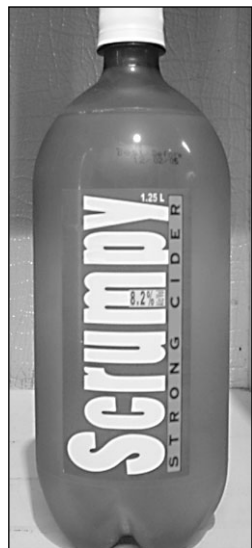


Get some scrumptious cider inside ya...

drink



This year I have received quite an education — a little from this fine institution, but a lot from the dusty, bottom shelves of the local off-licence.

For this is where true wisdom lies. All knowledgeable bums, finks and deadbeats know where to find society's treasure these days.

With student life, and the accompanying student funds, I've been forced to cut down expenditure on swanky drinks and discover cheaper alternatives to imported beer and Black Label Bourbon.

This year one cheap drink has stood out above all the other cheap drinks. A cheeky little drop that has had me returning to drown in its pleasures time after time.

With its cool, lime green bottle, bold white typeface and snazzy red racing stripe, Scrumpy Cider has a certain air of sophistication, a certain *je ne*

sais quoi, if you will.

Don't be fooled by the squat 1.25lt bottle and opt for the towering 1.5lt bottle of Harvest gathering dust beside it on the shelf. That's a rookie mistake, kids. You'll be tempted by the cheaper price tag — \$6.95 versus Scrumpy's exorbitant \$7.95 — but resist the attention grabbing tactics and heed my advice; put the Harvest down.

A quick scan of the small print will reveal the pop in Scrumpy's weasel is not to be trifled with. I'm talking 8.2%. For the liquid amount of three beers you easily get the effect of six or seven. The good folks at Scrumpy are not mucking about.

Like all fine drinks there is only one way to drink Scrumpy, and that's straight from the bottle. If you're gonna do it, do it right

The first few sups satisfy with crisp, clean, refreshing apple tones and a pleasing aftertaste

not entirely unlike the memory of sunny, summery afternoons lazing in the garden. But around the halfway mark Scrumpy will begin testing your resolve.

Your palate will tire of its fruity charms, and the delicate floral character you initially fell in love with will reveal itself to be nothing but a cheap whore.

By the time you reach the three quarter mark Scrumpy's long finish, full bodied depth and complex body will really be getting on your tits. The heat produced by your grubby little hands clutching the bottle will have warmed it, and the liquid inside, seriously diminishing the drinkability of the drop.

You must push past the wall and persevere. The pace will slow but just think of the tortoise and the hare and try and ignore your friends with their Stella Artois. They ain't so fancy — Stella is made here you know.

And finally, when you

thought you could take no more of the sticky, sweet substance, you'll see there's not much left and you'll gulp for gold to finish the bottle.

But this is Scrumpy's final test. Because no matter how hard you try to drain the bottle dry with that last gulp, there will always be one more sip left. One last miserable, tepid sip before you can throw down the bottle a hero, a champion, a conqueror.

As you've drunk far less liquid than your pals there should still be some beers sitting in the fridge. I suggest pilfering one while they make another one of their frequent beery bathroom pitstops.

Congratulations. You will now be well on your way and probably slurring a little.

— By Karl Puschmann

The Cure comeback with a classic collection

music



The Cure
The Cure
Geffen

In that place between sleep and awake, where anxiety lurks and love hurts, you hear The Cure.

Since 1976 Robert Smith and his band have been making music that is dark, sad and happy all at once.

Their pop sensibilities have inspired many, and given others a soundtrack to fall in love and fall apart to.

This new record begs you to take their *Standing on a Beach* 1978-1985 singles collection off your turntable.

The album opens to the slow swirling discord of *The Lost*. Somehow it catches you off guard. It takes time, building to your expectations.

Slow tom rolls and a sitar guide you through *Labrynth* before you reach the bitter sweet pop that pulled you into The Cure, captured in *Before Three*.

The first single, *The End of the World* is achingly catchy. The thoughtful bass line leaves a lasting impression underneath Smith's pleading vocals: "Go if you want to. I'll never try and

stop you. Know there's a reason..."

Humming bass against steady guitars run through the album. Keyboards float above the strings, and cymbal crashes punctuate the songs.

Every now and then songs of love are forsaken. *Us or Them* delves into the heavy murk of the politics of terror, complimenting the commentary of the band's 1979 hit *Killing an Arab*.

As a piece of driving pop, *Never* lifts out of the dark dissonance. It carries a description of

the ironic resignation of knowing you will never be in love with someone as much as you both might want to be.

As clichéd as love songs can be, somehow the lyrics never come across trite or contrived. This is not Britney Spears or Jessica Simpson.

Going Nowhere softly drifts the album to a close with piano and chimes alongside softly sung words: "could be, could be, could be... I'm already there."

—By Marcus Stickley

ART, THEATRE, MUSIC, FILM, SHOWS, ART, THEATRE, MUSIC, FILM, SHOWS, ART, THEATRE, MUSIC, FILM,

EXHIBITIONS

Unseen Worlds — New Dimensions - an exhibition of magnified images from the usually unseen world, focusing on the images that scientists create in the course of their everyday work. Until October 3, Auckland Museum, Auckland Domain, ph 306 7067.

We Fought Fashion and Lost: World 1989 - 2005 — A selection of fabulous and quirky garments from the leaders of avant garde fashion in New Zealand - World. Timed to coincide with the *Air New Zealand Fashion Week* in October. Until November 7, Auckland Museum, Auckland Domain, phone 306 7067.



My Heart is East and West — Iranian born Shirin Neshat's beautiful work addresses the place of women in society of her homeland, and looks at her life lived between America and Iran. To November 7, Main Gallery, Auckland Art Gallery, cnr Wellesley & Kitchener Streets, ph 307 7700.

Golden - Celebrating 50 Years of the Friends of the Gallery — The 50 year legacy of the Friends of the Auckland Art Gallery includes more than 60 works that are worth millions. Golden highlights works by the amazing Colin McCahon, Frances Hodgkins, Rita Angus and Pat Hanly with many others. To October 24, Auckland Art Gallery, ph 307 7700.

Te Waka - Our Great Journey — One of the true maritime stories. A 10 minute fully animated movie shown on a 12 metre wide, 3 metre tall 180° screen, and surround-sound. This is New Zealand's first maritime story. The story of the first migration to New Zealand; the last great migratory voyage of mankind. The film honours the adventure and skills of the first people to make New Zealand their home. To December 31, NZ National Maritime Museum, Viaduct, City, ph 373 0800.

THEATRE



Caligula — Auckland Theatre Company presents a classic play by Albert Camus. Written in 1944, Emperor Caligula is the most powerful man in the Roman Empire, but he gets power-crazy when his sister and lover are killed. Directed by Colin McColl. Stars Oliver Driver, Danielle Cormack, Stuart Devenie and Paul Barrett. Sep 23 - Oct 23, Maidment Theatre, Auckland Uni, ph 308 2383.

Go Solo — The annual season of solo performances from third year acting students who research, devise, direct and act in a piece of solo theatre about a New Zealand or Pacific personality. Sep 29 - Oct 2, Auckland Art Gallery. For times and topics go to www.tewhaea.org.nz or phone 0800 NZDRAMA to book.

MUSIC

Auckland Philharmonia Telecom Pops 2004 with Natalie Cole — The daughter of the legendary Nat King Cole performs her favourite soul, pop, rock and gospel numbers with Auckland Philharmonia. September 26 & 27, Aotea Centre, The Edge. Phone the Ticketek Orchestra Hotline 307 5139.



Coastal Clubbing — Nice 'n' Ulrich are back due to popular demand. This is one event that always draws an up-for-it crowd of happy party goers and the tunes are big dance floor hits. Peter Ulrich and Bevan Keys always put on a massive show and Coast Bar is one of the chic clubbing experiences in this city. Fri September 24, Coast Bar, Level 7 Hewlett Packard Building, Princes Wharf, City.

COMEDY

This Is What We Call The Justine Smith Show — 2003 Billy T Award winner Justine Smith gets "naughty" in a fiesta of music, theatre, comedy, multi-media and muppets. With Emily O'Brien Brown and Toni Potter. September 17-25 (not Monday 20), Herald Theatre, The Edge, Albert St, ph 307 5000.

Tag Team — The WWF of improvised comedy, duos battle it out with wits, strategy and brawn to win the audience's approval. Round after round the teams are challenged to different scenes to perform for your entertainment pleasure. There will be blood, sweat and tears! Covert Theatre, 84 K'Rd, City, ph 366 6637.

Raybon Kan - Comedy Tour 2004 'Raybs Against The Machine: The Wrath of Kan' will showcase Raybon's hilarious, edgy and thought-provoking observations in an extensive national tour. Raybon has been named Best Comedian by both Metro Magazine and North and South Magazine. Internationally, he has performed at the Melbourne Comedy Festival and at the prestigious Montreal Comedy Festival. 8 October, St James Theatre, Queen Street, ph 309 6228.