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Video contest has something for everyone

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A boxy robot roams the streets of Waterloo looking for hugs.

Lego characters engage in chainsaw warfare.

An old woman is instantly transported to the carefree days of her youth.

A hairy singer-songwriter invites listeners to shave his back.

These are just a few of the imaginative visuals concocted by the Waterloo Region musicians who have entered the Within Earshot Music Video Contest.

More than 30 locally made videos featuring practically every genre of contemporary music -- from folk to metal to hip hop to punk and beyond -- are now posted on the Within Earshot blog, www.therecord.blogs.com/withinearshot.

The best video, as chosen by you through online voting, will earn its creators \$1,500 cash, a headlining gig at Maxwell's Music House in Waterloo, a feature story here in Nightlife, and a profile on music website indieSolo.com.

To watch all the videos and choose your favourite, head over to the Within Earshot blog (there's also a link to it on TheRecord.com).

Chances are you'll find a video and a style of music that perfectly suits your tastes, since musicians of every stripe entered the contests.

If quirky indie-pop is your thing, check out the video for Pinocchio, by the Shady J's (it's the one featuring a hug-seeking robot), or Apartment 12 by Jason Dunkel, a compelling time-lapse video.

If your tastes are on the heavier side, bang your head to the videos submitted by such local metalmeisters as West Memphis Suicide, Jakk Damage, Prosthetic and Kingdoms.

Do you like heartfelt, acoustic music by singer-songwriters? The contest has that, too, thanks to submissions from area artists like Scotty James, Torsen's Tarrow, Allister Bradley, and Ann Marie Pincivero.

Prefer punk? Got that too, in videos by The Rotten and Saigon Hookers.

Then there's hip hop from Mcfastric and Patrick Christopher, distorted shoegazer pop from The Estatics, ska-funk from The Sound Foundation, and the list goes on.

Nearly all of the musicians and bands who submitted videos perform shows at clubs around Waterloo Region and Guelph, so the contest is a great way to get to know the local music scene.

They all created videos on a pretty tight deadline, and without the benefit of big budgets, so each entrant should earn big praise.

When you pick your favourite video, choose wisely. You only get to vote once. Online voting is now open and will remain so until Dec. 6.

Go to www.therecord.blogs.com/withinearshot, and to the pages of Nightlife, for the results.

Happy viewing.

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Are you in a local band with a new CD release? To have it considered for a review, please drop it off at The Record's reception to the attention of Colin Hunter, or mail it to his attention c/o The Record, 160 King St. E., Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4E5.



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