

BY CARLA CALITZ



Lead singer Thom Yorke

ALBUM OF THE MONTH

IN RAINBOWS RADIOHEAD

Rating out of five: ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

British super-rockers Radiohead return after a four-year hiatus with an album that delivers sublime tunes. It was well worth the wait as

In Rainbows encompasses strong rock songs and classic moody ballads. The band **stunned** the music industry in October when it let fans determine how much they were willing to pay to download their new album (which hasn't been released **conventionally** yet) from their website, www.inrainbows.com. It seems their experiment has paid off because UK reports suggest **1.2 million** fans bought it from the band's website on the first day of sale. British newspaper The Times did a poll of **3 000 fans** who bought the album and they paid an **average of R56**. That means the band may well have collected more than R60 million on their first day. As there's no record label reaping the benefits Radiohead are collecting all the money. Do yourself a favour and download it now.

THEY'VE been together since March last year and they're still juggling their day jobs with the late hours of gigs but The Black Hotels have already made a name for themselves on the rock scene. The indie rockers beat other local acts to take their catchy tune, Natalie, to the top of 5FM's Hi 5@5. They also released an EP, Beautiful Morning, two months ago.

The mini-album has only five songs but the band will record their debut full-length album in February next year. "Its working title is Films for the Next Century," says lead singer John Boyd (36), who works for an independent record label. Drummer Robin Wheeler (38) is a corporate trainer, bassist Lisa Campbell (26) a graphic designer and guitarist Neil White (30) a copywriter.

"It's tough having two jobs and we can't wait to be able to give up our day jobs because playing in our band full time is our ultimate dream," John says.

They cite their influences as The Editors, early REM, Velvet Underground and the Magic Numbers. "But we don't want to copy them as we're trying to do something no one has heard before," he says. "Our ambition isn't to be No 1 on the charts but to follow our passion for music and connect with our audience."



The band (from left): Robin Wheeler, Lisa Campbell, Neil White and John Boyd.



SHEER SOUND Farryl Purkiss

CELEB CHOICE

Folk-rock singer-songwriter **FARRYL PURKISS** has just returned from a music tour of France and Germany. He'll start recording his new album next month and it should be out by the middle of next year. Check out his current faves. **SONG** Iron and Wine's Freedom Hangs Like Heaven. "A really upbeat song that makes me want to high-five everyone in the room." **BAND** The Fruitbats. "They're pretty unknown but I discovered them while touring Australia. I love discovering new music not known to the general public." **MUSIC VIDEO** The Beastie Boys' Sabotage. "It's such a good song and the video is hilarious: it's kinda like the movie Anchorman meets Starsky and Hutch."

EVERYBODY IS TALKING ABOUT ...



Perez (from left): Mike Goddard, Adam Connor, Nic Olsen and Matt Wilkinson.

Popular local rock band **PEREZ** are reuniting. After a four-year hiatus the Durbanites, who clocked up four No 1 singles in their heyday and still hold attendance records at some local live venues, are set to rock SA again as part of the December Xbox Summer Fest. Lead singer Matt Wilkinson, guitarist Nic Olsen, bassist Adam Connor and drummer Mike Goddard have been overseas following various pursuits but decided to reunite to tackle a second album. So get ready to sing along to their classic tunes including Wasted Out and Picture Perfect and watch out for their new album which should be out in April.

BILLBOARD'S

TOP **5** ROCK ALBUMS

- 1 > **RAISING SAND** ROBERT PLANT AND ALISON KRAUSS
- 2 > **ELECT THE DEAD** SERJ TANKIAN
- 3 > **NO WORLD FOR TOMORROW** COHEED AND CAMBRIA
- 4 > **ROCK 'N ROLL JESUS** KID ROCK
- 5 > **FINDING BEAUTY IN NEGATIVE SPACES** SEETHER