



RAISING THE BAR

By Linda Freeman
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MUSIC/CD REVIEW: RICK PARNELL

<http://www.reverbnation.com/rickparnell>

Rick Parnell is a folk/rock musician whose band hails from Richmond, British Columbia, Canada. Rick has been steadily emerging on the folk/rock scene since he left his corporate job in 2008 to devote himself to a music career. On his latest CD, "Next Time Around," Rick is backed by Hart Parnell on guitar, Terry Martyniuk on percussion, and Ian Lopez-Ganoza on bass. Hart, Rick's son, was only 16 when he started performing with his dad. He provides an impressive anchor for Rick's vocals, shines on his guitar solos, and co-wrote some of the songs. Terry and Ian take the band to the next level by giving the tunes a rich, unforgettable flair. And then there's Rick's vocals, which are gritty and honest with a healthy dose of cynicism, calling to mind Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen and early Rod Stewart.

When I first listened to my favorite song, "A Numbers Game," I remember thinking "Damn, that's good!" Actually, it's better than good -- it was hard for me to select a few lines from it for this review, because each one is memorable and flows seamlessly to the next:

Rented room and a rental car
 Tiny bottles in a hotel bar
 Would you rather be rich or be a star
 Either way it's a numbers game



Another song not to be missed is "Next Time Around," whose complex lyrics make you sit up and pay attention. The music video for the song is outstanding: Director Emily Aspland stays true to the song while using elements of novelty and surprise to great effect. Uploaded just 3 weeks ago, it has over 78,000 views (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVglJwu1fFY>). "Ticket on a Plane" is another standout tune, which is equal parts wistfulness and regret.

In 2011, Rick was inducted into the Museum of Canadian Music, and he has gained a steadily-growing fan base that has put him at #2 on the Reverbnation charts for Richmond, BC. Buy or share his music from "Next Time Around" and previous releases "Imperfect Beauty" and "One Eye Open" at Reverbnation (<http://www.reverbnation.com/rickparnell>). Half of the proceeds will be donated to Half The Sky Movement.

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