

BOP!

Boppin' Around celebrates their first 10 years! It may sound a bit corny, but who could have imagined it? Well, call us corny then, 'cos when we distributed the (free of charge!) first issue of Boppin' Around in December 1993, a lot of sceptics raised quite a few eyebrows at the appearance of yet another new rock 'n' roll fanzine in the rather lazy world of rock 'n' roll...

We started this initiative after organizing a rock 'n' roll event and never seeing it mentioned in any of the existing rock 'n' roll mags, for the simple reason that these magazines didn't appear on a regular base. And though we'll never forget those mags did their utmost best to keep up the rock 'n' roll scene in the seventies and eighties, we decided to carry on the flame in April 1994 with our first official issue.

Boppin' Around not only is a publication to promote rock 'n' roll, but another goal is to support all rock 'n' roll from the Netherlands and Belgium. No less than 25 bands decided to celebrate our first decade by helping us put out the first release on our brand new record label Boppin' Around Records.

All these bands generously donated a self-composed track. Some are new, young bands, others already established and maintain a high profile both at home and abroad. But the best thing is they are all very different, and therefore we find a large variety of style forms collected on one cd. And that's exactly what our magazine stands for! Authentic rockabilly, neo rockabilly, straight forward rock 'n' roll, honky tonk, jive, rhythm and blues, surf and instrumentals: read all about it in the pages of Boppin' Around, and hear it all on our (first) Boppin' Around compilation cd! A lot of thanx to all these fantastic bands! And of course a lot of thanx to everybody who supported us these past 10 years, especially our subscribers and advertisers!

Ron, Antoon, Frans
Boppin' Around Association

CHARLIE ROY hails from... Charleroi, Belgium and is the moniker of Be-Bops guitarist Mario Mattucci. **THE BLACK MOUNTAINS BOYS** consist of drummer Roland Vandy, double bass player Holly Dalton and lead guitarist Georgy Pascaran, and together they form Mario's brand new country boogie and western swing combo. If Gonna Get Me Another Woman, recorded especially for us on January 2, 2003 at the Matt Barney Studios, is anything tot go by, Charlie Roy and his Boys surely have a couple of surprises up their sleeve, and are beyond the shadow of a doubt one of thé bands to look out for in the future. Info: mattucci.bebopbarney@freeworld.be

THE STACY CATS from East Holland were born in 1988 and their energetic, powerful brand of rock 'n' roll is internationally appreciated, as evidenced by multiple tours of Scandinavia, the United States (including Viva Las Vegas 5) and

Russia. The readers of Boppin' Around elected them most popular Dutch band together with Mischief in 2002. The current Stacy's are Renzo Sanders (vocals, guitar), Eric van Spreuwel (double bass) and Mario Groeneveld (drums). Curious? Get a hold of their cd The Stacy Cats (2000, Rockhouse) from which we culled Pedal Pushin' Daddy. Info: home.hetnet.nl/~stacycats

THE MOE GREENE SPECIALS from the Antwerp, Belgium pampas are the brainchild of guitarist Kristof Janssens and bassist Gert Herrijgers, who started playing surf in their garage in the summer of 2000. Complemented by Koen Van Loon (trumpet), Peter Lodiers (guitar), Sven Greefs (tenor sax) and Stefan Degueudre (drums), the new instro band recorded their first mini cd, God Bless The Moe Greene Specials, at the end of 2001. Easy tunes, Stax soul and Calexico blend together in a relaxed, sunny sound which is acknowledged from their home turf all the way to Germany and Switzerland. The Moe Greene Specials also provided the musical background for the Euro tour of Russ Meyer's leading ladies Tura Satana, Haji, and Lori Williams of Faster Pussycat Kill Kill fame. Santo Trafficante gives you a darn good idea what The Shadows might have sounded like had they been born across the Rio Grande. Info: www.moegreenspecials.com

MISCHIEF! from Utrecht, Holland has been radio-actively rocking since 1993 and consists of Richard Verheul (drums) and the brothers Pat (double bass) and Daze (guitar) van de Erf. Crystal clear guitar notes, relaxed slapping, excellent harmony vocals and an authentic fifties sound gained them a live reputation envied by many. Mischief appeared on RTL 5 and SBS 6 television, played the infamous Paradiso concert hall, toured Scandinavia for two weeks in May 1999, played Hemsby in May 2000, won AVRO's Battle Of The Quiffs on national radio in 2002, and is described in Rob van Scheer's book Elvis In Holland as one of the most important solicitors of the genre. Needless to say, their albums Mischief (1998, Haulin' Barn) and Wake Up (2000, Tombstone), both recorded at the Haulin' Barn Studios in Houten, Holland come highly recommended. Info: www.mischief.nl (Special thanx to Tombstone, Klaas and Marita for this track).

BLINKIT let out its first screams in 1998 when singer-rhythm guitarist William Souffreau, drummer Hugo Verhoye and guitarist Luc De Clus (all three former members of Irish Coffee, one of the few Belgian rock bands of the seventies with genuine international appeal) join forces with Filip De Braekeleer, double bass player of The Yancatooz. Blinkit commits itself to the faultless interpretation of rockabilly standards, of which we find an expert selection on their debut Rock Billy Boogie (2000, Blues Gems). The follow up Shake It (2003, Blues Gems) proves they are gifted composers. On stage they are often backed by the 11 piece Mighty Blue Cloud Horn Section, but we opted for Cadillac Rock, a strong slice of contemporary rockabilly. Info: <http://users.skynet.be/blinkit/>

You can't get any more Dutch than **THE BARNSTOMPERS**, yet they belong to the international top league in the hillbilly boogie field. And it's not just a select club of connoisseurs who say so. Rockabilly legend Sid King even refuses to travel to Europe if not accompanied by The Barnstompers! You want facts? How's about tours of the United States, Canada and Scandinavia? You want proof? Both of

their cd's, *Swinging Western Style* (1999, Barn) and *Western Rhythm* (2002, Barn) are pure class and masterpieces of authenticity. Obviously we had to include Kees Stigter (vocals, rhythm guitar) and Larry Tulip (double bass), who founded The Barnstompers in 1991, Rutger Berends (drums) and Erwin Meijdam (rhythm guitar) in our overview of the Benelux scene. Info: Jeroen +31 (0)6-53604176

www.barnstompers.com

HÈTTEN DÈS from Louvain, Belgium was founded by Koen Verbeek (vocals, rhythm guitar, ex-Sin Alley), Sammy Boy (guitar), Piston Pedro (drums) and Ronny Wouters (double bass, ex-Ratmen) in order to combine alternative country and Americana with rock 'n' roll. Their unorthodox compositions and out of this world interpretations from the songbooks of Johnny Cash, Hank Williams and Hank III kick contemporary Nashville right in the nuts and show that country music can be hazardous to your health and peace of mind. Line dancers not allowed! Info:

www.hettendes.com

THUNDERBIRDS Johnny, Tony and Dyon have been playing together in rock bands in Sittard, Holland since 1984 but didn't manifest themselves as a rock 'n' roll band until the end of the eighties. 1993 saw the release of their debut *Live At CEP's Place*, followed by *To Get A Ride* (1995) and *Busy Man* (2002), both on Rarity. They've sure been busy since, as their mix of mid fifties rock 'n' roll and rockabilly proves increasingly popular, and that's why they made it to the finals of AVRO's *Battle Of The Quiffs* on National Radio. Don't miss out when they tear up your neighbourhood! Info: J. Beugels +31(0)46-4526682 (Special thanx to

www.rarityrecords.nl)

RUNNIN' WILD has been one of the groundbreaking Belgian bands since its conception in 1993 by the Brussels based duo of Ben Aïssa (double bass) and Patrick Ouchène (vocals, guitar). Patrick also made several successful albums with The Domino's. *Runnin' Wild* excels in rockabilly and bluesbop with a slight touch of gypsy swing, gave rock 'n' roll masterclasses in schools, represented Belgium at the European Youth And Music Congress, and recorded five albums: *Something's Gotta Give* (1994, Rockhouse), *The Rage Inside* (1997, El Toro), *Northwind* (1998, Sfax), *I'm A Lover Not A Fighter* (2000, El Toro, coupled with *The Rage* on the cd *Killer Taco Stomp*), and *Dig That Nylon* (2003, Part). Patrick, Ben, guitarist Matt Barney aka Mario Mattucci, and drummer Koen Verbeek recorded this alternate version of *Everything's All Right*, an expertly executed example of their authentic Sun style, especially for BOP! Info: www.stormloader.com/users/runninwild

FABULOUS GRIT & THE TWO-BIT TEXAS RANGERS: take a small sample of country and western, a pinch of rock 'n' roll, and an overdose of rockabilly, and what do you get? Texas style party music by a band from Arnhem, Holland, who've been whooping it up on an international scale since 1993, and who are probably the only band on this compilation to ever grace the stage of the Lowlands Rock Festival. André de Vries and Willy Sipkema on guitars, Marc Verschoor on doghouse bass and Rasyif Kremer on drums provide a thorough base for singer Karst Grit who in a language all his own (English?) loves to improvise and play with the audience, like the unlikely cross between Iggy Pop and Johnny Cash.

Selfpenned songs, classics and obscure covers are mangled through the Grit grinder and come out in a contagious festive way. Fabulous Grit released two 45s and the 6-track mini cd True Grit, and they are a must if you wanna see and hear rock 'n' roll delivered in an unusual way. Info: Rene +31(0)26-4457990

THE UGLY BUGGY BOYS came to life on the eve of Halloween 2000, derive their inspiration from the spinning Massey Fergusons of yesteryear, and consist of three scarecrows; Nick O'Sand on drums, Averell McRonald sings and strums his guitar, Holly Dalton caresses the double bass. These Brussels cats play heavy metal from the twenties and western swing of the future, a gumbo of hillbilly, country-blues, boogie and ragtime, served with a gravy of absurd humour. After a self released mini cd 6 Pieces they presented their debut album Yodel Hey Hee Ho (Magnet) in March 2003. One thing's for sure: make way for the next boys-band... Info: <http://www.tubb.be/>

No rock 'n' roll collection is complete without at least one gal, and **SUE MORENO** definitely is our kinda gal. The looks, the charm and the voice, Sue's got it all, and she's got what it takes to make it in the big bad world of rock 'n' roll. Susanne Maria Sybilla started her first band, Memphis, at the age of 15, and Sue & the Flaming Stars (Willy Pieters on bullfiddle, Dik Otten on guitar and Dennis Kneulman on drums) saw the light of day in 1997. In 2000 Sue won the talent contest in Hemsby, she toured the United States, Scandinavia and Italy, shared the stage with Scotty Moore, DJ Fontana, The Comets and Paul Burlison, and took part in the Country Music Hall Of Fame Theatre Tour. Rockabilly infused with Latin, blues and country is her game, and even though Elvis has always been a big influence, the spirits of Janis Martin, Julie London and Peggy Lee permeate her music as well. She released her solo debut All I Can Do Is Dream You in 2002 on Rarity, and the new Flaming Stars album Driving On The Highway Of Love (an alternate version of the title track brightens up BOP!) should be out by now. In June 2003 she recorded an album with Marco Di Maggio. Go get 'em, Sue! Info: www.SueMoreno.com

Surf music is the latest craze, and **SPEEDBALL JR.** is one of the bands who recently gained quite a reputation in the instro-mental field. Fré (guitar), Alexandra (bass) and Davy (thunderdrums) created Speedball Jr. in Ghent, Belgium in 2000 and seem to have a patent pending on speed, power, volume and reverb. Speedball Jr. won third place in the East Flanders Rock Contest in 2001, played spectacular gigs in the Netherlands, France and England, and released their debut album Whiplash (Drunkabilly) in April 2003. Go-go dancer Sandra adds a burlesque retro touch to their shows. Info: www.speedballjr.com - lsagency@skynet.be

No rock 'n' roll collection is complete without at least one jive number, for swing is still and always will be the thing. When in Holland, look no further than **BLUE MOON SPECIAL**, who rose from the ashes of The Blue Moon Boys (hands up who remembers their 1989 mini-lp Make That Rockabilly Roll on Rockhouse!) some 15 years ago due to the dedication of singer-guitarist Ritch van Gessel and drummer

Winnie Mensink. Swing, jump, shuffle, ska and early fifties rhythm and blues hold no secrets for Blue Moon Special, complemented by double bass player Hans van der Velde and the horn section of Quinten Kray (tenor) and Erwin van der Does (baritone), as amply demonstrated on the cd's Two-Tone Jump (1992, Rockho use) and The Scenic Route Through Hipsville (2000, BMS). Just ask rock 'n' roll pioneer Freddie Bell, who after being accompanied by the Blue Moon Special train in 2000 commented: they said this style of music would fade away in a year or two, but you guys prove that it never did... No wonder Blue Moon Special are regularly invited to guest on jazz and blues festivals both at home and abroad! Info: Belmont Bookings +31(0)20-6162612 www.belmontbookings.nl

THE FABULOUS FRANKIES appeared out of nowhere (well, out of Antwerp and Louvain, Belgium actually) in the mid-nineties and their love for comedy routines, novelty songs and hilarious dress codes instantly won them a large following in the Netherlands and Germany as the clown princes of rock 'n' roll. After the full cd The Full Franky (1999, Part) and an appearance at Hemsby the laughter stopped and the band headed into a more serious rockabilly direction. Highway was recorded for release as a cd-single that never materialised, so we're glad we unearthed it for inclusion on BOP! It also marks the starting point of Moonshine Reunion, the new band formed by the core of The Frankies in 2004: rootsrock, bluesbop and country twang. Seems like they traded in the tequila for whiskey... Info: Joris +3233858780 E-mail: joris.govers@advalvas.be

KEV BLACK & THE MUFFDIVERS from Dordrecht, Holland call their music retro billy psycho surf, and their contemporary sound is as much rooted in the fifties as it is aiming at the 21st century. Kevin de Zwart (guitar), Terral Bouman (bass), and Jan-Kees (vocals, guitar) and Han-Willem (drums) Groeneveld laid down their first tracks in 2002, which led to the cd Comin' To Getcha (Salisbury), resulting in a truckload of gigs and even a slot on a Brazilian rockabilly compilation! Intense, intriguing, passionate and redeeming, or as we wrote before in the pages of Boppin' Around: a band to keep your eyes and ears peeled open for. Info: www.kevblack.nl

LOS PUTAS escaped from the sewers of Antwerp, Belgium in 2000 and play sixties rock 'n' roll, surf and garage punk, led by high priestess Inga, the hottest go-go dancer in the business. Their resume contains the Wild Weekend (Spain), Monster Bash, Sjock, and Monsters Of Rock 'n' Roll Festivals. Line Up, one of the tracks on their 2001 mini cd Go Fuck You, reaches the finish line in one minute but manages to contain scorching guitars, a drum break and screaming engine sound effects. Line Up's line up was Hans (guitar), Tom (bass) and Peter (drums), who's since been replaced by Lucien. Live on stage they get reinforcement from singer Yves and rhythm guitarist Sven. In December 2003 they recorded new material. For those of you who prefer their music shockproof, visit them at www.losputas.com, but don't misspell it or the porn pop-ups will never end. Gentlemen, start your engines... Info: losputas@hotmail.com

TWO LANE BLACKTOP were formed in August 1998 by brothers Michael (lead guitar) and Jeffrey (electric rhythm guitar) Wahrlich, singer-drummer Roland van

der Schoor and double bass player Mario Maandonks in Eindhoven and Tilburg, Netherlands. Three months later they played their first ever show at Frank's Place, Arendonk. They quickly begin writing their own material, in May 2000 they won the talent contest at Hemsby, and at the end of 2001 they self released the mini cd Power Economy Style. Despite success beckoning on the horizon, Roland and Jeffrey left the band due to lack of time. Two Lane Blacktop got into the studio only one more time, to record Don't Look Down especially for our BOP! cd. In the meantime Mario and Michael started up a new band named. To be continued... Info: michaelwarlich2000@yahoo.com

THE BILLYGOAT RIDERS from Bruges, Belgium go back to 1989 and the brothers Chuck (guitar) and Buddy (drums) Messany and double bass player Spider James. Over the years they grew into a rockabilly band with distinct country and cajun touches. Third brother Yves was enrolled as singer, they crossed the Channel several times, and started writing more and more own songs, 15 of which are collected on the self released Rock Bop Jump And Hop (2000, Billy Bop) cd. Louisiana is a hillbilly inspired rerecording of one of those numbers with Mark Spreckley (Houserockers) on double bass. The current Billygoats feature Guy Winne on banjo, lap steel and dobro. Info: <http://www.billybop.be/Bands/billygoatriders/default.htm>

CRAZY CADILLAC is a five piece all-round band with the traditional setup of vocals-guitar (George Blanken), guitar (Jean Paul Barentsen), sax (Arold Schers), double bass (John de Bruijn) and drums (Mark Verdonk), strengthened by doo-wop styled harmony singing. For 20 years now Crazy Cadillac has been a living jukebox, releasing two cd's on Rarity (Crazy Cadillac and Cruisin') and backing up René Shuman. Their swinging showmanship brought them from Holland to Hungary and Italy, where they've been rockin' and rollin' many an après-ski party in the last 10 years. Info: www.crazycadillac.nl (met speciale dank aan www.rarityrecords.nl)

THE INCREDIBLE SUCKING SPONGIES are one of the most popular exponents of the neo traditional current in surf music. Filip Borms (bass), Jan Peeters (lead guitar), Dirk Van Den Berge (rhythm guitar) and Dirk Van Rosendaal (drums) accepted their holy mission in 1997 in Antwerp, Belgium, and deliver classics, self penned numbers and unexpected covers, spicing up their concerts with exotica and TV tunes. In 2002 they won Studio Brussels' Demo Poll Contest on national radio. Their self released Let There Be Surf cd was awarded four stars by Phil Dirt's Reverb Central, the international reference of all things wet and wild. Info: www.spongies.be

Some people are born to rock, but **THE RENO BROTHERS** were Born To Party, hence the title of their self released 6-track cd (2000, RB 1001). This frivolous foursome from Utrecht, Holland, was founded in 1998 and wants to play only one kind of music: rockabilly. Thus they do, and they do it in an enthusiastic, dynamic, fast, unstoppable, refreshing and driven way, yet melodically. This should come as no surprise, for Jan van Leeuwen (drums), Rogier Hermans (vocals, lead guitar), Ramon van der Weurf (vocals, rhythm guitar) and Eddie Poppes (double bass) had

years of experience in bands like The Chessnuts, The Red Shots and The Barnstompers. The split cd and video they recorded in 2002 with Mischief at The Cruise Inn, Amsterdam established them as the ultimate party band, and led to gigs in Belgium, Switzerland, France, Germany and England. As an added bonus, Ramon's mimic and body language remain unparalleled worldwide. Info: www.renobros.nl

THE BE-BOPS from Charleroi, Belgium have been rocking for over two decades and are not about to lay their guitars down, as witnessed by I'm Still Rockin', recorded especially for us by David Green (vocals), Mario Mattucci (guitar), Roland Vandy (drums) and Holly Dalton (double bass). The band with Italian roots, specialised in authentic rockabilly without giving in to fads and commercialism since 1982 (when David was only 13 years young!), is appreciated internationally and recorded four albums: Hot Weather (1994, Rockhouse), Rockin' Too Much – Celebratin' (1994, Rockhouse), Let's Keep Things Movin' (1997, Part) and The World Of The Be-Bops (2000, Part). Info: mattucci.bebopbarney@freeworld.be

THE TAILDRAGGERS from South Limburg, Netherlands are guitarist Rudy, drummer Tim, double bass player Hans and singer-guitarist Pascal, who put themselves on the musical map in 2001 as a bluegrass and hillbilly outfit. Their style evolved into swinging rock 'n' roll baptised Dragger Bop, which stands for rockabilly bop and late fifties screaming rock 'n' roll, with enough room for self written Taildragger tunes. Their debut Hot Rod Suit came out on Rarity in 2003, and its sequel, a most unusual Elvis tribute, should be out by now. The Taildraggers are welcome guests on the rock 'n' roll scene, played the Car & Rockabilly Rumble (Landgraaf, Holland) and Rock 'n' roll Street (Akersloot, Holland) Festivals, and would like to add a couple more festivals to the list... Info: www.taildraggers.nl (Special thanx to www.rarityrecords.nl)

Five greasers from Antwerp, Belgium serve you a strong cocktail of rock 'n' roll, soul, rhythm and blues, and rhumba. Most people would call it rootsrock, but **THE SPANNERS** call their music machobilly. The basic ingredients for this strange brew are the steaming rhythm section of Bop De Houwer (double bass, ex-Seatsniffers) and Stijn Van Hooydonk (drums, twin brother of ex-Fabulous Frankies saxophone player Dries Van Hooydonk), for taste add Roel Cool's guitar and the organ and percussion of Steven Wijnen (also O'Haras), and your waiter for tonight will be singer Rockin' Rolando. We stole Red Dressed Woman from their demo. Bottoms up, but try to behave yourselves... Info: devvel@boogaloo.be

Frantic Franky, editor Boppin' Around, January 2004