

There's too many in too many different genres but right now I would check out Vampire Weekend, Tellison, Los Campesinos, Those Dancing Days and I Was A Cub Scout.

Which established bands in the indie scene have Banquet helped on their way?

We've had instores with loads of people like Jamie T, Young Knives, Jack Peñate, but a lot of them would have done okay without us anyway! Bands who would not be where they are today without us would I Was A Cub Scout, Tellison, Hundred Reasons, Get Cape. Wear Cape. Fly., Cap-down, Set Your Goals and Dave House.



And anything else you'd like to add...?

Just that we're aware that music is so much more than buying a CD. It's about going to a show, getting a download, listening to myspace tracks and the like. We love what we do.

Banquet Records are pretty proud of their 'instores' – the gigs that they organise – and with good reason! Normally they'd be held inside the actual store itself (hence the name) but sometimes the bands are just too big and popular, so everyone troops down the road to The Works for their live music instead.

The instores are constantly getting bigger, and when we heard that Banquet was holding gigs with Get Cape. Wear Cape. Fly. in February and respected American rock band We Are Scientists in March, we decided that it was simply our duty as a local magazine to go along.

28/02/08 – Get Cape. Wear Cape. Fly. £4
Get Cape. Wear Cape. Fly. are a (very grammatically accurate)

five-piece indie band from Southend who released their first album, *Chronicles of a Bohemian Teenager* in 2006, quickly impressing critics; and brought out their second album, *Searching for the Hows and Whys*, last month. Singer Sam Duckworth is heavily involved in human rights issues and is a strong supporter of the Love Music Hate Racism campaign. He also writes very good music... Luckily, we were right down at the front, (by the speakers, my ears have yet to recover), and the atmosphere was quite relaxed, but simply happy.

Everyone there was a fan and just wanted to hear and enjoy the music. The louder, more upbeat songs were done with energy and the quieter, acoustic numbers had a great feeling about them. GCWCF played some old favourites and gave us a taster of the new album, which sounded just as good, if not better. Everyone left with a smile, need I say any more?

07/03/08 - We Are Scientists. £4

We Are Scientists are an American indie/rock band who released their first major album, *With Love and Squalor* back in October 2005, and who currently have album number two, *Brain Thrust Mastery* out in shops, along

with new single *After Hours*. For a band that has toured with Arctic Monkeys, The Works was a relatively small venue; and, due to being entirely sold out, was packed. WAS didn't just stand and hit their instruments, they chatted to the audience and kept up some good banter throughout, even made a few jokes. We heard the old singles, *Nobody Move*, *Nobody Get Hurt* and *Great Escape* along with their new single and bits and pieces from their new album. WAS played with the knowledge that they're damn good, very confident and pretty sexy, a great night out all round.