



STEFANIA SECCIA photo

(From left to right) Oren Davel directs as Joshua Larsson and Travis Turner re-enact a scene from Quentin Tarantino's *Reservoir Dogs*.

Searching for hearts of No Gold

Local band changes up style in attempt to win over Vancouver audiences

By NAFISA KAPTOWNWALA

Indie music gem No Gold is mining out local music scene success. Formerly known as Yukon, the band changed their musical direction and name.

"We got tired of playing wimpy music and we decided to make more positive and spiritual music," said bassist and vocalist Liam Butler.

The band started when Jack Jutesen and Butler met at a SkyTrain station on their first day of school at SFU three years ago. They were both standing on the wrong platform.

BANDS playing Friday

SECRET MOMMY QUINTET WITH NO GOLD, THE CLIPS & BASKETBALL

Media Club 9 p.m.

MOHAWK LODGE WITH BEND SINISTER & JPNDRDS

Biltmore Cabaret 9 p.m.

SRIS WITH RUSSIAN WORDS, HYMNS FOR HER & EMMETT HALL

Little Mountain Studios 8:30 p.m.

"We're both idiots," Jutesen said. They hit it off and brought in drummer Haley Pearce, who was a high-school friend of Butler. Before they leave to tour parts of Canada in April, they'll play a few more local shows.

The band is scheduled to play at The Media Club on Friday. Details can be found to the left.

No Gold entrances audiences with Jutesen's feathery guitar playing and Pearce's drumming that resembles traditional jazz styles. Butler's vocals provide melody through short drone-y verses and long-winded moans.

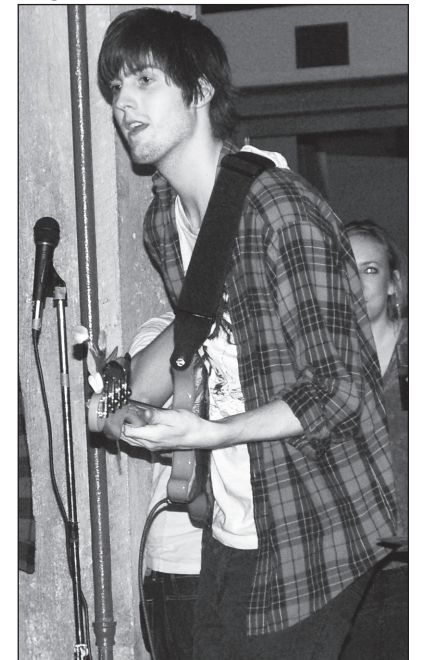
Butler and Jutesen work at coffee shops for extra income. Butler is between courses at SFU, Jutesen is a film student at SFU and Pearce designs sets for the TV show *Robson Arms*. It's hard for them to find time to get together.

"We've been playing the same songs for like a year-and-a-half. That's our problem we don't really write songs," Jutesen said.

Despite their lack of time, they have a couple of vinyl recording projects in the making.

"More or less, we have bits and pieces waiting to be finished and released," Butler said. "There is supposed to be a [single] coming out before we go on tour in May."

He added, "We are going to do a split album with our friends from the band Colourbook from Victoria. A split [full-length] record."



NAFISA KAPTOWNWALA photo

Liam Butler rocks the bass for *No Gold* at a show at Pat's Pub.

Freshman flicks find a fest

Students' films break onto Vancouver screens despite boundaries

By STEFANIA SECCIA

Both of you guys got 10 years on me and I'm the only one acting like a professional," a Langara College film student said, re-enacting the role of Mr. Pink from *Reservoir Dogs*. At the upcoming Vancouver Student Film Festival, the spotlight is put on students to showcase that professionalism.

VSFF director Sandra Garcia said a student's short film compared to a professional's is just as good.

"[The VSFF] showcases talent behind student filmmakers in B.C.," Garcia said. "There's a stigma around student [films]."

The VSFF had its first show in 2005 and started because of the lack of B.C. student films chosen at the Vancouver International Film Festivals. The 2008 VSFF is scheduled for May 24 at the Vancity Theatre on Seymour Street

and the submission deadline is April 19.

Garcia is establishing the sponsorship this year, which will affect the awards and prizes given out. The sponsors determine what awards are given out and Garcia hopes to have a new award called best diversity and multiculturalism. It is unofficial so far, but was verbally confirmed.

Garcia said that in past festivals students have experimented with more genres like anime and bilingual films.

"It goes to show that film students are pushing boundaries," she said. "Pushing the envelope in their film productions that would be found equally in professional film."

Garcia and Mike Tannasee, who is in charge of submissions, aspire to showcase films from a variety of schools.

The expected 100 applications will be chopped down to the top 40 and then

only 12 to 20 of the films are screened.

What separates the chosen from the rest is the storytelling, Tannasee said. Students who can successfully execute a 20-minute short film, without being limited by their resources are more likely to have their film selected.

One of the conflicts that the VSFF faces is the tight deadline with VIFF.

Student films that are chosen and screened at VSFF can't be shown at VIFF.

Langara film student Travis Turner acted as Mr. Pink in the *Reservoir Dogs* scene. He said his comedy film, *High Stakes*, might be entered into VSFF.

"As an actor I would like as much exposure as possible," Turner said. "And to get the reaction from the audience because it would be my first film ever [to be shown to the public] and the more reaction I get builds confidence."

For more information check out the festival's website at www.vdff.com.

“There’s a stigma around student [films]”
SANDRA GARCIA

VANCOUVER STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL

Female films showcased at film fair

Langara grad to be showcased at Women in Film Festival, which aims to promote women's place in the world of movie production

By MELISSA SMALLEY

The advancement of women in the film industry is the focal point of a Vancouver festival this weekend.

The third annual Women in Film Festival, put on by Women in Film and Television, was created in 2006 to shine the spotlight on women in the movie business, which is lacking a strong female presence according to festival chair Danika Dinsmore.

"The status of women in film has really not changed in the past 10 years," she said. "The last film set I was working on with a crew of nearly 50, I was one of two women."

The festival will feature more than 50 woman-made short and feature-length films, including 16 from B.C., between March 6 and 9, Dinsmore said.

Former Langara film arts student Melanie Jones is one of many successful

female filmmakers whose film will be showcased in the festival.

Manhood, a short directed by Jones, is a dramedy about a cookie-cutter suburban couple who flees to the woods when a war breaks out in their neighbourhood. The first screening is on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at festival home Vancity Theatre, 1181 Seymour St. Tickets are available at the door or at www.wiffbc.com.

The film was featured last summer at several international festivals, but this is the first time Jones will be able to see the reaction first-hand.

"The best part is being able to see it in a theatre with an audience," she said. "You never know who might be in the audience watching your work."

The 12-minute film was Jones' graduating project when she completed the film arts program in 2006. Since graduating, Jones has made another short

film called *Rest Stop*, which was recently featured at a festival in Australia. She has another film in the editing stage and plans to start another one in April.

WIFTV has over 750 members in B.C. and is one of 35 chapters around the world. By providing access to professional workshops and industry resources, WIFTV has helped to launch the careers of many of Vancouver's top female producers, directors and industry managers, according to its website.

Despite being a relatively new festival, organizers have seen a dramatic increase in ticket pre-sales this year.

"We anticipate doubling the attendance this year, maybe tripling," Dinsmore said.

Another film playing is by Langara continuing studies instructor Gwen Hawthorn. Her award-winning documentary *She's a Boy I Knew* plays tonight.