

# IMC Promo Party!

## March 5th, 2005

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# Townhall pixx



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# Living and Dying with Townhall

by Tommy Joyner

"Hi, I'm Tommy," Mark Smidt, trumpeter, percussionist, bassist and sometime vocalist for Townhall introduced himself to the insurance broker, shaking his hand heartily. Mark was only posing as the engineer from MilkBoy Recording, where the album that was to become American Dreams was being recorded. It was Tommy who was supposed to be at the meeting and when the rest of the band found out, they quickly put Mark up to the prank of pretending to be the engineer so they could all get a free lunch out of the deal - and the deal was: listen to the sales pitch, get a free lunch. All Mark had to do was convince the salesman that the 5 twenty-year old guys in t-shirts

At the annual Jam on the River at Philadelphia's Penn's Landing, Townhall's set was at 1. There was a liquor sponsor for the event and all the dressing rooms had bottles of liquor for the bands to drink. Townhall's friend and sometimes roadie, Eddie (*not his real name*) got really drunk and by 4, decided that he wanted to swim in the Delaware River. "He was just drunk," George says. "He was threatening to go for a swim all day and then he just, took a plunge. He gave a security guard his watch and his keys, he said, 'you look responsible, can you hold these?' Gave her his cell phone, said 'I'm going for a swim,' and took the plunge into the murky Delaware."

sure that the man didn't swim around the bend of the river, climb out and walk home. His body was not immediately recovered, and the concert continued while the police

How do you know who that will be? "Never trust a man in short pants or with two first names," George pipes in, smiling. Like who? "Like Guy Ritchie," here goes



and corduroys are actually all family. And why not? This band has lived every day together since they met at art school 5 years ago, sometimes in their house (*nick-named Schwenkadelph*) in Skippack, and sometimes in their van with a few friends along for the ride.

And if any band deserves a free lunch, it's Townhall. The Philadelphia quintet have played 110 shows over the past nine months and spent every one of their days off in the

"And that was the last we ever saw of him." Kevin interjects.

"I just got an email from him," corrects George, "He said he went to counseling and the psychiatrist said he was the most sane person he'd ever treated, so he felt good about that. But I know a lot of people who get drunk and don't jump in any rivers. He swam out there and then was refusing to get into the police boat. 'Fuck you, I'm staying in the river.'

in the river grimly turned their search for a survivor into a search for a body.

Back on dry land, the next day, the finger pointing began with Townhall inevitably being blamed for starting the whole mess.

"Then we got dubbed as the drunk band after that," Kevin says, "meanwhile none of us were even drinking that day."

The event promoter was livid, their manager was defensive. The band was uneasily trying to shake it off. "That whole River incident was crazy. It made us realize that when others are hanging out with you they are representing you, really. We were directly responsible in everybody's mind but our own. Hey, if some dude wants to jump in the river," George said, "that's his business," and that's true enough. But events like this one linger, and live on to form an undercurrent in all of Townhall's music and lyrics. What can be found is sometimes comic (*Come Again*), sometimes sad (*Stones to Throw*), sometimes earnest (*Sweet Abilene*), and sometimes scary, (*Peaceful Man, where George sings he is "a peaceful man with violent dreams"*). All of the songs are genuine portrayals of America, far less dreams than they are home movies; home movies with a million-dollar sound track.

Going to a Townhall show is often a surprise for even their stalwart fans. Every member of the band switches instruments after, and sometimes during, almost every song. It's a fun spectacle, like watching 5 guys ride 10-speed bicycles on a high-wire. They are energetically bouncing off each other, musically and literally, like molecules in an atom-smasher. George is likely to move from bass to guitar to trombone while handling the majority of the singing. Nate Skiles and Mark Smidt handle guitars and all of the trumpet work. Tim Sonnefeld swaps between guitar and bass and sings fantastic harmonies. With Kevin Pride rounding out the group by keeping the beat on the drums, you find out that these guys are the perfect musical family that isn't related by blood.

In the mix studio in Manhattan, Tim and George are obviously excited at how the record is sounding. Brian Malouf (Everclear, Lit), who is mixing the record, is excited too, and the energy is spilling over to everyone except maybe the assistant engineer, who worked on Britney Spears' last record and seems suspicious of these scruffy, hyper-intelligent guys and their pretty girlfriends.

What's the goal with this record? "We want to release it with the right people, whoever is right to release it," says Tim. "We want someone who is excited about it to release it, so the support will be there."



Tim, and they're off now riffing on names. "A name needs a beginning, middle and an end," says George." It needs to climax somewhere in the third quarter - it should read like a great screenplay."

"Your name climaxes a little early, George," Tim is getting mischievous. "George Simon Stanford, see, I feel like the first syllable of 'Simon' is the climax..." and on it goes, these boys playfully picking on each other, like brothers that star in a million home movies in a million homes across America and the world.



studio. The resulting record is a smart, nimble collection of songs that range from pretty and delicate to muscular and scary, rarely clocking in at over 3 minutes each.

It's old home movie moments like these - innocent, funny and yes, *childish* - that work their way into Townhall's songs, right alongside moments like the one that lay ahead, not a month later, that destroyed one life and turned another upside down.

But back to lunch... One of the first thoughts on meeting Townhall for lunch is: these guys eat really... healthy. Tim is a vegetarian. Mark likes health food so much he works at Whole Foods, hoping to one day make it to the prepared foods team.

The setting seemed innocent enough, but the stage had been set for tragedy.

Townhall's roadie had been pulled safely out of the river and was drying off under police supervision by the time another unknown man raced to the barrier and jumped over the barricade and into the river.

Did you know that someone else had gone in, George? "I saw police boats down there, and I figured some other knucklehead had taken the dive, you know."

It's not known what happened, maybe the man hit the water wrong, or maybe he couldn't swim. It's not known if the man was wearing heavy boots, but the day was warm and that's unlikely. It's not even known for

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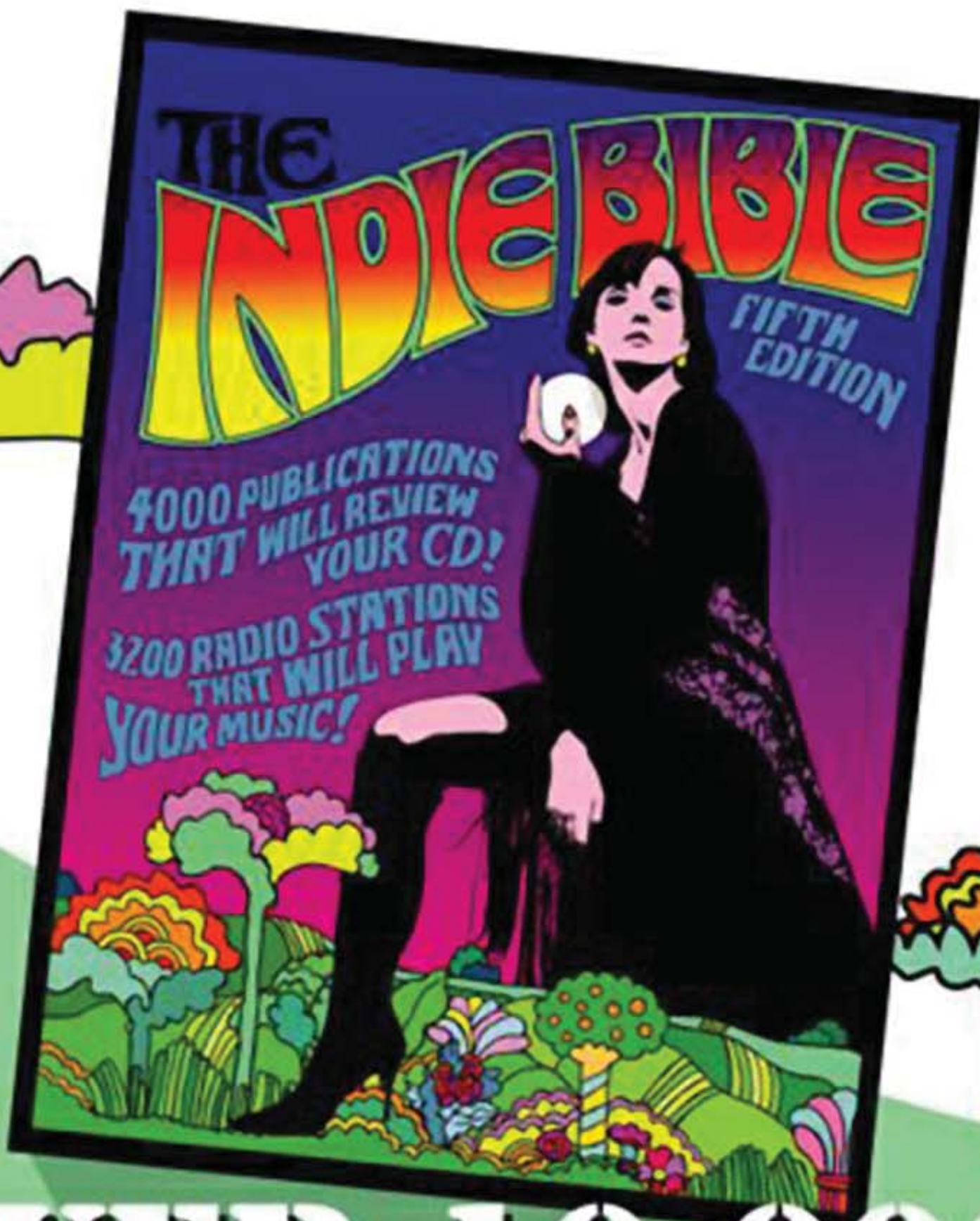
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# IndieGateLive Tour Touches Down In Connecticut



**Cuzin D**



**episode 1**

Photos by Noel Ramos



**Showin Tell**



**Cathy Grier**



**Allison Tartalia**

The IndieGateLive Tour arrived at the Space in Hamden, Connecticut recently. The Space is a popular and funky little non-alcoholic venue that truly provided an excellent “listening room” environment for the performers.

The IndieGateLive Tour project is designed to showcase the variety of incredible independent music made available through IndieGate.com, the online independent music store which sponsors and organizes the tour.

For more info on IndieGateLive, visit the store online.

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Hosted by: Showin' Tell

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Saturday March 5th  
Club 218  
IMC05 Promo Party!

Tuesday March 8th  
Whiskey Dix 9 PM

Tuesday March 15th  
Whiskey Dix 9 PM

Saturday March 19th  
Abilene  
South Street, Philadelphia

Tuesday March 22nd  
Whiskey Dix 9 PM

Saturday March 26th  
Sweeney's Station Saloon  
10 PM  
North East Philly

Tuesday March 29th  
Whiskey Dix 9 PM

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Whiskey Dix 9 PM

Saturday April 9th  
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Whiskey Dix 9 PM

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Whiskey Dix 9 PM

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Showin' Tell  
SpitShine  
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03/08  
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Showin' Tell  
RealCoolYeah  
StarSkream

03/15  
Flune, Stygian  
Showin' Tell, Spur

[www.showintellband.com](http://www.showintellband.com)



# IMC Promo Party Performers Profiled

by Melanie Santa Rosa

*To get their opinions about the Independent Music Conference, I asked these IMC Promo Party artists the same 6 questions. Here then are the results of my profile/interview project...*

**Artist:** Showin' Tell  
**Genre:** Rock/Pop  
**Band Member(s)**  
Jeska (vocals, guitar, bass)  
Nicolino (drums)  
Sheri (bass, vocals)  
**Discography:**  
(available at IndieGate.com)  
"Adoration" (EP)

**Website:** www.showintellband.com

**Q.) Why did you choose to attend the Independent Music Conference (IMC)?**  
**A.)** We chose to attend the IMC because it was local, many of the speakers were from our area so contacts were ones we could use now. We also liked that it was geared specifically to Indies

**Q.) What did you want to get out of attending the Independent Music Conference?**  
**A.)** We wanted to network with other Indies, gain more knowledge about the business of being an Indie, and we wanted feedback on the band.

**Q.) How do you feel the Independent Music Conference has helped your indie career?**  
**A.)** IMC2004 gave us the jumpstart we needed to really get going on our career. We took every seminar we could take, at times splitting up so we could gain as much knowledge as possible as a band. We left there ready to ROCK!!!

**Q.) What was the highlight of the Independent Music Conference 2004?**  
**A.)** There were 3 highlights for us at IMC2004:  
1.) The showcase was awesome and filled with our Indie Peers and Industry people.  
2.) We were awarded the Internetworking Immie.  
3.) We took Jason Rubal's seminar - "Putting The Emotion Into Your Music." From that 2-hour seminar, we knew Jason was the producer for us.

**Q.) What do you look forward to for the Independent Music Conference 2005 (IMC05)?**  
**A.)** We look forward to catching up with all of our Indie Buddies and taking in more great seminars. Oh, and playing another showcase.

.....  
**Artist:** Tokyo Tramps  
**Genre:** Rock/Blues  
**Band Member(s):**  
Satoru Nakagawa (vocal, guitar)  
Yukiko Fujii (bass, vocal)  
Toshio Tanaka (drums)

**Bio:** TOKYO TRAMPS is a 3-piece/all Japanese band, whose sounds are influenced by blues, country, and classic rock. The band was formed by Satoru Nakagawa while he was attending Berklee College of Music in Boston, and named after a Springsteen's song, "Born to Run" (*tramps like us, baby we were born to run*). Their songs are about ordinary people's daily survival, and the obsession with southern delta.

TOKYO TRAMPS has been performing extensively in New England area since 2000 and has released two albums : the first one "Long Way From Home" in July 2000, and the second one "Bound For Glory" in June 2003.

**Discography:**  
(available at IndieGate.com)  
"Long Way From Home" (August 2000)  
"Bound For Glory" (June 2003)

**Website:** www.tokyotramps.com

**Q.) Why did you choose to attend the Independent Music Conference (IMC)?**  
**A.)** We needed more connections and exposure.

**Q.) What did you want to get out of attending the Independent Music Conference?**  
**A.)** Gigs and connections with bands and people in the industry.

**Q.) What stands out about the Independent Music Conference compared to other conferences you have attended?**  
**A.)** It is small but focused and because of that, we were able to connect with the organizers.

**Q.) How do you feel the Independent Music Conference has helped your indie career?**  
**A.)** We made some unique Philly connections.

**Q.) What was the highlight of the Independent Music Conference 2004?**  
**A.)** The greatest part is always meeting people who enjoy our music like some of the organizers and particularly the people at Tokio Ballroom.

**Q.) What do you look forward to for the Independent Music Conference 2005 (IMC05)?**  
**A.)** We hope the next one will open up more doors

for us to get into the Philly music scene as well as meet bands that can inspire each other.

.....  
**Artist:** Tah Phrum Duh Bush! (ta frum the boosh)  
**Genre:** Hip-Hop/Rap  
**Bio:** Tah Phrum Duh Bush has chosen to represent himself at this particular point in time as the antithesis of all; the positive to every negative and the negative to every positive, an oxymoron made manifest! To be succinct: the epitome of "Filthy-Clean!" There is neither good nor bad. There only is what is.

Being a male, Tah Phrum Duh Bush gives birth, oxymoronically of course, to themes of life that 99% of earth's population can relate to in one way or another. From the pinnacles of mania to the deep fathoms of depression, Tah's artistry represents both ends of the Chi, both sides of the Yin-Yang and all shades of the spectrum in between. No holy person is without sin and no sinner is without sanctity. Tah finds mid-ground without ever being at a polar extreme for an extended period of time.

Tah's Lyrical wizardry entrances the listener to frequently indulge in usage of the rewind function on his/her listening device to catch metaphors of great magnitude that manage to elude the weak of thought.

Tah's debut album "Sunshine or Pure Shade?!?!" is currently in the final stages of completion. The title of this collective of witty and bewitchingly cunning selections is in itself an oxymoronic question of Tah's introspection of life itself. This question is most clearly exemplified in the closing masterpiece "Life and Death Dichotomy". Tah ponders the contrasts between the themes of life and death and challenges the common ideas that most are programmed and conditioned to follow and believe in.

Phlatbush is another selection that represents the very essence of the "Sunshine or Pure Shade?!?!" moniker. Tah is a native of Phlatbush (Flatbush). Phlatbush is geographically the center of Brooklyn, New York.: the most culturally rich city in the world. Just about every race, religion and social class is represented there. In Tah's "Phlatbush" all the pros and cons, ups and downs and diversity of this diverse land are brought to life. It is truly awe-inspiring how much information about a city of demographically indefinable inhabitants is brought to the soul through the ear of the auditory witness.

Tah lets the partaker know that it's OK to be the oddball. It's alright to think your own thoughts, it's cool not to do things just to fit in and that without the self, there is only mindless wandering in the herd.

**Discography:**  
(available at IndieGate.com)  
"Middle Finga" b/w "Blown Owt" (12" Vinyl/CD Single, Push In The Bush Records, July 2001)  
"The Naturals" b/w "Brooklyn Ill Spitters" (12" Vinyl/CD Single, Bang The Drum Records, Oct. 2001)

"The Perfect Storm" (from the forthcoming album "Bringing The Yowza")  
All City Volume 1 (Compilation CD, Bang the Drum Records, July 2002)  
Untitled EP  
"Sunshine Or Pure Shade?!?!!" (coming soon!)  
**Website:** www.filthyclean.com

**Q.) Why did you choose to attend the Independent Music Conference (IMC)?**  
**A.)** I chose the IMC initially because I wanted to learn as much as I could about the indie market. I have been doing this indie thing for a while with very little inside help. I wanted to get the opinions and outlooks of other indie artists and professionals who work with them. Now I'm going back for my third year. Last year was so much more incredibly better than the first (which was fantastic itself), that I want to see if the IMC can top it again!

**Q.) What did you want to get out of attending the Independent Music Conference?**  
**A.)** Any and everything I can that will enhance and facilitate my success as an artist!

**Q.) What stands out about the Independent Music Conference compared to other conferences you have attended?**  
**A.)** It is a very warm, very social, very "real people" type of event. There were no plastic people trying to sell pipe dreams or run get rich/signed-quick scams. Less of an emphasis on the showcases and more of an emphasis on business and how to get the ball rolling on the way to success.

**Q.) How do you feel the Independent Music Conference has helped your indie career?**  
**A.)** I learned about myself as an artist. Things I never would have thought of if I didn't attend the last 2 years. An artist is what the artist defines, not what the industry or the fans decide. There is a crowd for every artist. The artist just has to know how to target that crowd. I learned how to promote effectively on a budget and get focused on and paid for what I do.

**Q.) What was the highlight of the Independent Music Conference 2004?**  
**A.)** The highlight for me was an interview that turned into one of the most powerful conversations I have ever had in my life between me, Coole High and a fantastic Philly based journalist named James Spady. What was supposed to be a 10 minute interview turned into a 31/2 hour power cipher! Lots has changed since then: more record sales, more incentive and a new outlook on what I am doing and where I am going.

**Q.) What do you look forward to for the Independent Music Conference 2005 (IMC05)?**  
**A.)** Topping the experience I had the last two years, learning much more and enjoying all the interactions to come!

.....  
**Artist:** Green Inside  
**Genre:** Rock  
**Band Member(s)**

Seth Adam (vocals, guitar)  
Gerry Giaimo (guitar, vocals)  
Steve Tobey (drums, percussion, vocals)  
Tim Sway (bass)

**Discography:**  
(available at IndieGate.com)  
"Red"  
"Blue"  
"Left at the Prom"

**Website:** www.greeninside.com

**Q.) Why did you choose to attend the Independent Music Conference (IMC)?**  
**A.)** Green Inside chose to attend the IMC because of the similarity of vision in business and art. We seemed to agree that too few people hold the keys to Mecca (or international exposure). Because of this, there are many talented independent artists that may never be heard. Green Inside would like our music to be heard by a wider group of people, and we believed workshops at the IMC could help us achieve that.

**Q.) What did you want to get out of attending the Independent Music Conference?**  
**A.)** We want to gain more knowledge that will enable us to better run our indie business. We also want to network with other artists in similar situations to exchange ideas, war stories, and create a tighter community of indie artists. We are not alone.

**Q.) What stands out about the Independent Music Conference compared to other conferences you have attended?**  
**A.)** At other conferences I have felt like they are only interested in taking me for every cent they can. The IMC seems to realize that most of us are starving artist with a limited amount of expendable money.

**Q.) How do you feel the Independent Music Conference has helped your indie career?**  
**A.)** I feel like the IMC has helped Green Inside in many little ways. The IMC is not trying to give you a quick fix that solves all of your problems in 2 easy steps. It has been all about those tips that light a bulb on top of your head. I wind up saying "of course, why didn't I think of that." Again, it's in the small things, like sending thank yous to people who have booked or reviewed you. Sending your schedule to industry insiders and local newspapers regularly so you stay on their radar. The list goes on. When you add up all the little things, you begin to see real progress.

**Q.) What was the highlight of the Independent Music Conference 2004?**  
**A.)** Just being in a new place surrounded like minded hungry individuals. In them I saw some things we do well, and it also made me see things we need to work on.

**Q.) What do you look forward to for the Independent Music Conference 2005 (IMC05)?**  
**A.)** An even greater sense of community. I look forward to hearing new artists and hope Green Inside can put on a killer performance.



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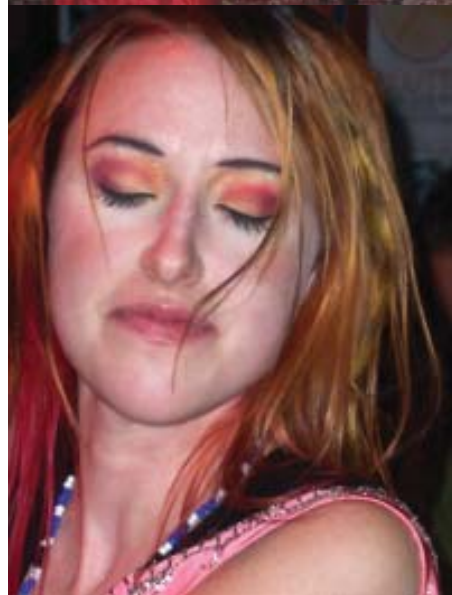


# InterMixx Checks Out CD Release Parties

*Photos by Noel Ramos*



Connecticut's Hannah's Field takes the stage at their CD Release Party in Hartford. "Inside A Song" takes you on a journey from sexy grooves and heavy blues, all the way back again to pure rock-n-roll.



Boston's Fluttr Effect took over the Lizard Lounge in Cambridge, Massachusetts on November 6th, for their CD Release Party. The band formerly known simply as Fluttr celebrated their debut album - "Trithemis Festiva."



Joining Fluttr Effect at the Lizard Lounge that same night was New York City's The Kin. Besides sharing the night, and a debut CD release, they also shared the distinction of having just undergone a name change as well. Formerly known as The Harlequin, the band celebrated the release of their debut album - "Tracing."





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# InterMixxx WeBzine

Offline Edition

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