

Into hall of fame

By Merrin Jeethu James

BLACK Earth, runners-up at 'Battle of Bands' held at the Bangalore Central rendered a memorable performance at Barista's 'Unplugged' recently. The band displayed a paradigm shift in their performance style as they covered Eagles, Robbie Williams, Alice In Chains and Scorpions. The crowd was enthralled by the band's surprisingly different act which left them asking for more.

Into progressive hard rock, the band's line up includes Dennis on the vocals, Jason on keys, Vikram on the guitar, Bhaskar on bass and Subramani (aka Subbu) on the drums. The band started out in November 2004 and since then there's been no stopping them.

"Our musical influences are Dream Theater, Metallica and Xtreme. We enjoy nailing covers like Ytse Jam, No Leaf Clover, Cupid's Dead and Rock You Like A Hurricane" said Dennis.

"The USP of Black Earth is that we play music which 'you' want to hear. The best thing about our band is that all of us are

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self-taught. No one has received formal training of any sort. It is our passion for music that brought us together," he added.

The band has given a string of performances in South India, most of them in Bangalore itself. "We have opened for Violin Sisters, Rudra and Petals. We have also headlined at PESIT, Kumaran's and quite recently, at the opening of the 200th Cafe Coffee Day outlet in the city. This apart from performing at the Eva Mall for Radio City Live," said Subramani.

Subramani says the band enjoyed performances more than competitions, though both were equally challenging. The band tasted its first victory at Strawberry Fields at the National Law School. They then went on to win a hoard of competitions like Sarang, the IIT Chennai fest, the National Institute of Technology, Karnataka (NITK) fest at Suratkal and many others.

Black Earth recently came out with their new album called 'Hallucination Theory' which has gone down really well with their target audience. Jason says, "The three songs in the album, our own compositions - 'Hallucination Theory', 'Halls of the Blind' and 'Utopia', are an elongated play." "Black Earth is getting ready to bid farewell to Bangalore's music scene. We wanted to take home a concrete memory of our wonderful experience together and 'Hallucination Theory' was the end product," Subramani adds.

Other than regular jams, gigs, competitions and performances, the group as a whole enjoys doing "hanging out at Pecos and writing our own songs whenever possible. We are major foodies and we simply splurge on food," Dennis says.

Black Earth is all set to give a rocking performance at the June Rockout in Chennai and another show at Pondicherry in July.

