

PACIFIC MUSIC NEWS



PHOTO DEE LIPPINGWELL

Dal-Dil-Vog Wins Demo Listen Derby

by Tom Harrison

Oy Ah Jo! To the members of **Dal-Dil-Vog** this is more than a song title. To the members of the Indian community *Oh Ya Jo* is more than an invitation to get up, get with it, and get it on.

It is a cause to celebrate.

Dal-Dil-Vog is this year's winner of Demo Listen Derby. *Oh Ya Jo* is the song that got the band to the Commodore Ballroom, where the finals took place in June.

It was an unlikely victory. Dal-Dil-Vog is a seven member band that combines the bhangra rhythms of Indian culture with contemporary rock. The band sings in Hindi, Punjabi and English. Not only is the band musically integrated but, with two Caucasians in the band, it is racially mixed as well. What the group is doing creates several precedents for Vancouver rock and winning Demo Listen Derby likewise is a breakthrough.

The pulsating groove of Dal-Dil-Vog's music is pushed to greater heights by the joy the band obviously gets from performing it. As keyboard player **Dave Mills** has noted, there are enough players onstage for the group to have its own party, crowd or no crowd.

"This is awesome!" said **Blake Havard**, second place winner, as he watched Dal-Dil-Vog. Also watching with smiles on their face were members of **Gonch Messiah**, third place finalist.

Havard, who showed his pedigree by finishing his set with a Mott the Hoople, and Cheap Trick song, is a straight ahead rocker with a band that is there for him all the way. Gonch Messiah not only plays funk with style but also tongue-in-cheek wit - at least to judge by the ironing board that serves as a keyboard stand.

The members of Dal-Dil-Vog are singer **Dal**

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