



THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN Weekend *Edge*

Static Appeal

Quartet Hopes for Electrifying Debut

By Sandi Davis
Staff Writer

Every band hopes for that one break that will lead to success. Static may have gotten it. Last fall, David Fitzgerald of DCF Productions slid a plain gold compact disc into his player, and before he knew it, he'd listened to the whole disc, thinking it was a national band.

It wasn't. It was Oklahoma City-based alternative band Static. "I remembered Aaron Triplett from the band EZ Access and when he called to say he had a CD from his new band Static, I told him to send it to me," Fitzgerald said. "I tell all local bands to send me CDs, but theirs was something I'd be proud to have associated with my name."

Fitzgerald is now the



band's manager and books them not on the local club circuit, but opening for national acts and other selected dates.

Static — guitarist Triplett, vocalist Brett Mason, bassist Todd Marino and drummer Ken Adair — has a definite alternative rock sound with sophistication and solid lyrics.

The CD "Threshold" is in stores today and the band will play at a CD release party from 7 to 9 tonight at CD World, 207 E Main in Norman.

The quartet communicates with each other with an ease that shows their confidence in themselves and their music.

Triplett and Mason attended Putnam City North, but only knew of each other.

In August 1995, the two saw each other in a local restaurant and began to talk. They discovered each was looking for band members.

"After I saw Brett I gave him a cassette tape with some of my songs on it," Triplett said. "The next day Brett had lyrics for 10 of the songs."

From that beginning, the duo recorded more than 200 hours of music. Nine of those songs are on the CD.

Marino read in a newspaper ad that a band was looking for a bassist. When he played for Triplett, the guitarist hired him on the spot.

Marino helped get Adair into the band.

Adair, an attorney, had quit drumming and was concentrating on his law practice when he was invited to view the Mike Tyson-Evander Holyfield boxing match at Mason's house.

"I was kind of ambushed," Adair said.

He did join and now his wife and two teen-age children help promote the band by handing out fliers.

"My wife is really good," Adair said. "She doesn't try to fight it. She comes to all the shows, and the kids help out, too."

Static recorded this album last summer at Dear Abbey Road Studio in Norman.

Because they wanted the best quality possible for the CD, they chose Rainbow Records in Santa Monica, Calif., to press it.

We wanted this done the right way," Adair said. "We spent a lot of

From left, Aaron Triplett, Todd Marino, Brett Mason and Ken Adair

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time raising the money to have them do it."

They are going back into the studio in July to start work on a second album. They already have four songs ready, including a blistering rock song, "Breakdown."

Fitzgerald is excited about the buzz Static has gotten, and the four band members know they are lucky to have a manager who can get them good exposure.

"I booked Static to open for the Jason Bonham Band last October so I could hear what they sounded like live," Fitzgerald said. "I forgot they were a local band."

"We like not being on the local club circuit," Triplett said. "By opening for national acts and playing the occasional date, we haven't oversaturated the market."

After tonight's performance, Static's next date is May 18 at the Boar's Head in French Market Mall, NW 63 and May.

THE BEAT CD REVIEWS

▶ ALTERNATIVE

Static

"Threshold" •

Oklahoma City-based quartet Static has crafted a fine first album.

Aaron Triplett's guitar work is solid, sometimes ethereal, sometimes caustic but always providing the spine of Static's tunes. Brett Mason's vocals soar around the music, softening the caustic edges. A good first effort.

— Sandi Davis, *The Oklahoman*

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