see what sticks" sensibility. Quirky, eclectic, and hard to pigeonhole. Unusual but interesting. contact: www.devilyoudont.com

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WE STAY HIGH AND LONESOME

by D. Rangers

D.Rangers' "We Stay High And Lonesome," the sophomore follow-up to 2001's self-titled debut, doesn't stray much from the direction laid out on the first disc - just a little more skewed. In case you haven't heard of these guys, they hail from Winnipeg and play what some might call "alternative bluegrass." Traditional bluegrass lovers might have a few other names for it. The band has been known to play Motorhead and AC/DC covers in their live set - all with a decidedly bluegrass bent - and they make it work! All you need is an affinity for the genre and a decent sense of humor. Songs about wronged women, whiskey and blood abound. Oh yeah - I almost forgot - these guys can sing and these guys can play! Tight harmonies, quick pickin', mournful houndawg melodies - yee haw! The group is now apparently at work on a Devo cover - can't wait. contact:www.drangers.ca

SITTIN' BACK

by Jon & Roy

Jon and Roy's aptly titled album Sittin Back is essentially a man with an acoustic guitar singing his songs with laid-back percussion provided by partner Roy Vizar. This kind of music is huge these days with the likes of John Mayer and Jack Johnson - mining folksinger gold! Talk-singing, kinda reggae at times, Sittin Back borders on a kind of rootsy rap thing, like J.J. Cale going nighty-night. Nice music to play while puttering around the house and you want some non-threatening soundpaper to break the silence. Long intros. Stream of consciousness lyrics - I am particularly fond of this one - "making love is healthier than 12 grain bread." Hmm...given that theory, if you eat a sandwich while fornicating you should feel like a million bucks! Laconic, somnambulistic (yes! that is the 10 dollar word for the day- ka-ching!), very pleasant, drifting from song to song, floating down a lazy river, well performed. I hate to use the term "easy listening" with all that it implies, but it fits. Anyway, I'm going to make a sandwich. Contact: www.jonandroy.com

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