

FREE ISSUE 374 AUGUST 16 - 29, 1993 1041-3812

the ISLAND-EAR

RADIOHEAD



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**BLIND MELON • ZIGGY MARLEY • SISTER WHISKEY
X • THE CURE'S SHOW CONCERT FILM
LIVE! TINA TURNER • DURAN DURAN • TERENCE TRENT D'ARBY
NIRVANA • FESTIVAL NEW ORLEANS • NEW MUSIC SEMINAR
LOCALLY: THE GOOD RATS • PARADISE ALLEY • WIDE AWAKE • ROSARY VIOLET**

PROFILE

BLIND MELON

Mental Recess

From Indiana and Mississippi, by way of Seattle, Los Angeles, and a few other stops, Blind Melon has arrived out of Durham, North Carolina.

The band assembled its lineup in Los Angeles, but packed up and settled in Durham, North Carolina to record the band's eponymous debut disc that recently hit the charts and airwaves, with the single and video for "No Rain" garnering heavy rotation on rock stations across the country. It was there that Blind Melon became more than a band, they became a family.

The band moved into an old, five-bedroom house and began building an environment they felt they could flourish in creatively. What they established was kind of like a spiritual commune, where they had all the time they wanted to be alone, to be at peace, to think, and to write music. As he recalled his experiences there, the memories seemed to wash across his crystal blue eyes. "Everybody had their own room, and sometimes you'd see a guy during the day and sometimes you wouldn't. Everybody built their own little world inside the house," the band's singer, Shannon Hoon, recalled.

The environment that they created in the "Sleepy house," as it is immortalized in song, was one that Hoon feels a lot of people just wouldn't understand. "The kind of environment that your mind needs is sometimes not the same as what you need to be productive physically," he said. "We were very comfortable, very lazy, and we went at our own pace. The laziest environment you can put yourself in physically usually becomes the most productive mentally and creatively."

The music of Blind Melon is one that represents the many different feelings, emotions, and beliefs of the band. Shannon's lyrics are often touching, sincere, and beautiful, as well as confused, angry and mysterious. Shannon refers to the band's music as "mental recess," because it provides the listener with the opportunity to take a break from whatever is on their minds, and to take a relaxing trip into another, far more peaceful place. "People use music to figure their day out," said Hoon, "and I'm one of those people too. I listen to a lot of music that helps me deal with my problems and concerns."

Hoon confesses to being very stubborn and opinionated growing up, but has learned to appreciate and value differing points-of-view. Hoon feels that it is essential to one's mental health and spiritual growth to open up to a variety of ideas and experiences. He said, "Limiting yourself to what you listen to, the way you live, and the way you go about things is the worst thing that a person can do. By not opening doors to different ways of life, different ways of thinking, and different colors, you may be pushing aside a way of making yourself a happy human being. If you don't give things a chance, you're never going to know, and that would be a real shame. For Blind Melon, it is important to contribute to the ever-growing mosaic of human ideas, so that others may grow from their experiences. As Hoon sings in "Change," "I'm gonna write my words on the face of today... And then they'll paint it." ●

Martin J. Accardi

Blind Melon will be appearing at Jones Beach on August 20th.

BLIND MELON (SHANNON HOON IS IN THE MIDDLE)



ZIGGY MARLEY

Natural Mystic

What's a typical day in Jamaica like for Ziggy Marley? "A typical day in Jamaica for me..." says Marley with a chuckle, "starts the night before. We come home very late from rehearsal. 'We wake up, I check my family and friends dem... we do some exercise... smoke some herb. We just basically chill out the whole day, until it's time to go to rehearsals at seven o'clock.'"



ZIGGY MARLEY

Life in the tropics may sound like a breeze for the young Marleys, but don't get the wrong idea, it's not all fun and no work. Ziggy and his siblings, the Melody Makers, have just completed their latest album *Joy And Blues*, an album that is being hailed by critics and fans alike as their best work to date and quite possibly the best reggae album of 1993.

"*Joy And Blues* is different from anything we've ever done before, in terms of being simpler," says Marley. "The tracks are not filled with instruments... we didn't use a

lot of synthesizers or effects, so you can hear the lyrics and feel the vibes of the music more."

Recorded at the famous Tuff Gong Studios in Jamaica, *Joy And Blues* took the better part of six months to complete. "This album is more personal to me," adds Ziggy introspectively. "Each song has its own [special] message... I hope that people get the feeling within themselves, of what each song is dealing with. I want dem to listen to the lyrics and let the lyrics lead dem," says Ziggy with conviction.

Picking up his father's musical sword may have always seemed like Ziggy's natural birthright to reggae fans, but to Ziggy, the situation appeared quite differently. At first, he found it quite difficult to deal with, but as he explains below, it's a responsibility he's finally come to grips with.

"I've gotten used to everything now, and I don't mind. If it's the truth, I accept the truth... because I love the truth," says Ziggy. "When we were growing up... we

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