

x7: A Complete Multi-Media Experience

By: Dan Hamilton

Erie's Last Call Staff

I've been to a lot of shows featuring local musicians in Erie over the past few years. Some have been terrible, some have been status quo, and some have been great. But being blown away by a show like the one X7 put on March 3rd at Sherlocks, is another thing entirely. They bring the kind of show that you would expect to see in a much bigger city.

The show begins with a multi-media video that is created by guitarist/vocalist Michael Kraus, who also owns and operates MAK Design Co., a multi-media and design firm in Fairview. The band is rounded by drummer Geoff Bliss and bass player Hans Hetz. As the video ends, the music begins, and they come out rocking. You can hear a *whole lotta* Led Zeppelin, Rush, Radio Head and Nine Inch Nails in their sound. Other music that influences the band is Bach, Elvis, Bjork and the Beatles. Quite the unorthodox mix, right?

As the show progresses, they bring it down a bit, and slowly turn it back up to powerful rock crescendo by the end. You will hear songs like "Dreams" from their upcoming album, "Eve," a track from their first album, as well as a few covers towards the end of

the show. Kraus says that these two songs really capture the essence of the band. They are "kind of like Led Zeppelin meets Nine Inch Nails meets Trans-Siberian Orchestra...but not too tame. They are good rock songs you can shake your head to or dance to. They are a little edgy and rockin' at times, and then smooth and sexy. A nice combination of feelings that the crowd really responds to," Kraus says.

X7 isn't rushing their next record at the moment. They are experimenting with their songs as well as other multi-media and artistic ventures. If you go to a show and pick up one of their cds, you will see that it is accompanied by a 28 page full color lyric booklet. The band's vision is to be more than a good rock band. They want to bring you a complete multi-media experience involving art/video as well as great rock music. All of this takes time, and the band encourages their fans to be patient!

X7 will next appear Friday, May 6th back at Sherlocks/Park Place. The shows are always a great time with lots of good people who all get along and just want to hear some music. Kraus told me "the people that show the most support (dancing, coming up to the stage, cheering, or talking to us in between sets) get free T-shirts

poster design by: **makdesign co.** www.makdesigncompany.com

and sometimes a free cd. Who knows, we may even buy you a drink! We really appreciate them, so please come to the show and have a great time! You will be happy you did!"

I concur. This band approaches

their music as an art. You will not see another show exactly like them in Erie.

For more information on X7, visit their website at www.x7project.com. To see some of their music videos, go to www.youtube.com/x7project.