

## Reviews

Boys gone mad Music

Nathaniel Christopher

Boy Gone Mad is Peterborough's homegrown hard rock band with a sound that stretches well past the Kawarthas. Playing together for three years now, *Boy Gone Mad* has made its mark in Peterborough, where it plays regular shows at the Blue Room, and has also performed in Toronto, Ajax, Guelph, and Hamilton.

Describing his band's music as "rock in general," lead singer Adam Haggarty says that Boy Gone Mad is often compared to Silverchair. Haggarty's "gritty" masculine voice is clearly reminiscent of this band. "I always watch Silverchair before I do every show," he says. "I love that band! I also like Led Zeppelin and the Beatles."

Boy Gone Mad aptly describes the Blue Room as their second home. What a crowded home it is! It was difficult to find a seat at their Saturday night show; the lineup outside of the Trasheteria was almost a block long. Throngs of young people were eager to witness a performance by a band that is quickly becoming a mainstay of Peterborough's hard-core scene.

The venue felt informal, somewhat familiar, and very much like a large living room packed with old friends. The strong connection between the audience and the performers enhanced the evening and gave

it the atmosphere of a house party rather than a concert. The band members were devoid of pretension and indistinguishable from the audience in both age and apparel. Many of the audience members knew them personally, and engaged them in dialogue throughout the show.

This warm, friendly atmosphere was shattered for me when the band and audience casually exchanged loud, homophobic jokes. This made me feel small and uncomfortable. The rest of the evening was exclusive and unfriendly; I found it difficult to watch the show with an objective mind.

Homophobic slights aside, the music was good. *Boy Gone Mad* produced a sound that was almost too big for the room. Vocal, guitar, and drum blended well to produce a tight, crisp, strong sound that had a powerful effect on all.

The song "Go Away" had a thunderous tempo and had a hint of tension which sounded like a combination of Metallica and Nirvana. The drumming was methodical and consistent with a somewhat hypnotic effect.

This performance was not a queer-friendly event and I would not recommend this band to anyone who is queer or queer-friendly.

Boy Gone Mad play at the Trasheteria on February 20 at 9 pm.

Unbeatable Books

Nathaniel Christopher

I am never on time for anything! I am always late for class, work, and the bus. I even handed this story in two days past the deadline. You get the idea.

One Saturday, however, I was particularly paranoid about being on time as I was scheduled to interview Jack Schropp, author of *Unbeatable*—a book with an entire chapter about the evils of being late. As I roll out of bed at 2:35 pm for my 3 pm interview, Jack's stern words scroll across my head: "did you know that being late or not returning phone calls are blatant, albeit indirect ways for you to 'flip the bird' to others?... You pretend as though you are at the mercy of outside forces, like a busy schedule." "Shit! I can't be late for this interview," I think to myself. Showing up late to a Jack Schropp interview would be as tactful as wearing a fur coat to a PETA meeting.

By some Herculean effort I manage to make it to Dreams and Beans on time. As I walk in the door, the barista hands me the phone. It is Jack's vigilant wife Shari Darling who has called to tell me that Jack will be late for the interview on account of the snow. I waste no time in explaining the irony and humour of the situation to the affable barista, but before I can finish my sentence I hear my name being called. I turn around to see a solid, stoic man; I look at my watch and it's 2:59.

Jack is a former Commander in the U.S. Navy SEALs (Sea Air Land Team) turned author. With the assistance of Darling, he has put the principles and "secrets" of his extensive Navy SEAL training into writing. He makes it very clear that this book was written for everyone: "I wanted my book to appeal to everyone, including people who were not in the military."

The book is broken down into fourteen easily digestible chapters. Each

chapter is a lesson or a Navy SEAL "secret," as Jack likes to call them. The secrets include: be aware, be yourself, be disciplined, be steadfast, be a teammate, be interrelated, be resourceful, and, simply, be. In his chapter titled "Being Disciplined," Jack describes how someone who is disciplined will go above and beyond the standard requirements for the assignment at hand. If, for example, the professor asks you to write a 2000 word paper, a disciplined, not to mention trainable, individual might hand in a 2500 word paper. "Be trainable, open to suggestion. When someone shares information with you accept it as a valuable contribution to your success. Being highly trainable is to give up the notion that everything has to go your way. It's not what you do. It is an attitude you choose to possess," Jack argues.

Whenever Jack wants to emphasize a point, he uses upper case letters. For instance: "I KNOW this book will help you become UNBEATABLE."

I don't know about print media, but when you write in capital letters in the internet world it is considered yelling. It is somewhat irritating to read capitalised letters. However, my biggest complaint about the book is its strong American tone. Jack uses American spelling and frequently lumps Canadians and Americans together as North Americans, and even made reference to "our North American culture."

However, the book is not about politics or English grammar, it's about overcoming obstacles using the secrets of the Navy SEALs to succeed, and I don't think it could have come from a better source than Jack.

*Unbeatable* is available at Titles Bookstore on George Street. For more information about Jack Schropp or *Unbeatable*, go to [www.jackschropp.com](http://www.jackschropp.com).

## Arts listings cont'd

## Club Nights

Monday Madness with dance music and prizes  
Monday nights.  
Sin City

Rock Night  
Tuesday nights.  
The Rooster

Piggy-Trash Retro Night  
Wednesday nights.  
Trasheteria

Hip Hop, reggae, R&B, Old School Night  
Friday nights.  
The Rooster

Rhythm and Soul and La Barrio Latino (Formerly Latin Furor)  
Samba, house, soul classics, Nu-Jazz, Afro-beat and rare groove.  
Every second Friday.  
Second Floor Lounge

All request with DJ Foley  
Friday nights.  
Trasheteria

Country Music Night  
Friday nights.  
Sin City

DJ Double J  
Wet/dry event.  
Friday nights.  
Club Vibe

100% Good Time Party Music  
Saturday nights.  
Trasheteria

Party Central  
Saturday nights.  
Club Vibe

Industrial Night  
Sunday nights.  
The Second Floor Lounge

## Dance, Theatre and Performance

"My Bloody Valentine" Burlesque Show  
Fluffgirl Burlesque Troupe  
Tickets \$10

Monday, February 9.  
Trasheteria's Blue Room.

"Patch Adams," presented by Trent University  
Tuesday, February 10 at 7 pm.  
Tickets: \$25.  
Showplace

"The Vagina Monologues"  
Tickets cost \$10 and are available at the Trent Women's Centre. Call 705-748-1781.  
February 10-12 at 7 pm.  
Wenjack Theatre

Comedian Lorne Elliott  
Presented by Shantero Productions.  
Tickets \$29.  
Thursday, February 12 at 8 pm.  
Showplace

"Almost Up and Down," a book launch by PJ Thomas.  
With reading by David Bateman, and original music by Alex Stangl.  
Saturday, February 14, from 3-5 pm.  
Gordon Best Theatre

## Film

"Modern Times"  
A film by Charlie Chaplin  
1936/ England  
Trent Film Society Presentation  
Gordon Best Theatre  
Sunday, February 29 at 8 pm.

"Lost in Translation"  
A film by Sofia Coppola  
2003/U.S.  
Cinema 379  
Runs until February 11.

"Bend it Like Beckham"  
A film by Gurinder Chadha  
2002/ England  
Runs until February 12.  
Cinema 379

"Runaway Jury"  
A film by Gary Fleder  
2003/U.S.  
Runs until February 19.  
Cinema 379

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