

In Rotation

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Full Text (205 words)

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The Shuffle Demons are a 20-year Canadian institution, one-time streetniks creating an astonishing brew of rumbling jazz, free-form sax blowing indebted to the torrential excesses of Albert Ayler, bop rap, poetry and performance art.

After a seven-year hiatus, leader Richard Underhill's reunited band - as ever, garbed in coats of many colours - has been entertaining mobs across the land this summer, kicking things off with that memorable mass sax orgy in Dundas Square that will find its way into the Guinness Book of Records for its ear-busting rendition of the Hockey Night In Canada theme.

For those who want to hear more, there's a Greatest Hits CD on Stubby Records, 17 memorable entries drawn from four of their six discs.

The prime suspects are Underhill, Dave Parker on tenor sax and drummer Stich Wynston, who have been there from the busking beginnings. Also on hand through the 79 minutes of surging stuff over monster grooves are Mike Murley and Perry White on tenors, and either Jim Vivian or George Koller on bass. It's all weird material, which means classic tracks like "The Shuffle Monster" and "Spadina Bus," rarer items such as "Gabi's Gimi Suit," and even a surfing tune, "Yukon Girl."

Geoff Chapman