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On the Road Again

Live Reviews:

The Carnations

March 5, 1999
Bovine Sex Club, Toronto, ON

"We're the Carnations. We're here to play rock," announced the guitarist/spokesperson as this young Southern Ontario quartet took the stage at the Bovine Sex Club Friday night. The music that followed proved to be as straightforward as that introduction. Opening with a quick three-song salvo, the band charged forward with their no-frills, shoe-gazer guitar-rock, delivering a set that was satisfying in its freshness, if not overpowering in its dynamics. And though their vocal harmonies were sometimes a little out of tune, there was nothing truly cringe-worthy. After all, it's rock 'n' roll, not rocket science. Like the prom-night lapel-flowers they're named after, the band seemed a wee bit self-conscious, but they wore it close to their hearts, and that's the important thing. A little ragged, but right.

— Jim Kelly



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