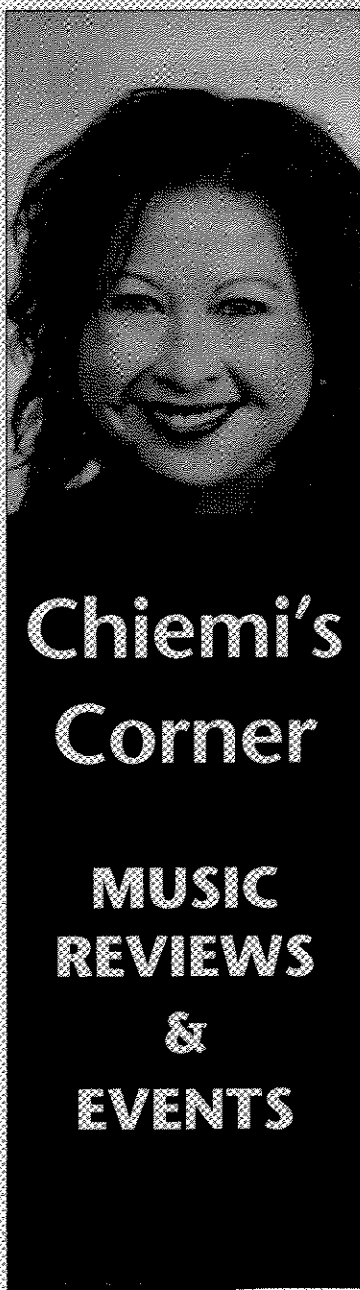




Taking it Tilted Back



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By Chiemi

Marc Topping and his band, Tilted Back anticipates release of their EP in late 2006. Aside from Topping, Tilted Back's make-up is Tim Sullivan, lead and rhythm guitar, primary songwriter, Joe Nicolazzo, lead and rhythm guitar, Kevin Carpenter bass and backing vocals, and Cary Caravallo, drums and backing vocals. TB's sound is in the hands of music veteran, Dave Emery, a Somerville legend in his own right.

Topping said Tilted Back, which had already been in existence for about a year at the time, began its reformation in 2005 when he met Sullivan for the first time at The Powderhouse Pub on Broadway. Topping was on his way to the Tuesday open mic sign-up at The Burren, with his customized black flame painted Martin guitar in tow and Sullivan asked if he could play it. Topping handed it over and Sullivan started in on an Eric Clapton tune with Topping breaking in with some singing. Sullivan asked Topping if he'd like to join the others to be the new lead singer in their band, Tilted Back.

Since then, the band has played at the Powderhouse Pub, appropriately enough, and the Middle East.

The four-song EP was recorded at Mortal Studios in Charlestown. The sound is a classic rock-type melange — AC/DC-ish guitar licks, tints of Led Zeppelin and refrains reminiscent of Bad Company. "Around the World" begins with cowbell taps and guitar, moving into a catchy, upbeat chorus. Topping's raspy, rhythmic vocals lead the way in the more tough-edged "Passes Like a Dream," complete with wailing guitar. In "Get-away," the drums are key with a sweet guitar solo and well-placed effects, concluding with some surprisingly tender string pickings. "Path to Choose" creates instant momentum with a rocking rush. Tilted Back's influences include The Black Crowes, Aerosmith, The Faces, The Allman Brothers, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Gov't Mule and The Rolling Stones.

"Tilted Back has no plans to change our bluesy, classic rock, guitar-driven sound anytime soon," Nicolazzo said.