

Canadian band releases stellar new CD, 'Stunt'

SOUND

staff writer **TJ LYERLY**

STUNT Barenaked Ladies
★★★★ (out of five stars)

The Barenaked Ladies fourth studio album, *Stunt*, released last Tuesday, July 7, might be the vehicle that sends them into the national spotlight, maybe even to the level of becoming a household name.

Though they might only have a cult following in the U.S., they are definitely stars in Canada, their home country.

Along with Alanis Morissette, Bryan Adams and Sarah McLachlan, the Barenaked Ladies are representative of the best musical talent to emerge from Canada.

BNL formed 10 years ago and released their classic album *Gordon* in 1992, demonstrating their versatility in creating both novelty songs as well as ballads and everything in-between.

Their latest effort, *Stunt*, reveals yet another facet of the Ladies' talent.

While Steven Page and Ed Robertson, who are friends from childhood, write most of the music and lyrics together, Steven sings lead on most of the songs on their previous albums.

On *Stunt*, however, Robertson,

also their lead guitarist, comes to the forefront, singing most of the songs on the album, even experimenting with freestyle rapping on songs like "One Week," their first single.

Their is hardly a throw-away or "fast-forward" songs on the whole album. Other potential singles include "Who needs sleep?" and "Never is Enough." These songs reflect the Ladies' frenetic energy, musical talent and lyrical creativity, and the only thing that could top listening to this album would be to see them live.

Some bands just stand up on stage and play their songs, as if live appearances were just an obligation, with little or no stage presence, but BNL have stage presence, chemistry between themselves and chemistry with

barenaked ladies



the audience.

Stunt is a good album to listen to in the car to keep from falling asleep. Their live album, *Rock Spectacle*, released last year, just went gold in the U.S., perhaps foreshadowing even greater success for their latest release.

BNL are performing on the HORDE Tour this summer, visiting the Blockbuster Pavillion in Charlotte on August 15. Later in the year, they will begin their own tour.

BOOKSTORES

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didn't have any problems as far as text book ordering. Not much has changed except we're getting more aggressive about getting orders from professors. We've gotten the majority of the orders."

Oliver said he feels not being on campus can cause additional problems when getting books ordered for students but that, "most departments are cooperative."

Oliver also said book companies might cause delays or shortages in the books needed.

"Our problem is not ordering the books in time, it's not having enough to be able to order," Oliver said.

Both managers said they feel their stores will be ready for the upcoming semester.

However Brazell said, "I'll believe it when I see it. It will be a miracle if everyone got their books on time."

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