



LEAGUE OF ROCK'S founder, Terry Moshenberg, an unrepentant rocker himself, has enlisted some impressive teachers for his program

Is that me onstage with April Wine?

At fantasy camp for mid-life fans of classic Canadian rock, it's never too late to Triumph

BY RON JOHNSON • Rob Gallant had just finished laying down a tough vocal on the CanCon classic *Fly at Night*, by the band Chilliwack. It took a while, but he got there, thanks in part to some production wizardry by Rob Sibony. He then moved into an acoustic guitar solo and nailed that. His bandmates and the production team whooped it up in the control room. "You get a brand new bottle of water, that's how much of a rock star you are," said Topher Stott, the creative producer. Gallant may not have the vocal range of Alan Frew from Glass Tiger, or handle the axe quite like Joey Serlin from the Watchmen, but as a member of the fledgling League of Rock, he and his beer-toting bandmates from Buck 10 can join both, and other aging legends of Canadian classic rock, every Wednesday night at venues around Toronto.

The League is a sort of rock star fantasy camp established last year by 44-year-old Terry Moshenberg, a Toronto multimedia wizard married to one-time Canadian rock icon Erica Ehm, MuchMusic's first female VJ. Still in its infancy, the League is geared to creaky-kneed hipsters with a penchant for classic rock—and enough cash to make those dreams come to life. Participants pay \$1,400 for a membership that includes a 10-week program to jam with other amateur musicians, workshop songs with professional musicians—Moshenberg has enlisted Frew and Serlin, but also members of bands such as Triumph, April Wine, Max Webster, Platinum Blonde and Honeymoon Suite—and get a three-song CD recorded at a state-of-the-art Toronto studio.

Q Music studio usually records the likes of Sting and U2, not a ragtag assortment of fortysomethings like Buck 10's: an ad sales

rep, a general contractor, a machinist, and a veterinarian. "It's like killing a mouse with a bazooka," says Moshenberg. "These bands would never get into a place like this."

Growing up in the '70s, Moshenberg was raised on this music. His generation picked up guitars, plugged in amps and rocked out in garages and basements. But Moshenberg's cherished axe gathered dust in the closet while he established a career and a family. When he hit his 40s, it was clear the recreational pursuits of his parents' generation—bowling, bridge—wouldn't do. When his brother Mitch opened a spacious office to house a design/build operation, Terry, Mitch and some friends—all out-of-tune and seriously out-of-practice rockers—dusted off their gear and began playing there. "We called it the Bridgeland jams," says Mitch, a member of the League who plays bass in Buck 10. That in turn led to the League of Rock.

Turns out the guys weren't alone in their quest. "There are 40- and 50-year-old guys in the backs of warehouses every night jamming like there is no tomorrow," says Moshenberg. He made some calls to a few allies in the music business to suss out the viability of launching something like the League. "The response was instantaneous," says Moshenberg. And it wasn't only paying members who came quickly (Moshenberg has 75 so

far); the teachers were just as excited. "Really, I'm trying to live vicariously through them, get that buzz back like it was before all the business got in the way," says Serlin of the Watchmen. "There are no egos. Everyone knows what this is about."

Well into his first 10-week program, Moshenberg had no idea how big it could get, until he got "the call." Sibony, an accomplished session drummer who's an old friend, rang him to say, "James McCarty is recording in my studio right now, and you have to come down here and meet him," Moshenberg recalls. McCarty—one of the original members of the Yardbirds, a band that included Jimmy Page, Eric Clapton and Jeff Beck—is rock royalty. He loved the idea of the League of Rock so much he agreed to teach an upcoming class. "This is a new dimension for me," he says on the phone from his home near Avignon, France. "It sounds quite exciting."

Moshenberg is in discussions with working musicians looking to take part, most recently Robin Le Mesurier, who has played guitar with Rod Stewart's band. Now corporations such as Unilever and Research in Motion are using the League as the latest in team-building, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland is interested in establishing a chapter. In other words, Moshenberg is sitting atop a hit that seems ready to soar to the top—at least of the middle-age-crisis management charts. **M**



KANYE WEST... HAS SOMETHING TO SAY

Let's get lost tonight / You can be my black Kate Moss tonight / Play secretary im the boss tonight. / And you don't give a f--k what they all say, right? / Awesome, the Christian in Christian Dior / Damn they don't make 'em like this anymore / I ask, cause I'm not sure / Do anybody make real s--t anymore? / Bow in the presence of greatness / Cause right now thou has forsaken us—from Stronger, off Kanye West's new album Graduation