

DOWN UNDERGROUND

NZ Unsigned is a site dedicated to independent or unsigned local acts. It contains a database of bands where you can add your own band details for free, plus a gig guide, classifieds, feedback forum, and a buy/sell service.
www.arachnid.co.nz/nzunsigned

THE BEAT GOES ON

With the deaths of Allen Ginsberg and William S. Burroughs earlier this year, the Beat Generation is almost completely gone, though interest remains high (and will surely accelerate when Coppola's version of Kerouac's *On The Road* comes out next year). The Literary Kicks site is one of the best dedicated to the Beat writers, with unpublished material, essays and interviews with surviving Beats and members of their families.
www.literarykicks.com

BRING THE NOISE

On-line rock mag *Rukkus!* includes regularly updated news, a local and international rock image gallery, and a monthly feature focuses on a local artist (Jordan Reyne and her *Birds of Prey* album is the most recent). Bands interested in being featured can contact *Rukkus!* through the site.
<http://crash.ihug.co.nz/~rukku>

INTERNET MEGASTORE

In what may be a very bold step for on-line music retail, the giant Virgin Megastore chain has been advertising for a business development manager to build, develop and coordinate a global Virgin Megastore site, which they envision as becoming a business in its own right. Virgin believe their ability to source information and product in all major territories, and their heavy branding will contribute to the site's success.

WELLINGTONZONE

Generator is a new website that focuses on Wellington music, theatre, and film, and is offering free websites for Wellington bands (contact Geoff on 025 463 676), or check out the URL at www.generator.gen.nz

DIGITAL WATCH

Computer-oriented musicians into programming and other things digital may be interested Music And Computers, an on-line mag which is somewhat technical and baffling for the layman, but has up to date developments in componentry, hardware and software for the techno-savvy.
www.music-and-computers.com

SETTLE DOWN, CHEETAH

The new location for the updated Salmonella Dub site, coinciding with their latest release, *Calmng of the Drunken Monkey*, is www.cosmosis.gen.nz/salmonella_dub/

KILROY'S STILL HERE

Bombing, tagging, subway hits, throw-ups — graffiti by any other name — is still part of contemporary cultural expression, and the best of it can be found at a variety of colourful sites from all over the world. A particularly good one, from historical and aesthetic perspectives is www.graffiti.org

ELECTRONIC SIGNALS

The site for the Kog Transmissions techno/trance compilation *Transmit*, featuring Baitecell, Epsilon Blue, Strange Attractor, Protean, etc, is at <http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~rawmo/transmit.htm> and from there you can find your way to KT's homepage. Should you require assistance with any aspects of music-related technology, the Kog Transmissions 'We've Been Through Hell With Technology So Why Should You?' helpline can be contacted rawmo@ihug.co.nz

BORED IN THE USA

Some people have too much time on their hands... this young New Yorker's home page even lists his CD and tape collection. But he's actually a busy guy — listen to his band's demos, check out his lists, and follow the very cool links he provides, and it's not too painful really.
<http://home.dti.net/~jrivel>

THEY'RE WATCHING

What do you mean you don't know who 'they' are?
www.paranoid.com

In a career spanning 16 years, Hunters And Collectors came to represent an edgier, more outward looking Aussie sound, incorporating elements of punk, funk, soul, and rock. Trouble was, when you caught them live, you realised they were simply a good pub rock band with a very fit singer, their innovations lost beneath a bombast of bass and guitars, with that fit man veritably baying at the moon.

In person, H&C mainman Mark Seymour retains that healthy sheen, and is fairly glowing after finishing work on his first solo album, *King Without a Clue*. After spending half an hour in his company, you realise the title is a ruse — this guy's got more than a few clues — and that after almost two decades in the music business, he's only now making music he's proud of.

Also responsible for the change in sound, Seymour's personal life has calmed a little. "My life's a 100 per cent more stable than it was before. A lot of the songs in Hunter's were a direct reflection of catharsis — things were kind of weird for awhile there. The negative side of this was that the songs tended to be inconsistent. Nowadays, I'm learning the art of detachment more."

Songs like 'Last Ditch Cabaret', 'Ghost of Vainglory', and 'Don't Have to Cry', suggest a romantic streak; "I have a fatalistic streak but I'm a lot more of a realist in everyday life."

Seymour hopes that *King* will break new territory for him. Despite their 16 years of touring, Hunters and Collectors never gained much success outside of Australasia.



Fans of Hunters needn't fear, as Seymour's solo album doesn't signal the end of the line for the band, indeed *King* began almost accidentally.

"The way we work in the band was to keep things fundamentally free, so although I kind of drive it, the ideas don't necessarily start with me. I just wanted to bring a body of material together that was focussed on my stuff alone. It's not like an 'either or thing', and Hunter's are still very much a going concern."

Tellingly, *King* is a far more subtle, more gentle album than we're used to hearing from Seymour. At times it's reminiscent of our own *Crowded House* — in part explained by the presence of Peter Jones, the Crowdie's sometime drummer, and Seymour's brother Nick on bass.

"Hunter's hadn't done much writing in the last two years, so I started writing these songs in July 95, and I wrote about 20 songs in a year and a half. I went into the studio with small groups of songs and it just went on from there. The thing getting together with Nick just sort of happened and it worked well."

Seymour's interest in Australian culture and his wish to live there, probably cost them a lot in retrospect.

"If you look at someone like Nick Cave, he made the decision early on to leave Australia, and that's something that I could never have done. The first four years of my career, I was learning about Australia, and I loved it, going places I'd never been before and meeting all these people. Music isn't made in a vacuum, it relates to the whole culture, and there's a very rich culture in Australia and that's what was sparking me."

If *King* shows a writer and performer more at ease with himself and his surroundings, it is also a more reflective and less strident sound than fans of Hunter's are used to. In the liner notes to the album, Seymour quotes Bob Dylan: 'A song is anything that can walk by itself.' Certainly the title is perhaps a little cheeky, but the inherent modesty masks an album which is very sure of itself, and a singer who has only begun finding his true voice. These songs carry themselves.

GREG FLEMING

<GAME REVIEWS>

ACE COMBAT 2 (Sony Playstation)

The sequel to the hugely popular original, *Ace Combat 2* is a very worthy successor. Every aspect of the game has been improved, from the graphics to the layout. For those of you not familiar with the original *Ace Combat*, you fly all manner of military planes, destroying air and ground targets, in order to save the free world. It might sound cheesy, but the gameplay is awesome and extremely addictive.

AARON PRESTON

somewhat easier. It also states that it's, "a game for the whole family," and that's probably true if there are any functional spacie-freak families out there.

AARON PRESTON

Aaron's Christmas Hits: The Best Sony Playstation Games of 1997.

1. Jonah Lomu Rugby
2. Rapid Racer
3. V Rally
4. Command And Conquer
5. Ace Combat 2

Troy's Top Tips: The Best Sega Saturn Games of 1997.

1. Pandemonium
2. Tomb Raider
3. Quake
4. Three Dirty Dwarves
5. Darklight Conflict

ROSCO McQUEEN (Sony Playstation)

If you're into towering infernos, then *Rosco McQueen* is the game for you. Rosco McQueen is the fabulous fighting fireman who must extinguish a variety of firetraps and conquer the hordes of crazed pyromaniac robots that run rampant through the skyscraper. This 3D game is aimed at the younger plug-in drug users, with larger than life characters drawn in the best comic book tradition. It has a similar look to *Crash Bandicoot*, although the gameplay is

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CD-ROM

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PLAYSTATION

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NINTENDO 64

Extreme G



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