

S H O W L H S E

# CHICAGO

THE MIDWEST ENTERTAINMENT PUBLICATION FREE

**The Hideouts**  
**Synergy**  
 12/3/93

Their baaaack, the new, improved, and revamped, Haircut 100?!? Like we ever missed them and need them back. But we did miss the Hideouts, a four-piece from the Western Suburbs who took the stage at Synergy after a month absence to debut their new guitarist, Johnny L. This up and coming band has a high energy show that pleased the crowd and showed what a little team work can do.

The show was interspersed with old favorites, not yet released tunes, and some great additions by Slugs guitarist L. And for those who were missing the Neil Diamond concert, there was a faithful rendition of "Sweet Caroline."

"Before I Reconsider" is a toe-tappin, rock n' roll-pop song reminiscent of the Gin Blossoms. Good harmonies and a distinctive sound make this band one to brave the upcoming winter to go see. "Now



The Hideouts - Photo by: Nate Dhamers

She's In Your Life" is a yet to be released tune that highlighted L's light to the touch guitar work that blended in with the steady rhythms of the band. "Tell Me" had a ferocious back beat by drummer Billy Club with vocalist and guitarist, Gerry O'Keefe taking the guitar lead.

Synergy is a great room to see a show; decent sight lines, a barn like atmosphere and a killer sound system make it worth the trip to the boonies. With "Covered Up In Shame", O'Keefe throws away the falsetto for a change and makes the song with the mellow tenor of his voice. Hey Ger, what was so interesting in the rafters that you couldn't take your eyes off it? Bassist Frank Gradishar takes over the lead vocals for "Good When It's Gone." He kept a steady bass going and the non-show off type guitar work of O'Keefe and L. are perfect for this genre of music.

"(Why Don't) Start Over" is available on the Hideouts latest E.P., Window Walkin Downtown and had some of the fans dancing. This song shows the band at their best and most original (if that's possible in rock n' roll these days) with a happy-beat, the girl done left me type songs. Boyz with their toyz will always play, but the light tech at Synergy kept the fog to a minimum and gave the band a good light performance.

On the sweet, "Be With You", O'Keefe's falsetto went flat at times, but he kept his vocals in check with the emotions flowing from the lyrics. The band's trademark harmonies and short guitar solos were the highlight of the song. It's refreshing to see a band that prefers to make the music as a group, without the individuals showing off, but is secure enough in their talent to let each other take over for "their" songs. L. did just that with "Sit In The Sun." He has a pleasantly annoying voice that fits right in with the off-kilter music. The band let off a little stage steam with "Won't Happen Again," a Romantics-style rocker and closed the night with a groovy "Park Bench Scenario."

The Hideouts are starting to perfect their songs and stage presence. This highly entertaining band is a treat to see and should be around for longer than Haircut 100 was. Thank God for small favors.