



pic: Simon Archer

## Misdemeanor

### Band Profile

Rock 'n' Roll, where hast thy passion gone? Where is the fire that used to burn in your loins? The sweat that glistened on your brow? The joy that ruptured forth from your bleeding heart? etc... Is it here, amid the packed Friday night bevvying mixture of greasy leather and casual cotton in The Crown, Bristol central? I fear not, but more than a glimmer of R 'n' R's spirit comes through in Misdemeanor's guitar splash of sound. It's too easy to compare them with the likes of U2/Big Country etc, but their music does lie in that colour field - shimmering, hard edged guitar sweeps with the occasional Celtic flavouring topped by a big voice hinting strongly of a Springsteenesque passion.

Owner of the voice is the equally large and amiable Northern Irishman Kevin McFadden, a fervent Springsteen admirer, who is also lead guitarist. He formed the band four years ago with the other guitarist Bob Watson, and they've been through a few bass and drum personnel changes in that time. They've supported the likes of (surprise) U2 - who they share their agents, "Wasted Talent" with - Ian Dury, and The Boomtown Rats, who they tour with again in a week's time. "Our agent makes sure our feet are on the ground, because as soon as we come back from playing all over the country, we're on at somewhere like the Fleece 'n' Firkin straight away." They don't seem to mind the U2/B.C. comparisons, but, as they say, they've been around for just as long "We've always played like that, always had two guitars."

What of the anger and danger missing from much/most of today's pop, shouldn't their passion challenge the senses, as well as arousing them? Kevin: "I think there's an element of danger in just getting on with it. We go up there and knock the shit out of it if there's four people or 400 in the audience... I don't know how much you could ever hope to change things (through music), but a lot of what Rock 'n' roll's supposed to be about has been forgotten. How the fuck can you be passionate playing a synthesiser?... Basically the whole thing about this band is that we do it because we enjoy ourselves... we like to get that feeling of fun and fire across to an audience."

Back to The Crown a rousing, jiggified, version of Springsteen's "Cadillac Ranch" has me grinning. But, after a while their passion becomes a bit repetitive... Still, they do burn in places. Rock 'n' Roll? Quite.

Elfyn Griffith