

Friday, April 28, 2006

THE TICKET

THE IRISH TIMES WEEKLY GUIDE TO ENTERTAINMENT



CARLSBERG RHYTHM 'N' ROOTS WEEKEND

Various venues/various times/various prices. Kilkenny city, Friday April 28 to Monday May 1. Festival box office 056-7790057

The Carlsberg Rhythm 'n' Roots weekend is getting to be like death and taxes – you can absolutely depend on it. This is the ninth annual festival, and once again it hits home with a range of roots and alt.country acts that takes some beating. Top of the line is the Irish debut of Alejandro Escovedo (right, finally making an appearance following his no show a few years ago due to ill health), but there are many others snipping at his heels for gig of the weekend. Gina Villalobos (above left, who goes to places Sheryl Crow stopped visiting many years ago), Elliott Brood (above right, a Dickensian-titled band who play, er, Death Country), Deadstring Brothers (a luxuriant Gram Parsons/Rolling Stones hybrid) and William Elliott Whitmore (C&W fire and brimstone from the banks of the Mississippi river – how can you refuse?). Oddities of the weekend include the Sharon Shannon Collective (which is roots for sure, albeit not necessarily within the genre brief of the event) and the first official gig in many years from Engine Alley, one of Irish rock's finest 1990s contenders.

Tony Clayton-Lea