



The Escape L-R: Stuart Morgan, Emil, Alan Griffiths. Pic: Frank Passingham.

Escape into fear ...

A GROUP with The Escape's strength of purpose is an unusual find in Bristol. A trio with an acute intelligence, their songs like 'Murder', 'Desolation' and 'Castin' Vote' have an atmosphere which recalls the cinematic care of a Hitchcock thriller — the confrontation of that Ultimate Fear. As singer/guitarist Alan Griffiths remarks: "We want to let people's imaginations finish off the ideas we offer, instead of us giving them everything."

The Escape deal in duality, setting jugged sensitivity against full-blooded passion. The guitar, bass and drums format still has plenty of life in it when used creatively, merging the unorthodox with the familiar. Behind Alan's razor-sharp guitar chords and soulful vocal cords, Emil provides carefully planned patterns from his three-drum kit, while newest member Stuart Morgan has a pulsating bass style that has lifted The Escape into a phase which Emil describes as "moving away from a bleak feeling, to one of peace".

Like an Escape song, the observations that the group make of themselves are short and to the point.

The Escape have completed work on a video and will be releasing their debut single 'No Go' on their own Volatile Records label: the former a complete package, the latter a concise statement of intent. With typical disarming humour, Stuart comments that the group had thought about calling the label Death Records, but "people might have got the idea we were all doom and gloom ... and they're absolutely right!"

It's that appreciation of the dramatic mixed with an occasional flash of humour that gives The Escape such a double-edged attack. Theirs is a music which could never leave the listener depressed and, as Alan admits, the name had been chosen "because we wanted the ultimate effect of our music to be uplifting and almost an alternative road for people to take." It's not merely the new pop that shines so brightly. The difference is that The Escape offer hope and consolation, but with a total honesty and force of conviction best summed up by Alan's parting comment.

"I don't know if you've ever walked through a graveyard at night but there *is* this strange feeling there of all the people who have 'gone', and it makes you aware that you don't have much time and so things must get done *now*."

— DAVE MASSEY