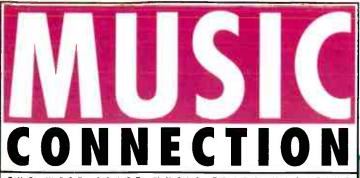
# 10th Annual Guide To Music Attorneys

Vol. XX, No. 21 10/14/96 to 10/27/96

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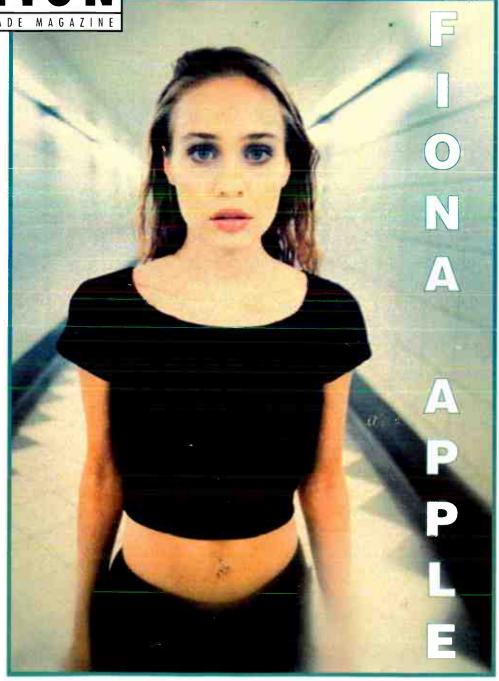
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White Zombie
and many others!



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# FEATURES



# FIONA APPLE

Mixing the seductive voice and songwriting maturity of a wise old soul with the alluring beauty of a cover girl model, nineteen-year-old Fiona Apple's debut album, Tidal, has been hitting listeners like...well, a tidal wave.

By Heather Clisby

## 28 ATTORNEY SECRETS

In this informative must-read, MC goes behind-thescenes and into the offices of several leading music industry attorneys to find out the most important things that all musicians, songwriters and artists should know about the music business.

By Bernard Baur

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**FREE CLASSIFIED** 

Cover Photo: STEPHANE SEDNAOUI

#### ✓ That's My Brother!

Dear MC:

I am not often compelled to reply to any insipid, vacuous statements on the part of any so-called critic, but being that I am somewhat personally involved in this particular instance (Neil Young Concert Review, Vol. XX. #20), and I had time on my hands.

I don't know where Mr. Jeremy Helfgot was sitting when he saw Neil at the Forum, but it must have been somewhere way up in the section they generally assign to the..uh, special people...because for a true Neil fan. this particular show was a special treat—Crazy Horse being about as on as they ever have been in their lengthy history with Neil.

The show was so intense and energized that most everybody was completely enraptured. I don't know what Mr. Helfgot was doing during the show that he didn't notice the entire arena singing along on all of what he called the "lesser known" songs. and being that the show closer. "Sedan Delivery." was on *Rust Never Sleeps* (one of Neil's bigger albums). I wouldn't have referred to it as such.

Perhaps Mr. Helfgot needs a little schooling, especially if he was only waiting for "Rockin' In The Free World," which, while being a highly visible Neil song, is kind of a lowest common denominator to a true fan. Anybody left in the building, deemed "unfulfilled" by your Mr. Helfgot, would probably have waited and watched yet another two hour set, if they had had the opportunity. I don't think there was anybody who left disappointed that evening. As a matter of fact, I saw many repeat offenders at the Irvine show the following night. (And Neil did do "Rockin'" at Irvine.)

What, exactly, Jeremy, did you expect?

Sincerely. Astrid Young

#### ✓ That Ain't Blues

Dear MC:

What does Jon Pepper deem worthy to point out first in his [Rock Nightlife] column (Vol. XX. #20), regarding the recent Long Beach Blues Festival? That Slash "proved he can play the blues."

Hello! I don't know what Jon knows about blues. but what Slash played wasn't it. He was in the wrong key. out of tempo, obviously lost, and then was requested to leave the stage by Bobby Blue Bland.

On the other hand, maybe that is what Pepper knows about the blues. Sad.

Paul Mills Hollywood, CA

#### ∠ Content Concerns

Dear MC

I've been picking up your magazine since its inception, and I have always found it a good read. However, within the last month or so, you seem to have lost your way. I feel that eliminating signed artists [in the club review section] is a mistake. We need this input to make *Music Connection* a well-rounded music business publication.

There is also a need to increase the frequency of album and concert reviews within your pages. I also feel that an archival album review column is in order, as well as focusing more on country, western, blues and other forms of roots music. The Country Nightlife column seems to be the only avenue open to these forums of music as far as *Music Connection* is concerned.

This letter is intended as constructive criticism, and I hope you will take it as such.

Sincerely. Jeff Wolfe

#### ∠ Magnificent Moon

Dear MC

Thanks for the great review of Orphan Moon in your last Demo Critiques section (Vol. XX, #20). Within a few days, I received quite a few calls from labels and management companies interested in hearing the band's music. Nice to have A&R reps calling me for a change! Thanks for listening.

Sincerely, John Boegehold Brainforest Music

#### CORRECTION

In last issue's Guide To Everything Indie, there were a couple of mistakes in the listing of Greenehouse Management. The listing should read as follows:

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## C

#### Calendar

#### **By Carrie Colombo**

If you have an event, workshop, class or seminar that you want to announce, send the info., in writing, to: Calendar, c/o Music Connection, 4731 Laurel Cyn., Blvd., N. Hollywood, CA 91607

#### Current

On Tuesday, November 12, the Los Angeles Chapter of NARAS will present "Breaking Down The First Door," a crash course in the basics for singers, songwriters, managers and anyone else trying to break into the music business. This 90-minute course will be held at the A&M Chaplin Soundstage (1416 N. La Brea Ave.), beginning at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$3 for members (\$5 for non-members). For more information and reservations, call 310-392-3777.

You are cordially invited to attend an evening with Dionne Warwick and Burt Bacharach for "Wish Upon a Song," a concert to benefit Miller Children's Hospital at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center. Warwick and Bacharach, along with the Long Beach Symphony Orchestra, will perform tunes that they made famous together. Opening the show will be Bill Grisolia and the Attachments. Jonathan Jakes Children's Cancer Center and the Pediatric HIV/AIDS Center are two of the centers at the hospital that will benefit from the proceeds. Sponsors will have the option of designating which center they wish their funds to go to. The concert event will be held on November 9 at the Terrace Theater in Long Beach. Tickets are \$35 and up, depending on your level of sponsorship. For more information, call 310-933-8990 or 310-436-6684.

Drug and alcohol abuse has been a long-standing problem in the music industry, and is currently in the forefront of concerns for NARAS, the RIAA and other industry organizations. Why the sudden concern? Where does the selfresponsibility of the artist/ writer come into play? What should publishers, record companies, managers and other industry reps do to both protect their interests, as well as to look after the health of their artists? Representatives from NARAS and the RIAA, as well as publishers, managers and rehabilitation providers will meet on October 22 to discuss this topic in "Drug & Alcohol Abuse in the Music Industry: Whose Responsibility Is It To Solve The Problem?" at the California Copyright Conference. The conference will take place at the Sportsman's Lodge in Studio City. For more information, contact Madeleine Smith at 805-259-8300.

Guitar Center in Covina will be sponsoring the unique and exciting "Drummer's Night Out" at their store on Saturday, October 12 between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. The "Drummers

Night Out" includes artist clinics and performances by Mike Port-noy (Dream Theater), Dave Lombardo (Slayer/Grip Inc.), and John-"Vatos" Hernandez (Oingo Boingo). During these clinics, the artists will be showcasing their individual drumming techniques and meeting with event attendees. There will also be complimentary food and refreshments during the event, as well as the opportunity for customers to win free gifts and prizes. This clinic is free to the public, however, persons interested in attending must pick up tickets at their local Guitar Center store in advance of the event. For more information, contact Greg Crane at 818-967-7911.

The National Academy of Songwriters (NAS) Tuesday night Los Angeles Songwriters Showcase will host several music industry professionals in the coming weeks at their on-going "Pitch-A-Thons" and "Cassette Roulette" song critique sessions. On October 15, Ollie Brown, VP of A&R at Click/ Castle Records, will be looking for Top 40, pop and R&B songs, and Raina Shaw, President of Reigning Queen Music will be looking for R&B, contemporary pop and rap artists and groups. On October 22, guests will be publisher Dale Tedesco, who is looking for all styles of songs and instrumental tracks (except country and rap) for film and TV, while Sean Brooks, Mark Nubar and John Scott, from indie label Drama Records, will be looking for contemporary pop, dance and trip-hop artists and songs. Sessions begin at 7 p.m. at 1749 N. La Brea. Contact 213-467-0533 or 213 463-7178 for info.

#### Re-Caps

The National Academy of Songwriters will present "Songwriters Expo 19" on October 25-27 at the Pasadena Hilton. Songwriters, as well as bands and artists will unite for three full days of classes, panels and workshops on the craft and business of songwriting, conducted by over 90 music industry professionals. There will be more than 30 song critique, lyric critique, and "Pitch-A-Thon" sessions to give you the opportunity to have your song and band demos heard by top producers, publishers, music supervisors and A&R reps for major and indie labels. Tickets are \$199 in advance, \$225 at the door (further discount for NAS members). For reservations, call NAS at 213-463-7178 or 800-826-7287 (outside California). You can also write to NAS/SWE 19, 6255 Sunset Blvd. #1023, Los Angeles, CA 90028. For further updates, check their web site (http://www. spinach.com/swexpo)



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# City Of Hope

ith all of the support it garners from the music industry, it's hard to believe that the City Of Hope began as two tents in the desert, more than 80 years ago. Yet, this is exactly how the organization began-as a haven for those stricken with turberculosis in 1913.

Today, the City Of Hope is considered one of the best hospitals and research centers in the country, and the music industry has played a big role in their success Since the organization created its entertainment chapter in 1973, the music industry has raised more than \$25 million for the City Of Hope. A lot of this money is raised during the organization's annual Spirit Of Live Awards Dinner, which honors a different music industry executive each year.

The Spirit Of Life event is one of the nottest tickets in the music industry, considering that It usually features performances by major artists. This year's awards dinner, which takes place on Wednesday, October 16. at the Universal Citywalk, honors VH1 President John Sykes, and features the All-Star Garage Band (comprised of Don Henley, John Mellencamp, Sting, Sheryl Crow, Melissa Etheridge, Bryan Adams, Steve Winwood and others).

In 1994, Ticketmaster CEO Fred Rosen, who is one of the most generous executives in the business, but rarely allows organizations to put him in the spotlight, agreed to be the honoree. "[The City Of Hope] is a remarkable place that works to heal the mirid as well as the body," Rosen said. "To walk through the grounds is a remarkable experience; from the state-of-the-art healing facilities to the beauty and serenity of the gardens, you recognize that this is a very special institution.

"My wife, Rikki, and I were moved by the spiritualism of the environment," Rosen added. "The enthusiasm, dedication and motivation of the staff-from doctors to researchers to administrators is

truly remarkable.

John Frankenheimer, the City Of Hope's Chapter President for the music industry, commented, "Over this Chapter's history, we have consistently chosen true innovators, people who have fundamentally influenced the direction of the music industry to become Spirit Of Life award recipients.

So, what exactly does all this money go towards? For years, the City Of Hope's primary focus was on all forms of cancer, but today its research programs deal with many other life-threatening diseases. such as diabetes, Alzheimer's. AIDS, blood, brain and metabolic

disorders, and hereditary and genetic conditions.

The City Of Hope's many medical accomplishments include:

- \* Helping to perfect a bone marrow transplantation procedure, which is used throughout the world to combat such diseases as leukemia, Hodgkin's Disease. lymphorna and other blood disorders.
- \* Being designated by the National Cancer Institute as a Clinical Cancer Research Center. which acknowledges the organization's advanced treatment and research programs, and allows the City Of Hope to provide diagnostic assistance to physicians and institutions around the world.
- \* Pioneering efforts in cancer pain management with the establishment of a Pairi Resource Pro-
- \* Developing Humulin, the synthetic insulin now used by more than half of the diabetic patients in

In addition to treating a patient's physical illness, the City Of Hope strives to provide counseling and support for families of the critically ill, as well as ensuring that the exorbitant cost of health care will not impoverish the patient or his family. It also offers each patient a social worker to help them manage personal situations, which medical care alone cannot resolve, such as returning to work, and skin and hair consultants, which help cancer patients maintain their dignity and self-confidence through hair prosthesis. wraps and cosmetics.

The City Of Hope's dedication to helping children and adults with life-threatening diseases is clear. and as long as they continue to do great work, the music industry will continue to give them the strong support that they deserve.

Funding Breakdown:

90% Programs, 10% Overhead Fund-raising Activities: Celebrity softball games, concerts, Spirit Of Life Awards, compilation CDs. Supporters: Ed Rosenblatt, Fred Rosen, Al Teller, Tommy Mottola, Quincy Jones, Sheryl Crow, Clint Black, Reba McEntire, Vince Gill. John Mellencamp, Melissa Etheridge and Bryan Adams. Address: 208 W. Eighth Street

Los Angeles, CA 90014 Phone: 213-626-4611 Web Site:

http://www.cityofhope.org

If you or your organization is making a difference in the music community, please fax, mail or email Heart & Soul columnist Sue Gold at Music Connection.





#### The Musician's **Hearing Institute**

#### By Scott Lenz

The Treaty of Ghent helped bring the dreaded War of 1812 to an end. Robert Ghent, a Manhattan Beach audiologist, is attempting to end a different, age-old conflict-ear damage and hearing loss in musicians.

Ghent, 40, has been involved in various aspects of music, electronics and engineering throughout his life, but he also suffered from "chronic" ear infections as a child. His exposure to audiology-the study of the science of sound (specifically hearing, as opposed to emitting)came in his late teens, when he had a cyst removed from deep within his right ear.

"I wanted to roll my electronic and musical background into something, possibly health care related," Ghent recalls.

And he has done just that, running two similar, but separate practices out of his South Bay facility. Beach Cities Audiology derives its patients from doctor referrals and managed care contracts, while the Musicians Hearing Institute, Ghent says proudly, "caters to the special needs of the musician. Things they don't get from an audiologist who hasn't been onstage, hasn't mixed a live show, which are things that I've done.'

Ghent advocates that musicians have a baseline audiogram done "so they can see where their hearing is today. Then we monitor their hearing over time. We want to get rid of all the ambient noise that gets into their ears when they're trying to listen to a mix."

Ghent is also aware of the fact that rock & rollers are not easily converted. "You can't tell a rock drummer to simply 'stop doing that'. You can't get up onstage and headbang and mosh and grind and jump around and do an aggressive performance if the level isn't there. You gotta feel it. There are things we can do to help them enjoy that and not damage their hearing. A lot of these [musicians] have damage, and it was preventable."

Another frustration for Ghent is that there aren't enough industry people promoting hearing-related awareness.

He will be launching his own (still to be named) web site in the near future, and has recommended publicly that promoters print "high volume" disclaimers on tickets, and that concert venues pass out ear protection at events.

Robert Ghent can be reached at 310-372-0645.

# **A.E.S.** Announces Lineup **For 101st Convention**

By Jeremy M. Helfgot

Convention will feature speakers, seminars and facility tours throughout Los Angeles

Los Angeles-The Audio Engineering Society has announced a string of speakers, events and activities to take place during their 101st A.E.S. Convention, being held at the Los Angeles Convention Center, November 8-

Highlighting the annual event will be a series of technical tours of local audio and audio/visual facilities. Among the sites included are the Walt Disney Imagineering studio in Glendale, the Ash Grove in Santa Monica and the western news bureau of CNN in Los Angeles. There will also be a "Highway To The Future" excursion, visiting the facilities of Todd-AO, Village Recorder and Future Disk. All of the tours will be open only to registered attendees of the convention, and advance reservations are required.

Seminars during the weekend event will include a panel discussion on the issue of "Women In-Audio," and a pair of sessions on "Professional Audio In Latin America" (both conducted primarily in Spanish), as well as the annual NARAS Grammy Recording Forum, presented by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, featuring a panel of engineers exploring recent technological and artistic developments in the recording

Also on the weekend's bill is the day-long "Focus On Audio Education," on Saturday, November 9, including the Student Conclave, the Education Fair and a presentation by the subcommittee on the "A.E.S. In The Schools" program. "An Afternoon With...Leo Beranek." featuring the audio innovator, will be held on Friday.

Saturday evening will feature the annual A.E.S. convention party, at the Petersen Automotive Museum, and featuring performances by John "Juke" Logan and the band Rocket Science. Tickets and advance reservations for the party are required.

The 101st A.E.S. Convention will kick off with opening ceremonies at 11:00 a.m. on November 8. The keynote speaker for the opening will be John Strawn. Ph.D., former president and cofounder of Yamaha Music Technologies, and a longtime audio consultant for such companies as Kurzweil, Shure Bros, and Atari.

For information on the 101st Audio Engineering Society convention, or to register for the convention, contact A.E.S. at their New York headquarters, by calling 212-661-8528.

## Musicians' **Union Calls** For Strike

By Michael Harris

Local production of 'La Cage Aux Folles' goes non-union, sparks labor charges

Los Angeles—Professional Musicians, Local 47, has called for a strike against the Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities. The strike revolves around the C.L.O.'s alleged use of a nonunion orchestra for their production of La Cage Aux Folles.

According to Professional Musicians Local 47, they signed a contract with the C.L.O. in January of 1996. In August of this year, however, before negotiations for a replacement contract began, the C.L.O. declared an impasse.

The Professional Musicians assert that the C.L.O., claiming poverty, requested a compromise on the existing contract, which the musicians were willing to meet by accepting a lower wage. The C.L.O. management returned with a final proposal of a 50 percent pay cut for the musicians, the union claims, which the musicians were unwilling to accept.

While still in negotiations, the union contends, the C.L.O. hired non-union musicians for the production, leading to the strike call, and the filing of charges with the labor board.

For information, contact Local 47 at 213-462-2161.

# Clausen, Silver Receive Honorary Degrees

By Jay Spear

Berklee College of Music honors Emmy-nominated composer/arranger and legendary jazz pianist/composer

Boston-Berklee College of Music conferred honorary doctorate degrees on TV composer and Berklee graduate Alf Clausen and veteran jazz pianist/composer Horace Silver, at the college's recent Entering Student Convocation Ceremony and Concert,

welcoming students from the school's graduating class of the year 2000.

A 1966 Berklee graduate from North Dakota, Clausen has received 14 Emmy nominations for his work as a television composer on such series as The Simpsons and Moonlighting.

Silver is a pioneer of the hard bop style of jazz, composing such standards as "The Preacher," "Sister Sadie," "Song For My Father" and "Opus De Funk." He formed the Jazz Messengers with Art Blakely, and his ensembles have been a launching pad for such artists as Art Farmer, Donald Byrd and Joe Henderson.

Founded in 1945, Berklee College of Music has a current enrollment of more than 2,700 students, 40 percent of whom are international. The schools alumniinclude many top music professionals, including numerous Grammy winners.

For more information on Berklee College of Music, including information on honorary degrees, contact the school at 617-747-2658.





**Monte Lipman** 

Universal Records has appointed Monte Lipman to the post of Vice President, Promotion. Most recently National Director of Pop Promotion for Atlantic Records, Lipman will spearhead radio promotion efforts on behalf of Universal's artists. He will be based out of the company's New York offices (212-373-0600).

Musical instrument manufacturer Samick Music Corporation has announced two appointments in its newly renamed Customer Care Department. Ray Uhlich has been rehired to oversee the department, including all aspects of equipment repair and customer satisfaction, and Kenny Marquez has been promoted to Supervisor of Guitar Service, from his post in the company's quality control department. In other Samick news, Howie Jackson has been appointed Special Projects Manager, where his primary focus will be working with the sales and marketing departments on programs and opportunities that will give greater visibility to the Samick name and related products. He will also head the company's Artist Relations Department. For further information, contact Samiek at 818-964 4700.



**Dennis Morgan** 

Music and home video production/distribution company Drive Entertainment has named Dennis Morgan to the post of Worldwide Director of Sales & Special Projects. Morgan will be responsible for both export sales and foreign licensing, as well as being involved in domestic marketing, premiums and direct sales for the L.A.based company. A 26-year veteran of the music industry, Morgan was most recently General Sales Manager for AGP Productions Inc. Contact Drive at 310-553-3490.

Laura Lancaster has been named Vice President of Business Development at Chase-Rucker Music Productions, where she will concentrate on acquiring new projects for Thomas Jones Chase and Steve Rucker for music composing and music libraries, by working directly with major film and television studios. She was director of Operations at Three Dimensional Imagination Inc. (3DI). The company has also named Nathaniel Wiggins Director of Special Projects. Formerly with CEMA Distribution, Wiggins will be implementing new projects for the company, including building Chase-Rucker's on-line presence and Cyber Studio Network. Contact Costa Communications at 213-650-3588.



Ritch Bloom

Capitol Records has announced that Ritch Bloom has rejoined the label's staff as Vice President, Promotion, based at their L.A. headquarters. Most recently, VP of Promotion for Quest, Bloom spent nearly eight years on the Capitol promotion staff before going to Quest. In his new position, he will work with the promotion staff on strategizing crossovers from a variety of radio formats. Contact Capitol Records at 213-462-6252



**Scott Richman** 

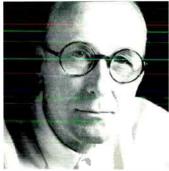
Scott Richman has been named Director of Special Marketing for BMG Distribution. In his new capacity, Richman will be primarily responsible for managing BMG Distribution's involvement in the company's co-branded credit card program, launched last winter. He was previously a Project Manager and Marketing Consultant. Contact BMG's New York offices at 212-930-4000.

Guitar manufacturer Lindert Guitars, Inc. has announced the appointment of Larry Krupla to the post of Production Manager for the company's

Chelan Falls (Washington state) facility. He has worked with Lindert president Charles Lindert for the past eight years. For more information, you can call 509-682-2360.

RCA Records has named Jerry McKenna to the position of Senior Director, Crossover Promotion Based in New York. McKenna will handle the set-up and development of projects at Top 40/ Rhythm Crossover radio on a national level. He was Director of Charts at both Top 40 Monitor and Rock Airplay Monitor, as well as Chart Manager for Billboard's Hot 100. Jack Cyphers has also been named National Director, Crossover Promotion. He will work in a capacity similar to McKenna, out of San Francisco, Prior to joining RCA, Cyphers was the northwest regional rep based in Seattle for Priority Records. For further information on both appointments, contact 212-930-4339

Alan Grunblatt has been promoted to Senior Vice President of Relativity Records, based at the company's New York City headquarters. Rising from the post of Vice President of Marketing and Promotion, Grunblatt's expanded duties will include overseeing all aspects of the marketing and promotion of Relativity and its artists. Contact the company's New York headquarters at 212-337-5300.



**Bill Johnson** 

Bill Johnson has been promoted to Vice President, Creative Services for Sony Music Nashville. Prior to the promotion announcement, Johnson most recently held the title of Senior Creative Director. He can still be reached at Sony Nashville's offices (615-742-4321).

MCA Music Entertainment Group has announced the promotion of Sheryl Gold to the post of Vice President. Business and Legal Affairs. Gold will now be responsible for the negotiation and drafting of artist, label, venture and soundtrack agreements, as well as for handling all aspects of business and legal matters for MCA Records Nashville. Formerly Director of Business and Legal Affairs, she will continue to work out of MCA's offices in Universal City, at 818-777-4000.

Mike Bergin has been named to the position of National Vice President, Promotion at Twisted Records, where he will be responsible for coordinating all national radio promotion efforts for the label. Bergin comes to Twisted

from Caliber Records, where he was VP of Regional Promotion. For more information, contact 818-777-0570.



Trudy Lartz

Industry sales data compiler Sound-Scan has promoted Trudy Lartz to Vice President of Sales and Service, from Director of Sales and Service. In this newly created position, Lartz will be responsible for providing customer service to all of the company's existing entertainment industry clients, as well as developing point-of-sale data for new and prospective clients. She will continue to work out of SoundScan's New York headquarters. Contact Scoop Marketing at 213-381-2277.

Mammoth Records has announced the promotion of Steve Balcom from Label Manager to VP/General Manager of the label. Balcom, who has been with the label for eight years, will help oversee the label's marketing and A&R efforts, as well as daily operations, from the company's Carrboro, N.C. headquarters. For further information, contact 212-275-1634.



**Nancy Farbman** 

Windham Hill/High Street Records has named Nancy Farbman to the position of Vice President of International. where she will be responsible for marketing and promoting the label's artists in territories outside of the U.S. She was Vice President of International for BMG U.K. Records. Contact the label's L.A. offices at 310-358-4000.

Bob Estrin has been appointed Manager of Goodman Music's Universal City store in California. For the past fifteen years. Estrin has owned and operated the Music House, a retail music store and 24-track recording studio in Bloomington, Indiana. For further information, contact Goodman Music's parent company, West L.A. Music, at 310-477-1945.





#### Jim Snowden

Title: President Duties: Oversees all aspects Years With Company: 7 Company: Mesa/Bluemoon Mailing Address: 209 E. Alameda Ave., Burbank, CA 90502

Phone: 818-841-8585 FAX: 818-841-8581

Background: A division of Atlantic Records, Mesa/Bluemoon Recordings, maintains an eclectic roster of artists, ranging from traditional and contemporary jazz musicians (who record for the Bluemoon label) to singer-songwriters, reggae groups and world beat bands (released by Mesa Records).

Mesa/Bluemoon President Jim Snowden launched his career in the record industry as a sales manager for Enigma Records/Greenworld Distribution, where he was a key player in the successes of such rock groups as Berlin, Ratt and Queensryche. He later co-founded importer/exporter Eastern Pacific Sounds, Inc., and the MCA-distributed jazz label, Zebra Records.

In the mid-Eighties, Snowden and Executive Vice President George Nauful teamed to form the PARAS Group and the Passport Jazz label, where they helped break such artists as Randy Brecker. David Benoit, the Rippingtons and Keiko and Kazu Matsui.

Founded in 1989 as a joint venture with Rhino Records. Mesa/Bluemoon's focus has always been on providing a sophisticated musical alternative for adults. In five of the past six years, the company has captured radio trade magazine Gavin's "Jazz/Adult Alternative Indie Label of the Year" award. based on its artists' performance in the Triple A rock format. The company was acquired by Atlantic in October of 1994.

The A&R Process: "What goes on from an A&R perspective is that the head of marketing, the head of promotion, George [Nauful] and myself sit down in an A&R meeting that we try to do at least once a week.

"Now that we're a little more established than we were yester-



day, we're developing what we are.

"It's different from the way bigger record companies do it, such as Atlantic. Every A&R decision isn't driven by

how much we can sell or one person's taste. It has to turn on the entire company."

Talent Search: "Virtually everything that comes in at this point is sent in by attorneys we know, or by people who refer other people to us. Nonetheless, no matter how it happens, we sit down at these A&R meetings where we look at our schedule, look at our roster, look at what our holes are. We have about four or five slots for all of next year.

"We're always looking for those groovy things that have potential; sort of a world/crossover combination. I would take those until the cows come home. But when it gets down to the jazz stuff, we're really picky. We're in a position where we're not really looking for anything, but we're always looking."

Musical Tastes: "We all have to get along with each other and we all have to like the music that we're doing. Fortunately, we have similar tastes.

"Our major changes [since the Atlantic deal] are that we're going after a little bit more established acts. We are not taking as many flyers as we used to, meaning acts that potentially won't go out of the box with more than 15,000 units or that won't sell 30,000 units. Before, a Bulgarian Woman's Choir would come by and we'd say. 'This is cool. Let's do it."

Atlantic Benefits: "I don't have to jump in [on the business side] as much as I used to, where I would actually go through the first draft of the contract and make changes, then turn it over to the lawyer. That was more from a cost-effective standpoint.

"Now, we're more concerned about budgets and profitability than we are about cash flow. We work harder now, but we don't have the same street level concerns. We were lucky enough to survive those growing pains and finally get into a situation where the administration and everything else was handled.

"Since we're a smaller division we don't have to worry about selling millions of records to make things happen—50,000, 60,000 or 70,000 is a good release for us."

Release Schedule: "During our first couple of years, we were putting out close to 100 records a year, because of all these licensing deals we were doing. We got to a point, about two years into our existence, that we just couldn't concentrate on

everyone else's releases. We cut it down to around 35. Then, it got to the point where even 35 was a lot.

"Part of this came about because we were first a joint venture partner with Rhino Records. With Rhino, more is more. The more releases they put out, the more billing they do and the more successful they are. With us, because we dealt with acts instead of catalog, a few quality releases can do so much more."

**Artist Development:** "We have enough developing acts, and we're trying to spice it up with established acts.

"We spend an exorbitant amount of time developing, say, a Rick Braun, a trumpet player that we have. His last album was nominated as Artist of the Year and Record of the Year at *Gavin*. His next record is *Billboard's* concern, because he's at a point where he can break into that 150-200,000 unit range.

"But we started with his first release with sales of 5,000. That's developing over the course of four records. Then we happened to stumble across Randy Crawford, which looks like it could be our first gold record."

Reggae and World Beat: "We just signed Steel Pulse, we have a first quarter release by Aswad, and we have a developing act that I think is one of the best reggae acts I've acts, to deal with.

"Last year, we signed King Sunny Ade and we've just recorded a brand new record with Sunny. We've also just signed Buckwheat Zydeco."

Triple A Artists: "The whole Triple A genre—David Broza, Al Stewart, John Martin, the Pogues, Boxing Gandhis—all those that would fall into that Triple A/pop realm, none will appear on our release schedule for next year.

"With the deal that we have, the next Boxing Gandhis record will come out on Atlantic. They're paying the marketing dollars. It doesn't affect our bottom line, except we participate in the profits of that act, which is the ideal situation.

"We were having some success with this Triple A stuff and were seeing a little bit of sales. Then, when we truly had a Triple A artist in the Boxing Gandhis the year before last, at the end of the day, we saw how much we spent getting them on the Dave Matthews tour.

"We had spent hundreds of thousands of dollars trying to break them and had minimal success. That's what the Atlantics of the world do. They have R&B budgets a lot bigger than ours, simply because they also have a catalog and platinum acts that help all these others. We're more of a catalog label without a catalog."

#### **VIRGIN RUTLES**



Those Fab Four jokers, the Rutles, stopped by the L.A. offices of Virgin Records to celebrate the October 29 release of *Archaeology*. Ouring the recent video shoot for the group's first single, "Shangri-La," Peter Gabriel, Cyndi Lauper, Nancy Sinatra, Eartha Kitt, Pat Boone, Aimee Mann, Beach Boy Mike Love, and comedians Janeane Garafalo and Richard Belzer stopped by to lend their faces and voices. Pictured in the Virgin offices are (L-R): (back row) Phil Quartararo, President/CEO, Virgin Records; Stig O' Hara, Barry Wom; (front row) Kaz Utsonomiya, Executive VP, A&R, Virgin Records; Barbara Bolan, Sr. VP, Marketing, Virgin Records; Ron Nasty.

seen in as long as I've been dealing with this stuff. We have the established part of it and then we have the developing side as well.

"The same is true on the world beat side, as well. We've got a group, Willie and Lobo, that we've been working with on their fourth album. They're one of our favorites—as far as people and Label Direction: "We'll just try to be the best we can in smooth jazz and jazz and reggae and world music. Though we'd like to think we can do everything, we can't.

We know these genres and we know we can establish a little bit and catch a flyer here and there."

—Interview By MC Staff Writer Tom Kidd



The wardrobe may not be as flamboyant, but Micky Dolenz and the other three original Monkees have returned with the surprisingly strong reunion album, Justus, on Rhino.

Time Warp

October 15 is the day that Rhino Records releases Justus, the first all-new recording from all four of the original Monkees-Michael Nesmith, Micky Dolenz. Davy Jones and Peter Tork-in 20 years. Now, before you go thinking the worst, this is filled with a lot of generational crossover appeal, and with the upcoming onslaught of Monkee material (coffeetable book, CD-ROM and a Disney Channel retrospective), you can bet that Justus has the chance of bringing Monkee-mania back by the end of the year. This is one reunion that looked ridiculous on paper, but is actually one of this year's most pleasant surprises.

In other reunion news, Journey, the band that moved from progressive rock in the mid-Seventies to platinum-selling pop-rock throughout the Eighties, is officially back together with the upcoming release of Trial By Fire on Columbia Records. Featuring fourteen new tracks co-written by lead vocalist Steve Perry, guitarist Neal Schon and keyboardist Jonathan Cain (bassist Ross Valory and drummer Steve Smith are also back onboard), this album picks up right where the band left off in 1986.

More important than the albumwhich should please hard-core fans, but probably won't bring new fans to the fold—is the fact that the band will also be touring in the coming months.

#### **Chart News**

Soundscan, the company that helped change the way the music industry runs its sales charts, has started a new awakwardly named chart, the Release To Date Album Chart, that details the biggest selling releases since the inception of the Soundscan technology back in 1992.

According to Soundscan, the official Top Ten selling albums (covering only the period from 1992 to 1996) are: *The Body*guard (11.3 million), Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill (10.2 million), Hootie & The Blowfish's Cracked Rear View (9.2 million), Garth Brooks' Ropin' The Wind (9.1 million), Metallica's Metallica (9.1 million), Garth Brooks' No Fences (8.1 million), Boyz II Men's II (8 million), Pearl Jam's Ten (7.6 million), Billy Ray Cyrus' Some Gave All (7.1 million) and finally, Kenny G.'s Breathless (7.1 million). As surprising as this list may be to some, if nothing else,

it serves as a refreshing indication of the country's wide-ranging mainstream musical tastes-from adult contemporary, alternative rock and metal to country and instrumental pop.

#### New Releases

Mercury is set to release Joan Osborne: Early Recordings, a compilation of material from the platinum-selling belter's two indie albums, Soul Show: Live At Delta 88 and Blue Million Miles, which were released on her Womanly Hips label. Best stuff here is the material that showcases Osborne in her true element-the concert

Geffen has From The Muddy Banks Of The Wishkah, the longawaited concert collection from Nirvana, Recorded between 1989 and 1994, Wishkah effectively showcases Kurt Cobain's intensity. Don't expect this to be the last time Geffen raids their vaults.

Fans of the Alarm will be happy to know that the group's focal point, Mike Peters, has returned with Feel Free (Select Records), his first official solo album (at least in America), and his first statement after being misdiagnosed as having cancer back in 1995. Good stuff.

Allen Ginsberg has the "beat." That's right, the legendary Beat poet has recorded "The Ballad Of The Skeletons," with musical support from longtime friend Paul McCartney and pianist Philip Glass (Lenny Kaye handled the production chores). The poem was first published in The Nation back in November of 1995, and Mercury Records President Danny Goldberg wanted to make a record out of the piece after seeing Ginsberg and Kaye perform it earlier this year. The new seven-minute recording

will now be issued as a CD single on Mouth Almighty/Mercury.

Natalie Cole has her fourth release on Elektra, Stardust, due on October 24th. Picking up where her massively successful 1991 album, Unforgettable, With Love left off, Cole has recorded eighteen songs-many made famous by Nat King Cole—including another technological duet with her father.

American Recordings band Raging Slab has Sing Monkey Sing out now. Butt-head, of Beavis & Butt-head fame, described the band as "like Skynyrd...but cool." How's that for a recommendation?

Fishbone has Fishbone 101-Nuttasaurusmeg, Fossil Fuelin' The Fonkay. a two-disc collection of greatest hits, original demos, Bsides, dance mixes, instrumentals and more. The Columbia/Legacy album is in stores now.

#### News

Want to get a job working for a self-confessed "madman," who has reportedly been known to bite the heads off bats? Well, here's your chance, now that heavy metal icon Ozzy Osbourne has announced the beginning of Ozz Records.

As Osbourne's current tour winds down in Southern California on October 26, at the Glen Helen Blockbuster Pavilion, the CEO of Ozz Records is reportedly busy looking for bands and artists. The label will have offices in both London and Los Angeles. For further info, call the Mitch Schneider Organization at 818-380-0400.

In the growing world of artiststurned-entrepreneurs, make room for Tionne "T-Boz" Watkins of LaFace Records' superstar trio, TLC, who has opened Shee Entertainment.

Ironically, her first two signings are actually alternative bands-She's The Man and Moibustripboth featuring Watkins' foray into production. Shee Entertainment will also continue Watkins' efforts



Ozzy starts his own label: Would you call this man, "Boss"?

toward developing animation series and film projects.

In related news, LaFace Records—the Atlanta-based label started by producers Antonio "L.A." Reid and Kenny "Baby-face" Edmonds—has established their West Coast offices, LaFace West, with the new album from Az Yet. You can contact the L.A. office (310-358-4980) or the Atlanta headquarters (404-869-4044).

#### This & That

Following the cancellation of their tour due to lead singer Scott Weiland's drug problems, Stone Temple Pilots will be touring for six weeks, kicking off with shows at Universal Amphitheatre (November 4) and Irvine Meadows (November 8).

Speaking of lead singers, now that David Lee Roth has sent out a scathing press release that says he will not be rejoining Van Halen, the rumors are that Eddie and the boys have selected Extreme vocalist Gary Cherone as their new frontman. The fact that Van Haien manager Ray Danniels also manages Extreme seems to bode well for Cherone.

Still, with all due respect to Cherone, or whoever does fill the vacancy, there will be many disgruntled fans who were looking forward to a reunion tour of the original foursome. And with Roth's statement that he is out of the picture, it does appear as if the band brought him back to record new tracks for the upcoming greatest hits package merely to hype the release.

In his written statement, Roth attacked Eddie Van Halen, who, he says hired a replacement for Sammy Hagar long before they brought Rotn with then to the MTV Awards. "I was an unwitting participant in this deception," Roth said. "It sickens me that the 'reunion' as seen on MTV was nothing more than a publicity stunt.'

Back in 1985 when Roth left the band, he was the bad guy. But now, eleven years later, Eddie is coming across as the evil one. If things continue in this manner, he will have the notorious reputation of another quitar hero...Ritchie Blackmore, who has weeded through a vocalist or ten in his day.

Showcases
The South By Southwest Music and Media Conference (SXSW) will take place next year on March 12-16 in Austin, Texas. To submit an act for performance consideration, call 512-467-7979 for an application. Your package must be postmarked by October 18 (with a \$10 processing fee). The late submission deadline submissions must be postmarked by November 15 (with a \$20 processing fee).

Compiled By MC Senior Editor Steven P. Wheeler

#### O'S PUBLISHING JOINT



Quincy Jones Music Publishing has inked an exclusive worldwide deal with songwriter-producer Rory Bennett. Pictured celebrating at the company's Los Angeles-based headquarters are (L-R): Gayneisha Jones, Creative Assistant, Quincy Jones Music Publishing; Damon Jones of Devour Management; Rory Bennett; Quincy Jones; and Quincy Jones Music Publishing staffers Judith Bright (Vice President), Jay Brown (Creative Director) and Tracy Anderson (Creative Coordinator).

#### **Songwriting Contest**

The San Diego Songwriters Gulid is holding its sixth annual SDSG Song Contest at the Red Lion Hotel in Mission Valley, California, on November 18th.

The contest is open to all songwriters in every genre of music. Registration for the contest begins at 6:00 p.m. on November 18, and contestants' songs will be judged by a panel of industry pros. Prizes include studio time, cash and musical equipment. Songs entered in the contest will be judged in the areas of form, lyrics, melody, originality and presentation.

Although the contest has an open-door policy to songwriters in all styles of music, there are several rules that must be followed in order to be eligible for the contest:

>All songs submitted must be original compositions by the contestants and each contestant can only enter a maximum of two songs.

>Each song must be submitted on an individual cassette that is cued up to within five seconds of the song's start time.

>Five copies of the song lyrics must be included with each entry.

>Cassettes and lyric sheets must also have the contestant's name, address and phone number. Winning songs from previous SDSG contests are not eligible.

In addition, there is a \$10 fee for each song entered in the contest. Admission to the November 18 event is free for SDSG members (\$10 for non-members). For more information, call the SDSG hotline at 619-225-2131.

#### BMI Fellowship

If you're an aspiring film and TV composer under the age of 35, you may want to apply for BMI's 1997 Pete Carpenter Fellowship, which is awarded to one winner every year. The recipient of the fellowship will have the opportunity to work with film and TV professionals for one month in Los Angeles, along with receiving \$2,000 for living and

travel expenses.

The fellowship was established in honor of the late Pete Carpenter, who co-wrote the themes for such TV series as The Rockford Files, The A-Team and Magnum, P.I.

The fellowship program is currently being supervised by TV composer legend Mike Post, who has written music for programs like NYPD Blue, Quantum Leap, Hill Street Blues, Law & Order, Silk Stalkings and L.A. Law.

Applications for the fellowship can be obtained by writing to the BMI Foundation, 320 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019, or by accessing BMI's web site at http://bmi. com. You can also call BMI at 212-586-2000 for more information. The entry deadline is December 2nd.

#### **Industry Grapevine**

MCA Music Publishing has appointed Kathy Coleman Vice President of Motion Picture and TV

RETURN OF THE TUBES



Veteran rock band the Tubes, best known for their songs "I'll Talk To You Later," "White Punks on Dope" and "She's A Beauty," have record-ed a new album, tentatively titled *Genius Of America*, which is due out this fall on Popular Records. The album features a ballad, "How Can You Live With Yourself," written by Richard Marx. Shown in the studio are (L-R, back row): Bill Drescher, engineer; Fee Waybill, Rick Anderson and Gary Cambra of the Tubes; Rick Riccobono, VP, Writer/Publisher Relations, BMI; Roger Steen of the Tubes and (L-R, front row): Richard Marx and the Tubes' Prarie Prince.

Music/Creative. Contact MCA's L.A. headquarters (310-235-4700).

ASCAP in Nashville (615-742-5000) has promoted John Briggs and Ralph Murphy to Assistant Vice President. Briggs was previously ASCAP Nashville's Director of Member Relations, and Murphy was previously ASCAP Nashville's Director of Creative Services.

Tina Snow has been named Creative Director of Catalog at Sony/ATV Music Publishing. Previously, Snow was the Creative Director at PolyGram Music Publishing. Contact Sony's office in Santa Monica (310-449-2084).

BMI has promoted Eleanor Grier to the post of Senior Director, Research and Information. Contact her through BMI's New York offices (212-586-2000).

Quincy Jones Music Publishing (213-882-1340) has appointed Tracy Anderson to the position of Creative Coordinator. Prior to her new appointment, Anderson headed Monarch Entertainment, her own music consulting firm.

#### Signing News

For the first time in over 20 years, Leiber & Stoller Music Publishing has signed a new songwriter: Kevin Bowe. Bowe, who most recently collaborated with blues prodigy Kenny Wayne Shepherd on Shepherd's debut album, Ledbetter Heights, also has two cuts on singer Jonny Lang's new album, which is set for release later this year. In addition, Bowe's song, "Sweeter World," is featured in the upcoming movie, *The Deli*, co-starring Heavy D. David Johansen.

Leiber & Stoller Music Publishing, which was founded by songwriting icons Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, specializes in "oldies" music, and rarely signs new songwriters, making the Bowe signing a unique situation.

If you'd like further information on the legendary songwriting duo and/or their Los Angeles-based publishing company, you can contact Leiber & Stoller Music Publishing at 310-273-6401.





EMI Music Publishing has inked a deal with the dance production, writing and remixing team, Vission & Lorimer. Pictured at EMI's offices in L.A. are (L-R): (standing) Linda Benjamin, attorney; Tim McDaniel, manager; Javier Lugo, manager; (seated) Pete Lorimer; Jody Gerson, Senior VP, Creative, EMI Music Publishing; and Richard "Humpty" Vission.

#### SONGWRITER PROFILE

#### BMI PROMOTION



Eleanor Grier, Senior Director, Research and Information, BMI.

#### **Talent Search**

If you're interested in musical theater and the burgeoning multimedia field, M3 is a new company that is looking for talent in both areas. Formed by composer and entertainer Paul Scott Goodman. the name M3 comes from Goodman's involvement in the Multimedia Musicals Workshop, an extension of BMI's Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop.

Goodman says that his new company will be producing multimedia musicals aimed at a younger generation of theatergoers. M3's first project will be "Millenium The Musicals," a series of fifteenminute musicals set in New York City in December of 1999.

M3 is currently looking for writers, performers, designers, choreographers and directors for upcoming productions. Interested parties should send material to: Paul Scott Goodman, BMI Musical Theatre Department, 320 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019.

#### PUBLISHING PALMER



Songwriter-producer Robert Palmer has signed an exclusive publishing deal with peermusic. Shown celebrating the deal at peermusic's L.A. office are (L-R): attorney Bob Lieberman; Robert Palmer; Frank Petrone, Creative Director, West Coast, peermusic; and Kathy Spanberger, Chief **Dperating Officer, peermusic.** 

#### BMI Country

BMI recently staged its 44th annual BMI Country Awards, with top honors going to songwriters Ronnie Dunn and Tom Shapiro (for having five songs on the Most Performed list), and publishing giant Sony/ATV Tree (for the fifth consecutive year).

In total, Citations Of Achievement were awarded to the writers and publishers of 77 songs, during the black-tie ceremony at BMI's offices on Music Row in Nashville.

"I Can Love You Like That" earned the 28th Robert J. Burton Award as the "Most Performed Country Song Of The Year," for cowriters Steve Diamond and Jennifer Kimball, and publisher Diamond Cuts.

It was a banner year for the song, which topped the Country Charts with the version recorded by John Michael Montgomery, while also winning a BMI Pop Award for the chart-topping R&B version by All-4-One

# SAM **PHILLIPS**

A longtime critics' darling and cult favorite, this singer-songwriter marches to the beat of a different drum

am Phillips is a study in contrasts. On record, her singing voice and songwriting style are haunting and quirky, often

evoking a touch of sadness. But talking with Phillips in-person reveals someone not only with a spontaneous sense of humor, but also a rapid-fire intelligence and upbeat personality. It is exactly this complexity which makes Phillips such a fascinating songwriter. Although she's never had the kind of platinum sales that record companies salivate over. Phillips has been earning accolades from her peers and music aficionados alike.

Her latest album, Omnipop (It's Only A Flesh Wound Lambchop), follows on the heels of her other acclaimed albums Martinis And Bikinis, Cruel Inventions and The Indescribable Wow.

'What's strange about this record," she says, talking about *Omnipop*, "is that I consciously started out to make every song completely different from each other, and it ended up being the exact opposite—every song is connected to each other. They all sort of blended together and were written in a couple of months.

Much of the new album's material (which Phillips describes as being inspired by everything from "Thomas Merton the monk to 1965 Playboy" was written while Phillips was on location filming the movie Die Hard With A Vengeance, in which she played the mute girlfriend of the movie's villain.

When I was working on the movie, I had a lot of time to think while I was on the set," she says. "There was so much going on around me, and I was completely displaced from my usual environment. It was almost like being in a foreign country, where people were speaking a different language. And I think that was one of the best things to happen for my writing.

When asked if she'd consider acting in another movie again, she says with a hearty laugh, "Yeah, I'd like to take another movie role so I could write some more songs! And next time, I'd like to have a role where I actually get to speak!" Having contributed songs to soundtracks like Melrose Place and Die Hard With A Vengeance, Phillips says that writing an entire film soundtrack "would be a lot of fun, but it would depend on the movie, because I couldn't just do any movie. I'd have to do something that I was really inspired by.

She continues, "I think the creative process is always happening in every writer. Your downtime is as important as the time you actually spend writing. As a performer, you spend a lot of time sitting around, whether it's waiting to get on a plane or waiting around for soundcheck. And all that time waiting around opens up a lot of room to muse and think."

Phillips can never be accused of being an artist strictly for the fame and fortune. In fact, during her previous career as a gospel singer (when she recorded under her real name, Leslie Phillips), she sold more records then than she does now. But Phillips decided to leave gospel music behind when she became disenchanted with what she felt was the "hypocrisy" and "preaching" aspect of the Christian music industry.

And while Phillips tours regularly, she is sometimes criticized for being "self-conscious" onstage. So how does she really feel about performing live? "I love performing, but it's like a neurosis gone wild," she explains. "I first got into being a singer so I could be liked, but when you get onstage, you never really know how much people are going to like you. It comes off as insecurity—I know that about myself and I think it's pretty funny.

That's one of the things I tried to do on this record—laugh a lot and have a sense of humor about myself. Like the song 'Entertainmen' [on Omnipop] talks about the things we, as women, do to get men's attention. And it's sad and funny what kind of acrobatics we go through to get that attention and that love. I don't think very many feminists would like this song, because they don't want to see the part of themselves that is like that. [But] I think laughing at it is healthier than saying that it doesn't exist."

She concludes with a sigh, "I'm a funny animal, because whatever I'm supposed to do, I tend to go in the opposite direction. That's why it's hard for people to figure me out, because I don't fit into any categories. I'm not that good at calculated art. I think I try to go for the more soulful approach in whatever I do.

Contact Virgin Records at 310-278-1181.



#### POLYGRAM PARTIES WITH BARRY AND GREENWICH



PolyGram Music Publishing recently acquired the famed catalog of Jeff Barry and Ellie Greenwich, writers of such classics as "Da Doo Ron Ron," "River Deep-Mountain High" and "Do Wah Diddy Diddy," and threw a cocktail reception in L.A. honoring the duo, and guests included other noted songwriters such as Barry Mann, Cynthia Weil, Mike Stoller and Jerry Leiber. Pictured at the party are (L-R): Jeff Barry, Ellie Greenwich and David Simoné, President of PolyGram Music Publishing.

15

ON THE ROAD: R.E.M.'s Road Movie, which attempts to capture the essence of a live concert from the band that remains the musical apple of Athens, Georgia's collective eye, has been released on home video and is in stores now. Directed by Peter Care, the film was shot during the final three nights of last year's Monster tour. The 90minute documentary introduces a number of songs that were written on the road and can be found on the band's recently released album, New Adventures In Hi-Fi. In addition to the material, the concert film also includes live performances of classic R.E.M. songs such as "Losing My Religion," "Man On The Moon" and "Everybody Hurts." The price is a very affordable \$19.98.

SOUND IMAGE: Sound Image Studios have opened a new 2,500 square foot facility in Van Nuys. The two-room operation, which features 24 and 48-track digital recording, has recently been invaded by the likes of RCA's Eleventeen (with producer/engineer Randy Pekich and assistant Gus Agostinelli), and Brian Allen Curtis, who was in working on his new country project with producer/engineer John Henning. In addition to that, Japanese record-

ing artist Sala was in shooting a music video, which was produced by Hiro-shi Igaki and directed by Brad Christian.

VESTAX NEWS: The HDR Series of Hard Disc Recorders just got better, as Vestax has announced that the HDRV8 is a complete studio in a box, with a processor that is three times faster, simultaneous recording on all eight tracks and eight direct outputs with absolutely no data compression. The HDRV8 comes with a one-gigabyte drive, which is expandable internally to four gigabytes without sending it to the factory. Call Vestax's headquarters in Fairfield, California (707-427-1920) if you'd like further information.

AROUND TOWN: Bobby Gianetti, former bassist for Edgar Winter, Dave Mason and Dwight Twilley, is in at Cazador Studios recording a four-song package for deal shopping. The country-pop tunes were penned by Phoenix-based writer Tom Powers; Cazador owner Jimmy Hunter produced the project...L.A.-based Brooklyn Studios recently played host to Bay Area punkers Smashmouth, who were in recording with producer Jai Winding.

#### A STEELY ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH



Singer-songwriter John Denver (left) is pictured with veteran mixer Roger Nichols, best known for his work with Steely Dan, as the two have been mixing a European recording project at Recording Arts Studio in Nashville.

#### LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS



Tom Parham (left) of Parham Audio is busy recording the finishing touches on (seated) Chuck Silverman's new book and CO package for Warner Bros. entitled Funk Masters The Grooves Of James Brown's Drummers. Also, former Slayer stickman Oave Lombardo (standing, right) is mastering his CO for his up-and-coming book, Power Grooves. Lombardo's band, Grip Inc. will also be releasing their second CO in January. Tom Parham's CO, Smokin' Beats The Ultimate Groove Library, will be available for the NAMM Show in January. Call 800-BIN-LOOP for further information.

#### WHY STORE'S 'FATHER'



Way Cool Music/MCA recording artist the Why Store are pictured during the making of the video for "Father," from their self-titled debut album. Shot on location at L.A.'s Twin Towers prison, the clip was directed by John Schlesinger, and blends performance footage, along with scenes featuring Beverly D'Angelo, Chris Cooper and Oevon Sawa. Pictured (L-R) are keyboardist Jeff Pedersen, guitarist Michael Oavid Smith, Schlesinger, vocalist/guitarist Chris Shaffer, Way Cool Music CEO Mike Jacobs, drummer Charlie Bushor and bassist Greg Gardner.

#### YAMAHA SYNTHESIZER FORUM

### NEW REPORT: FUN WILL KILL YOU!

The Norwegian Center for Public Health dropped this shocking news yesterday. It supports the Center's previous reports that chocolate, air and sex are bad for you.

Björn Nsyglyd, the Center's Director, elaborated, "our laboratory tests on mice clearly illustrate that if you have too much fun in a three second span, you could spontaneously combust. If the fun is spread over minutes or days the results are diminished... However, you will definitely croak."

The news comes especially hard to Yamaha Corporation which has recently released two XG MIDI synthesizers that are actually fun to play.

The CS1x is a throwback to the 70s when people didn't have to program synths. They just dialed in the patches on rotary knobs and played away. Music was spontaneous and life was good. The CS1x features six real time effects knobs for voice editing of up to four elements. It also includes an Arpeg-

giator that lets the musician play with all kinds of fun sound patterns. And it offers over 1,000 XG and GM voices and performances plus 17 drum kits. Nsyglyd: "It's a death sentence."

The Yamaha CBX-K1XG is also an XG and GM compatible synth. Because it's a self-contained XG studio (tone generator, touch sensitive minikeyboard and speakers) and because the battery powered unit can fit in an overnight bag, a musician could make music anywhere, including a roller coaster. The CBX-K1XG has 737

voices and 22 drum kits and 32-note polyphony. Nsyglyd's only advice. "run fast arun far."

Both Yamaha instruments have a TO-HOST connector for linking directly to computers, Nsyglyd's institute has not found any health problems related to computers but he promised, "We're working on it."

For more information about the report or the synthesizers, call Yamaha Corporation of America, DMI Dept., (714)522-9011.

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## **BARRY EASTMOND**

This veteran producer and songwriter has quietly worked with the likes of **Anita Baker and Barry White** 

#### By Jonathan Widran

e may not be a media-hounded name brand a la Jam & Lewis or Babyface, but when superstar mainstream R&B singers are looking for just the right groovo for that next smooth hit. Barry Eastmond's on that first-call list. Though he insists his long-term goal is to produce an allstar recording under his own name, like his idol Quincy Jones, Eastmond's pleased thus far with his prolific career—both as producer and songwriter.

"I believe I'm a vocal producer, pure and simple, and am able to bring out the best in whoever I'm working with," says Eastmond, who has also written songs with and/or manned the boards for Billy Ocean, Freddie Jackson, Jeffrey Osborne, Keith Washington and Anita Baker, as well as contributing tracks to Barry White's comoback project, The Icon Is Love.

"I see my role as a total support system for the singer," he adds, "making them comfortable so that they can give their optimum performance. It may keep my name somewhat anonymous to the public, but I've always seen my role as somewhat chameleonic. I realize that it's not my name on the album, and so I like to step back a bit and let them know I'm there to serve the artist's best interests.

This isn't to say that the Brooklyn-born, Julliard-educated Eastmond just stands by and lets his charges loose until they get the perfect take. His work with Anita Baker on "I Apologize" and "It's Been You," for her 1994 hit Rhythm Of Love album, is a perfect example. "With veteran artists like Anita," he says, "they pretty much know what they want to do, and I'm there to enhance what she wants to accomplish musically. Even if the overall direction is good, I might make suggestions to improve little details. She chose to use a lot of producers, and felt that I could add a hip-hop groove to 'I Apologize,' which would appeal to a younger crowd.

"With a new artist, like this young singer Kenny Latimore, they're looking to me to take a certain amount of control in shaping their sound. My role, then, is to create an environment which helps them establish their identity. Brandy also tends to look up to me for guidance, whereas Anita already knows who she is and where she's headed.'

A Grammy-nominated songwriter with hits like Jackson's "You Are My Lady" and Ocean's "When The Going Gets Tough" to his credit, Eastmond relies on top-notch engineers to take care of the technical aspects of the recording, so that he can focus on bringing out the nuances of the songs.

"With all the new technology that's become available, it still comes down to the words and the melody," he says, "which is why I'm so hooked on writing and producing ballads. Not only are they around longer, but they don't require a lot of tricks to get their point across. With vocalists, ballads are sort of a secret weapon. Recording them, you have to make sure that every word is decipherable, and the vocal must stand out in the mix. For upbeat songs, you can enhance the beat for dance purposes.

Eastmond began his career as a keyboardist with jazz violinist Michael Urbaniak, before launching into R&B as musical director for the likes of Melba Moore and Chaka Khan. He even spent a year playing in the orchestra for the Broadway version of Cats, at the same time writing jingles and developing his pop writing chops.

Recently, he co-wrote and produced "Missing You." for the soundtrack of Set It Off, which involved recording and dubbing the intertwining vocals of Brandy, Khan, Gladys Knight and Tamia. Because of scheduling conflicts, none of the singers was in the studio at the same time. "It was 'That's What Friends Are For,' part two." he laughs. "Sylvia Rhone at East/West wanted four females to mirror the plot of the movie." Eastmond adds. "It was a great experience, because I had to figure out whose voices and ranges fit where, where they should overlap, and what verse which voice should carry, etcetera. I got great performances from all of them, and in the end, it was like an old school, new school compendium of great female R&B vocalists. It wasn't easy, but I'd jump at the chance to do it again.

Contact PolyGram Music Publishing (212-333-8595).

## —BARRY RUDOLP

#### E-Mail: BRudolph1@aol.com



#### Sony's MDM-X4 Digital Four-Track

The MDM-X4 is Sony's entry into the new digital four-track personal studio market. Since Sony is the licenser of the MiniDisc MD-Data format and developer of the ATRAC compression schemes, it makes complete sense that they must be a player in this emerging business.

The MDM uses a single.140Mb, 2.5 inch magneto-optical MiniDisc and has four tracks, each with up to 37 minutes recording time. You can also record in stereo for up to 74 minutes and in mono for 148 minutes. This is a "random access" recording system as opposed to a "linear", tape-based recording system so you have instant playback of any place in your song without waiting for rewinding and locating. There is complete playback compatibility between Sony Yamaha and Tascam MD four-track machines. What separates the different machines, besides slight price differences, are the different editing and external synchronization features available from machine to machine and the ergonomic "feel" and design. This "human engineering" dictates how you personally relate to the way that the machines facilitate the recording, edit ing and playback of your music.

Editing features on the MDM include Song Edit, a way to do song-based editing like copying verses or chorus' and Track Edit that allows individual tracks to be manipulated. Virtual Mix allows you record more than four tracks on the MD disc for multiple, alternative takes,

Like the Yamaha MD-4, the MDM has a MIDI Out jack that sends out MTC (that's MIDI Time Code) but in addition, the MDM also has a MIDI In jack so that MMC (that's MIDI Machine Control) can be used, i.e. the MDM can either "slave"

to your sequencer/multi-track or it can act as "master" that your sequencer can follow. (I would presume, therefore, that two MDM's could be "synched" together...another easy way to song collaborate between two MDM owners) The on-board mixor has ten inputs total; four mic/lines, one stereo input and two stereo aux effect returns. There are two aux effect sends

and there is also an external control jack for foot-operating the unit's transport controls.

Sony is working hard to have this unit ready by November, 1996, with a suggested retail price of \$1,250. Contact Sony Corporate Communications Dept. at 1 Sony Drive, Park Ridge, New Jersey 07656. Call them at: 800-635-SONY.



#### Tannoy's System 600 & 800 **Near-Fields**

System 600 (shown) and 800 nearfield monitors represent Tannoy's latest Dual Concentric monitor technology. Both systems have high sensitivity (+90db) and can handle in excess of 150 watts of power. The new cabinet design is said to improve overall tonal balance as well as improve the "over-the-console" sight line. The frequency response for the 600 is 52Hz to 20Khz, ± 3db while the bigger 800 rates 47Hz to 20Khz, + 3db. Both new models are designed for recording studios, project studios, broadcast, video post, editing suites and surround applica-

tions. For more information, contact Tannoy/T.G.I. North America Inc., 300 Gage Ave., #1. Kitchener, ON Canada N2M 2 C8. You can call them at: 516-745-1158 FAX 516-745-2364

#### Martin's Golden Era Series D-18

For the first in the new Golden Era® Series of pre-war reproductions, Martin chose the 1937 Martin D-18. All the bracing measurement and accurate colorings are from the original D-18. Other pre-war specs are: a spruce top with mahogany back and sides, ebony bridge and fingerboard, abalone dot inlays, black bridge pins and a hand-beveled and hand polished tortoise colored pickguard. Martin has actually used the original 1937 "C.F. Martin" hot stamp from the Martin museum in order to burn in the "Nazareth, PA" logo on the back center brace.

The headstock, squared and tapered in the original style. has a Brazilian rosewood head plate, original decal logo and chrome "butterbean" tuners. One modern touch is the adjustable truss rod that has been concealed to maintain the vintage appearance.

Contact The Martin Guitar Company at 510 Sycamore Street, P.O. Box 329, Nazareth PA 18064. Call them at: 610-759-2837 or FAX 610-759-5757.







Although, unfortunately, the Amos clip will be the only enhanced portion of the disc, the audio section will include previously unreleased performances from the likes of Blues Traveler, k.d. lang, a duet with Joan Osborne and Melissa Etheridge, Del Amitri and Deep Blue Something. The Crossroads disc is in stores now.

Tori Amos' "I'm On Fire," which will

be the compilation's first single.

MUSIC CENTRAL: Musician.Com (http://www.musician.com) may be the ultimate web site for musicians and music enthusiasts. Boasting over 500 packed pages of information, Musician.Com is a sponsor of Guitar Center's on-line clearing house, overflowing with everything from product profiles to the cybertour of the chain's famous Holly-

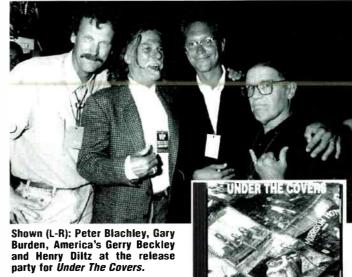
On the technical end, the site offers detailed general and spec information on most of the instruments and gear carried by the instrument retailing giant. FAQ's (frequently asked questions) are answered on everything thing

> Roland and Korg keyboards, with the information coming to you directly from the manufacturers. The newest in MIDI software can be sampled at the site and ordered directly for shipment to home or office. Also, instru-

ments can be ordered online as well, for shipping around the country.

If you're into collectibles, the site includes an extensive Vintage Instruments section, with interactive sales support for Vintage Room shoppers. Freebies abound, as well, with frequently updated contests and giveaways, along with the daily Search For Webster contest, in which you can help the perpetually lost drummer find his way to the gig in return for prizes. There are also exclusive offers and coupons available only to visitors of the on-line site.

Those interested in a bit of rock history can visit the Rockwalk virtual tour (complete with its own on-line gift shop), and those with a taste for making rock history can check out



the Cyber Folio, which showcases new and developing musical talents (both individuals and bands).

If that's not enough to keep you busy, an extensive music links page is also included, and the site will be featuring frequent special events, including on-line showcases, product demos and chats with established technical and artistic musical personalities. You can even find your next gig with the on-line Musicians Search Service, a free network for amateur and working musicians.

It's a lot to look into, but worth the time for a true musical one-stop effect. Why deal with traffic, parking and time on the road when all you need to do is park yourself, pop on the screen and point your browser? It's a virtual "playersground" worth checking out!

COVERING MUSIC: Graphix Zone, a multimedia company that is head-quartered in Irvine, California, has released a new CD-ROM based on the collaborative works of longtime rock & roll photographer Henry Diltz and veteran album art director Gary Burden, appropriately titled Under

The extensive CD-ROM, released in conjunction with Triptych Pictures (a partnership between Diltz, Burden and video producer Peter Blachley), features video interviews with many of the artists with whom the pair have collaborated-including Don Henley and Glenn Frey of the Eagles, the Doors' Ray Man-

zarek, Crosby, Stills & Nash, Jackson Brown and Dan Fogelbergaudio clips, galleries of the pair's works (both their individual efforts and their collaborative works) and archival footage, including film of the Eagles' famous shoot-out sequence for Desperado.

"Narrated" by rock journalist and former Rolling Stone editor Ben Fong-Torres, the CD contains

enough multimedia to keep you busy for hours. The manner in which Diltz and Burden's gallery of album cover works is presented provides a very nostalgic look back at Sixties, Seventies and Eighties music, and even includes some of the duo's more recent work into the early Nineties.

This ROM-which will run on either Windows or Macintosh platforms-is a must for any rock enthusiast, whether interested in the history behind the history or just for a pleasant look back at an exciting era in American music.

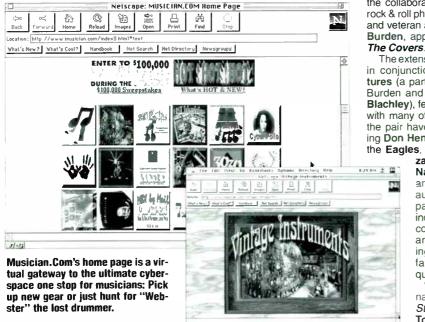
The company has also released two other new music-based CD-ROM titles: *Herbie Hancock Pre*sents Living Jazz and Willie: The Life And Music Of Willie Nelson. For more information, visit Graphix Zone's site on the World Wide Web at http://www.gzone.com.

MORE REAL AUDIO: Progressive Networks, pioneers of the Real Audio (http://www.realaudio.com) technology which has changed the way we listen to music on-line, has announced the release of Real Audio version 3.0, which will make stereo sound available via 28.8 modem for the first time on-line

The new software is available for free downloading via the Real Audio site, and is slated for use in the near future by companies including Sony Music, Warner Music, PolyGram, BMG and MCA.

In another breakthrough, Seattle radio station KING-FM 98.1 recently broadcast a Real Audio feed straight from the 'Net over the airwaves. The classical music broadcast was accomplished using a high-speed ISDN feed directly into the station's studio, allowing the Real Audio feed to come in off the 'Net and flow straight to the station's transmission tower. Stay tuned for more to come.

VIRGIN TERRITORY: Label giant Virgin Records has opened up shop



on the Web, with their new on-line site (http://www.vlrginrecords.com). Aside from a really funky-looking home page, the Virgin site contains a number of goodies revolving around such artists as the Smashing Pumpkins, Lenny Kravitz, Iggy Pop, David Bowie and others.

What makes the site "way cool" is a cache of "special" pages, including the Lava Room, which is slated to be used for live chats and events, and mhz, the one-stop for Virgin music. In mhz, visitors can access Real Audio recordings of many Virgin artist tracks, as well as listening to literally hours of pre-mixed, continuous play Real Audio programs of tracks from Virgin artists. Pretty sweet.

In only its first weeks up and running, the Virgin site has already received kudos as "Site of the Day" from Yahoo! (http://www.yahoo.com). "Site of the Week" by Microsoft Music Central (http://music central.msn.com) and "Shocked Site of the Week" according to Macromedia (http://www.macromedia.com).

VIRTUALLY LIVE: With L.A.'s dwindling club scene, hanging out in cyberspace is becoming a viable alternative to hitting the clubs. Facilitating this is L.A. Live (http://www.lalive.com), a virtual club in cyberspace that is plugged-in to many of the City Of Angels' actual venues.

In addition to information on upcoming shows around town, L.A. Live 'Netcasts many of those local performances, as well as providing information about relevant music-related events in town (the Foundations Forum F-Fest, for example).



**Explore Virgin territory on the Web** 

If you happened to miss your favorite artist's recent show, there's a good chance that you'll find the cyber version in the L.A. Live archives. Among the cybershows embedded in the archives are the recent **Troubador** appearance by *MC* cover girl **Fiona Apple**, the **Sex Pistols** show at the **Palladium**, **Porno For Pyros** summer date at the **American Legion Hall** and more than a dozen others.

Recent shows include one of the final North American dates of Atlantic artist Bad Religion's "Gray Race" tour, from the Palace.

ATTENTION READERS: Cyber Music is always looking for the latest and greatest in cyberspace. If you come across a cool music-related CD-ROM or web site, let us know where it's at! Drop us e-mail (muscon@earthlink.net), visit our web site (http://www.musicconnection.com), or call our feedback hot line at 818-755-0101.



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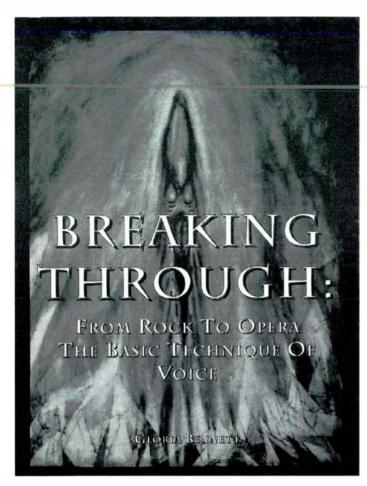
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There are as many theories on how to sing properly as there are voice teachers. There is, though, only one right way, and that is the classically-developed style taught by traditionally-trained teachers. Gloria Bennett is the best of the best. Through the years, she has taught a cavalcade of stars including Vince Neil, Anthony Kiedis and Steve Wynn. (Here's a memo-

rable moment: I once sat in Bennett's studio waiting for a lesson to end, listening to the voice of a sweet tenor as they sang songs from West Side Story inside the inner office. Imagine my surprise when the door opened and I discovered that wonderful voice belonged to Axl Rose!) The best way to become a singer is to take private lessons, one-on-one, so that the teacher may quide students according to individual needs. But for those who can't make it to Bennett's Hollywood studio, there can be no better alternative than to pick up

Breaking Through: From Rock To Opera The Basic Technique Of

Voice. This workstudy book is designed to give the student insight into the history of voice, proper support and technique, how to maintain a great voice and usable vocal and physical exercises. It's an important addition to any musician's library, but of particular impor-



choose to study voice by themselves. Breaking Through: From Rock To Opera The Basic Technique Of Voice is available wherever fine books are sold or by call-



Captain & Tennille join RuPaul on the drag queen's new VH1 talk show

ing Bennett direct at 213-851-3626 or 310-659-2802.

There's a big push behind ER: Original Television Theme Music And Score, newly released by Atlantic. And why not? The instrumental pieces—composed by Martin Davich-are modern, yet lush, and are particularly interesting when Davich throws in tribal undertones. James Newton Howard (The Fugitive, Outbreak, The Prince Of Tides, Dave, Pretty Woman) has the first single, an extended version of the show's theme, but the real treat is Duncan Sheik's dainty and introspective "Reasons For Living." *ER*, the television show, recently won the Emmy for Best Drama. The program is watched by nearly 40 million viewers each week, making this

NBC medical drama the Number One series of the 1995-96 season.

To celebrate their 350th issue, the gang at MAD Magazine are giving away a free CD-ROM with every copy. Created in conjunction with America Online and Rhino Records. MAD BYTES IT! is the legendary humagazine's first CD-ROM. Included are three tracks from the current Rhino Records album

Mad Grooves, a complete index to MAD, a special MAD one-liners contest and the MAD Landfill, a full-color gallery drawn from the magazine's colorful history. MAD #350 is on sale now.

To help celebrate the release of her first solo recording in recent years, Out Of The Blues, songstress Rita Coolidge has been tapped to join the cast of the theatrical revue, 20th Century Pop, in Washington D.C. She will appear beside Darlene Love in what has been described as a "brilliantly belted celebration of American pop

Coolidge is probably best known for her featured soloist turn during Joe Cocker's legendary Mad Dogs And Englishmen tour and for a string of pop hits that includes "Higher And Higher" and "We're All Alone." Out Of The Blues, a collection of blues standards just released by Los Angeles-based Beacon Records includes "Hallelujah. I Love Him So," "Bring It On Home To Me" and Gershwin's "The Man I Love," plus two new songs. The album is in stores everywhere

A throat injury has forced Donny Osmond to miss the first three weeks of the musical Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat in Detroit. Osmond injured his

> vocal chords while performing in Boston. Sam Harris, who filled in for Osmond after the original injury, also covered for him in Michigan.

Grammy Awardwinning duo The Captain & Tennille joined Ru-Paul for a taping of the drag diva's VH1 talk new show. Both Daryl Dragon and Toni Tennille have been

making the talk show rounds in support of their new CD, 20 Years Of Romance. The collection includes rerecorded versions of all their chart-topping hits and coincides with their 20th wedding anniversary. Other guests scheduled for *The RuPaul Show*, which should be airing about now, include Eartha Kitt, Dennis Rodman, Whoopi Goldberg, Cher and Dionne Warwick.

Former country singer Naomi Judd is said to be preparing a talk show of her own. There will be no celebrity interviews. Guests will be "ordinary people."





Michael Becker, Donna Summer and Harold J. Kleiner are in the Mouse House

Is Antonio Banderas a victim of type-casting? He's just finished playing Che Guevara in the Madonna-starring musical Evita, and now he's set to play the same man in a non-musical film, Tania, for Mick Jagger's Jagged Films at Warners. The story is about the love affair of the revolutionary and an East German agent.

Disco queen Donna Summer recently recorded a new, club-style version of "Someday," from The Hunchback Of Notre Dame, for Walt Disney Records' upcoming dance album. Mouse House. Summer took time out from her tour to record the track, which will go out to multi-format radio prior to the album's October release. Pictured above (L-R) are the three behind the recording project, co-producer Michael Becker, Summer and co-

producer/executive producer Harold J. Kleiner.

Disney is also set to open its newly refurbished New Amsterdam Theater in Manhattan. The opening production is *King David* by ace songwriters Alan Menken and Tim Rice. Five performances in May will be recorded for a later CD release. Also planned are a version of *The Lion King* and an Elton John-Tim Rice project based on Aida.

Set in New York in the 1930's, Abel Ferrara's *The Funeral* is a period crime drama about three brothers involved in racketeering (Christopher Walken. Chris Penn and Vincent Gallo) and the women in their lives (Annabella Sciorra, Isabella Rossellini and Gretchen Mol).

Set against the infamous and

Halle Berry and Christopher McDonald star in The Rich Man's Wife

volatile labor clashes of the depression era, The Funeral centers around the Tempio family as they mourn the murder of Johnny (Gallo), whose older brothers seethe with grief while they lust for revenge. Told in flashback. filmmakers Ferrara and Nicholas St. John take us back in time through memories of family, business and bloodshed. We also learn of their complicated relationship with Spoglia (Benicio Del Toro), a stylish, menacing monster who may or may not be behind the killing.

This is the story of a family torn apart by a tradition of violence and revenge. The Funeral is produced by Mary Kane with Randy Sabusawa as co-producer and Michael Chambers and Patrick Panzarella (Kids) as executive producers. October Films will release this stylish and intriguing film in...you quessed it, late October.

There may be a Broadway revival of *Annie Get Your Gun* coming your way, with either Geena Davis or Patti Lupone in the role of Annie Oakley.

Singer and actress Chaille, who portrays pop star Diane Dane in the upcoming film from Tom Hanks, That Thing You Do, will be a featured artist on the film's Epic soundtrack. Chaille's character is based on Sixties pop sensation Jackie DeShannon.

What is the price of wealth? That's the question raised in *The Rich Man's Wife*, a live-action thriller just released by

Hollywood/Caravan Pictures. Halle Berry stars as Josie Potenza, a woman who has it all. But then, in a flash, her rich husband, Tony (Christopher McDonald). is murdered, and her world turns upside down. As the one who appears to have the most to gain from the tragedy, Josie soon finds herself the prime suspect in the police investigation, then terrorized by a psychotic killer and the victim of blackmail.

Though there aren't any plans to release the soundtrack, kudos anyway to John Frizzell who finds room in the film for such suitably unsettling standards as John Lee Hooker's "Chill Out (Things Gonna Change)" and Ann Peebles' original version of "I Can't Stand The Rain." The Rich Man's Wife is in general release.

Lava/Atlantic Records has the soundtrack to Escape From L.A., the long-awaited sequel to the classic sci-fi/action/adventure yarn Escape From New York. This time





Christopher Walken and Chris Penn star in *The Funeral* 

out, **Kurt Russell**, reprising his memorable role as the legendary outlaw **Snake Plissken**, is trapped on the island of Los Angeles, in a "moral America," where personal freedoms are dead and survival in a wasteland of warring gangs, outcasts and loners is anything but certain.

Director **John Carpenter** has been taken to task for creating the sequel too much in the mold of his original film. (The only notable change in the



locale.) That didn't make Escape From L.A. any less enjoyable a diversion. Those cyber punks who took the film to heart will also like the soundtrack. Seven of the 14 cuts here were actually in the movie, including those by Stabbing Westward, Tool, White Zombie and a refreshingly energetic Tori Amos. There's also Blame," the first single, performed by Gravity Kills. The rest of the songs by Ministry, Toadies, Deftones and others are in the "inspired by" mode, though album producers Jason Flom and Kevin Weaver deserve a pat on the back for ensuring a consistent tone. MC

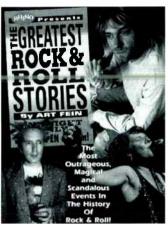


SINGING AND MAS-**TERING THE BLUES:** Drive Archive and Icehouse Records have both released some excellent blues packages. Drive utilizes historic blues recordings on Singin' The Blues (featuring the likes of Jimmy Reed, Elmore James, Willie Dixon and John Lee Hooker) and Nothin' But The Blues (including B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Junior Wells and T-Bone Walker), while Icehouse has Masters Of Blues: A Tribute To Elmore James, featuring covers of James' material from the likes of the Allman Brothers, Johnny Winter, Albert King, Buddy Guy and Junior Wells, and many more. Check your local blues shop today.

EXPLORING MUSIC: New York-based label Ellipsis Arts... has effectively carved a niche for itself by focusing their attentions on tra-



DISNEY DAYS: Walt Disney Records has a couple of interesting new releases coming up. Mouse House, an upcoming Disney dance album, includes Donna Summer's rerecording of "Someday" from The Hunchback Of Notre Dame, while Music From The Park includes over a dozen contemporary artists performing their favorites from Walt Disney World attractions (including Barenaked Ladies' "Grim Grinning Ghosts" from the Haunted Mansion and the Pointer Sisters doing "Yo Ho (A Pirate's Life For Me)" from the Pirates of the Carribean ride). Meanwhile, Little Texas is just one country music act taking part in Country Disney: The Best Of Country Sing The Best Of Disney, a collection of country versions of classic Disney material. Pictured (L-R) are: Christy DiNapoli, Little Texas manager; Minnie Mouse; Duane Propes, Little Texas; Carolyn Mayer Beug, Senior VP, Walt Disney Records; Del Gray and Dwayne O'Brien, Little Texas; and Mickey Mouse.



SEX & DRUGS & ROCK & ROLL: The ultimate gossip book of rock & roll is now in stores. Written by veteran journalist/entrepreneur Art Fein, The Greatest Rock & Roll Stories (Rhino Books/General Publishing Group) is a delicious slice of rock's flamboyant past and tabloidish present. All those lurid tidbits you've heard over the years are here, but there's much more that you've surely never heard before. More than 200 pages of fascinating info that might make you wonder why you're reading it, but rest assured you'll read every juicy word. Call General Publishing Group, Inc. at 310-314-4000 if you're having trouble finding it.





SMOKING POPES IN THE PIZZA: Capitol recording artists the Smoking Popes are pictured performing at LIFEbeat's SkateAID in New York City—an alternative music fest for in-line skaters. Proceeds from the event were donated to LIFEbeat, a non-profit AIDS awareness organization. The event occurred during the "God Bless America" tour, featuring the Popes and their labelmates, the Figgs and Jimmy Eat World.

SUGARSPOON LIVE: MCA's Sugarspoon recently performed at the Billboard Live in L.A., performing songs from their self-titled MCA debut. Pictured backstage after the performance are (L-R): Gary Greenberg, band attorney; Robin Godfrey-Cass, EMI Music Publishing; Mark Henry, drummer; Bob Raylove, band manager; Paul Sisemore, vocalist and guitarist; Kent Bradley, lyricist and guitarist; Angela Hamlin, National Director, Promotion, MCA; Jeff McDonald, bassist; Abbey Konowitch, Executive VP, MCA; Susan Greenwood, National Director, Rock Promotion, MCA; David Fleischman, VP, Album Promotion, MCA.

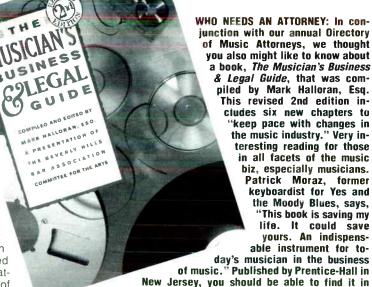


NEUROTIC OR JUST PLAIN CRAZY?: In what may be one of the weirdest rock collaborations in recent memory, the Sex Pistols' Steve Jones, Duran Duran's bassist John Taylor, and Guns N' Roses' bassist Duff McKagan (playing guitar in this lineup) and drummer Matt Sorum, have developed into a full-fledged project, dubbed (appropriately) Neurotic Outsiders. After the foursome performed a "one time" benefit jam at the Viper Room last year, the punkish quartet decided to keep on playing, performing a regular schedule of Viper Room gigs, before signing a recording deal with Madonna's Maverick label (their self-titled release is now available). Pictured (L-R) onstage during their recent U.S. tour wrap-up at the Whisky are Matt Sorum, Steve Jones and John Taylor.

—Jeremy M. Helfgot

ditional and indigenous music from diverse cultures located around the world, and they have done so with high-class packaging that includes informative books and creative artwork to help bolster the indentity of the music. The latest releases are Deep In The Heart Of Tuva and Tibet: The Heart Of Dharma. Subtitled Cowboy Music From The Wild East, Deep In The Heart Of Tuva takes a unique look at the people and music of the Siberian mountain regions near Outer Mongolia, while Tibet: The Heart Of Dharma (subtitled Buddha's Teachings And The Music They Inspired) is a collection of ritual orchesta, medita tions, prayers and poems. Not exactly mainstream stuff here, but very intriguing. And, at times, enlightening.

THE JOKE MAN: Redondo Beachbased Oglio Records has announced that they will be releasing a few comedy CDs from Jackie "The Joke Man" Martling, who is best known as the veteran head writer for Howard Stern's nationally syndicated radio show. The comedy collections, The Joke Man and Sgt. Pecker were previously only available through Martling's personal 800 number, but through Oglio, they will be making their retail debut on November 5th. In addition, an as-yet-to-be-named new release from Martling is slated for release in February of



bookstores everywhere.



HANGIN' WITH RHINO: Rhino Records, the king of cool compilations, is kicking back to a time when "alternative music" was more than just an overused moniker, and alternative artists really did break away from the mainstream and stretch the musical envelope. A new three-disk series, titled Hang The DJ: Modern Rock 1986, 1987 and 1988, respectively, spotlights some of the cutting edge sounds of the late Eighties, with elghteen tracks apiece (all original recordings from the original artists). 1986 includes the Smiths' "Panic" (the obvious source of the series' title), the Psychedellic Furs' "Pretty In Pink," New Order's "Bizarre Love Triangle," as well as cuts from the likes of the Pretenders, Oingo



Boingo and the Art of Noise to Oepeche Mode, the Divinyls and O.M.D. 1987 features "No New Tale To Tell" from Love and Rockets, X's "4th of July," and more from 10,000 Maniacs, Concrete Blonde, Public Image Limited, the Sugarcubes and the Jesus & Mary Chain. 1988 wraps up the series with R.E.M.'s "Orange Crush," Siouxsie & the Banshees' "Peek-A-Boo," the Cowboy Junkies' "Sweet Jane," "Under The Milkyway" from the Church, and cuts from Jane's Addiction, Everything But The Girl, Ministry, the Mission U.K., Erasure and a host of their peers. Extensive liner notes from series co-producer Eric Kayser accompany each volume. A must-have set for any late-Eighties alternative music collector.

—Jeremy M. Helfgot



OPEN THE OOORS...AGAIN: Monstersounds Entertainment has released another spoken word history package, this time from Doors keyboardist Ray Manzarek (their previous two-CD set, Paul Kantner's A Guide Through The Chaos [A Road To The Passion]: The Spoken Word History Of Jefferson Airplane & Beyond, came out in July). Ray Manzarek's The Doors, Myth & Reality: The Spoken Word History features two hours of conversation with the Doors co-founder that is a must for all fans of the band, and should go a long way in setting straight those who took Oliver Stone's cartoonish cinematic depiction of Jim Morrison as gospel.



1986—DID I REALLY SAY THAT?: Poison lead singer Bret Michaels told MC: "We're just products of the music and bands we were influenced by. When it's all over and done with, bands that shot from the heart and did what they wanted are the ones left standing. Basically, we're an honest band."

1985—ASYLUM INMATES: Former Eagle Don Henley talked candidly about the restructuring of Asylum Records, following founder David Geffen's departure: "They started signing all kinds of acts. I looked at the roster in the late Seventies and there were 80 or 90 acts, and I think I recognized about five of them—and, of course, we [the Eagles] were paying for all that.

"They fired about 500 people one week and brought in this guy Bob Krasnow, and they moved the company to New York. And [Krasnow] made some comments to the press about 'all the old dinosaurs we have on the label,' and it really pissed me and [Glenn] Frev off."



# Fiona Apple: The Shadowboxer Enters The Ring

The last time there was an industry-wide buzz of such magnitude revolving around the gigs of an unknown piano-playing singer-songwriter at the Troubadour in Los Angeles, Robert Hilburn of the Los Angeles Times declared a young Elton John to be rock's next superstar. And now, with teenage Fiona Apple's sold-out stint at the famed club behind her, and a debut album steadily climbing the charts, could lightning strike twice?

In an era where flash-in-the-pan successes have become a way of life in the music industry, rare is the debut artist who expresses a maturity far beyond her years, and is so seemingly made for stardom that you can literally see a lengthy future burning bright on the horizon.

Such is the case with nineteen-year-old Fiona Apple, who arrived on the scene this past summer with her recording debut, a hail of glowing reviews and a lot of dropped jaws — occasionally, her own. To say that "she came from the shadows of obscurity" would not be an exaggeration—just bad writing.

Her debut, *Tidal* (WORK Group/Clean Slate), was released in late July, but the first single, "Shadowboxer," is showing itself to have legs, and has been steadily collecting fans via radio, with its clever use of boxing metaphors to describe confusion in a relationship ("I been swinging all around me 'cause I don't know when you're gonna make your move").

Perhaps a DJ on L.A.'s Triple A radio station, KSCA-FM, described the young singer-songwriter best by saying, "Now, here's Fiona Apple...a young girl with a very old

soul." But that's not just a local opinion. After all, it was *Time* Magazine who gave her the headline "Wise Beyond Her Years."

That's why, after listening to her music—which presents a woman fiercely independent, prematurely wise and dangerously seductive—it is a relief to discover that she is, indeed, all those things, as well as being a real teenager who is prone to giggling and using the word "like" a bit too liberally.

So, just where did this old soul with the physical attributes of a young model come from? Actually, the Fiona Apple story is already a well-worn legend: After moving to California from New York to live with her father, the then-seventeen-year-old songwriter, with the sultry voice of a woman twice her age, made more than 70 demos.

At one point, a friend mentioned that she baby-sat for a prominent music executive and offered to pass on one of the tapes. Apple's demo ended up being played at a party, which Andrew Slater from HK Management (the Wallflowers, Michael Penn) happened to attend. Quite simply put, Slater was blown away, and is now Apple's producer, manager, and one of her most trusted friends.

Despite the acclaim for her artistic maturity and haunting vocal style, Apple has never considered herself a singer, though she comes from a musical family, and continues to see herself as primarily a songwriter, more influenced by the works of Maya Angelou than any musical force.

"I'm only singing because I'm writing," she insists, during a conversation at a Venice, California cafe. "It's just that I don't want anybody else singing my songs right now. I never thought that I had a bad voice, but I never thought about it. I just didn't think that I had a very legitimate singing voice, because everybody else in my family has a very different voice from me."

The musical legacy of Apple's immediate family is quite extensive. Her father, playwright/actor Brandon Maggart, left his homestate of Tennessee on an opera scholarship, while Apple's mother, also trained in opera, took the Broadway route. Her sister, Amber, apparently inherited a sweet soprano from their mother—a stylistic difference Fiona has always been aware of.

"I remember once when my sister and I were singing a song, when we were a lot younger, and there was family over or something. We were singing a stupid little song and somebody said, 'Amber's got a classical voice, and Fiona, you've got more of a rock and roll voice,'" she says, smiling at the memory. "That was the first time that somebody said something about my voice. I was like, 'Oh, that's cool,' and I went back in my room."

But that "cool" memory was somewhat short-lived, apparently, as she comes across as an artist who had to convince herself, as well as others, that she is a singer.

In fact, Apple goes on to say that when she and her father went over to meet Slater in his office, her dukes were up and she was ready for a fight—determined to

> defend her right to sing and record her own songs.

> "I still didn't think that I was a singer," she says, "and when I walked in, I thought [Slater] was going to say, 'You're a good writer, and I have a singer that you should give these songs to '

"I was all prepared to argue and be like, 'I know, but I will work on my voice and I don't want anvone else to sing 'em,'" she says, laughing at her needless resolve. "I walked in, and he said, Well, first of all, you have a beautiful voice,' and 1 remember looking at my dad and going, 'Oh, uh, okay.' It was definitely unexpected and wonderful.



Is that why they call me a sullen girl—sullen girl
They don't know I used to sail the deep and tranquil sea
But he washed me shore and he took my pearl
And left an empty shell of me



Trowing up in New York, Apple was a classic loner and is still happiest alone, playing piano—a habit that began at the age of eight, although there is photographic evidence of Apple trying to play the instrument as a toddler. "I think that I had a certain kind of relationship with the piano, before I even started playing," she recalls. "I just felt like it's what I wanted to do. I felt pulled towards it."

And, despite her often dark and revealing lyrics, Apple is more of a sunshine girl than she used to be. Always a furious enemy of school, she never felt comfortable there, often suffering in the shadow of her beautiful older sister. "My teacher called me 'Cocker Spaniel Girl,' 'cause I was like a dog," she recalls. "All the kids actually thought that I was a witch. I was really weird-looking and really just very messy."

Apple matter-of-factly relates her fifth grade introduction to the now-familiar world of therapy. "This one morning, we were all heading down to chapel and these eighth grade boys always used to say to me, 'Oh, aren't you upset that you don't look more like your sister?' I was so pissed off. I hated my sister, and I hated everybody, and I go, 'Aaaagh! I'm gonna kill myself and I'm going to bring my sister with me!'"

Instead of commiting either homicide or suicide, she found herself in the principal's office with her mother, who was told, "She's showing signs of depression and suicidal tendencies and we're going to send her in for psychiatric evaluation."

For years, throughout her childhood, Apple endured peer rejection, ink blots, family therapy, and even a rape at the age of twelve. The more one learns about her life, the easier it becomes to grasp why spending time alone seems to be the favored state for this young artist.

However, living a life inside one's head can make it difficult to understand how others perceive you. For Fiona, adjusting to life inside the fishbowl is one-part dream and one-part nightmare. When asked how she is adjusting to all the fuss and attention, she sighs and confesses, "With great difficulty."

Apple explains that as she began to discover her muse, she also began to feel awkward about her self-imposed solitude. "I was like, 'God, what is this doing to me? I'm becoming a hermit,'" she says, laughing at herself. "But I was talking to my ex-step-father and he was like, 'No, you were always like that.' He reminded me that I've just always liked to be by myself. I've always liked to stay up during the night hours when everyone else goes to sleep,

and just be by myself. I don't know why."

To make her current success even more difficult to deal with, is the fact that Apple isn't just a gifted musical artist, she's also

an ethereal beauty—the type that makes photographers and makeup artists salivate. Ironically, the subject of her image does not impress the young star. As a matter of fact, she goes much further than that when discussing her obvious contempt for the "bull-shit" aspect of the music business.

"Photo shoots are my pet peeve of life," she hisses passionately. "I hate them! I hate them! I hate them! I hate them! I hate them more than anything! It's like four hours of concentrated self-esteem breakdown—hours concentrated on appearance, when it has nothing to do with what I'm doing this for.

"People see me," she continues, "and they want to put glitter all over me and have me wear really, really stylish clothing, and I'm like, 'No, no, no, that's not me.'

"It's hard, because I feel like I have to constantly argue to protect my true image, my self-image, and I have to protect it without having a bad attitude—without coming off like I'm difficult to work with. But it ends up feeling like I'm betraying myself, because sometimes I just get so exhausted I'm like, 'Fine, put the fucking gold lipstick on, I don't care.' It's exhausting."

Exhausting, maybe, but not nearly as trying as cutting the album itself, which Apple describes as "the toughest thing I've ever done."

cians amidst a professional atmosphere—a toreign concept entirely.

"For me to be the only girl, the only teenager, in this room, with all these professionals, ten, twelve hours a day, with no escape [she doesn't drive], I was going crazy. I had nowhere to go by myself, and I have such a need to be by myself," she sighs. "I really hated going into the studio a lot of the time. It was incredible stress.

"At the beginning of this whole thing," she explains, "I was just like, 'Don't bring in people that are going to intimidate me.' They're all amazing players, and amazing people also, but I felt like 'All these people are here doing [producer/manager] Andy [Slater] a favor—nobody really likes me. I'm just this little kid, I have no experience, I can't keep tempo.'

"When we were tracking," she says without a hint of embarrassment, "it was a joke, because I'd fuck up and go, 'I suck!' We have so many outtake reels of me going, 'Fuck, I hate myself!'"

As a producer for the debut project, Slater, who handled the R.E.M./Warren Zevon collaboration, Hindu Love Gods, was the white cane for the otherwise blind rookie artist.

"He has such an incredible understanding of what I want," Apple says, with gushing admiration. "I'm going in [the studio], and I don't have any experience playing with a band, I don't know what a snare drum is, I don't know what a Chamberlain is, but I know what kind of feeling I want, and what kind of sound, and I have to describe it to him. [Andy] was so useful to me, to be able to translate it into musical language. I can never let myself take for granted the fact that I could just trust him and the musicians that I work with."

Still, the trust of one's manager, producer and friend is one thing; giving your trust to those you don't understand is another thing entirely.

Which brings us to the world of rock journalism, and the continual barrage of artistic comparisons that she

has had to endure from entertainment scribes, since the release of her album. You've heard them all before: Alanis Morissette, Tori Amos, Sade, Nina Simone, Laura Nyro, Kate Bush, P.J. Harvey, Tracy Bonham and Me'Shell Ndegéocello.

Certainly a worthy crowd to be connected with, nevertheless, the burgeoning talent bristles at the idea. "Isn't art all about individuality and seeing the world through

Fiona Apple 26 ▶

And don't bother leaving the light on 'Cause I suddenly feel like a different person From the roots of my soul come a gentle coercion And I ran my hand o'er a strange inversion A vacancy that just did not belong The child is gone



Beginning in October of last year, the recording of *Tidal* took four to five months—not including December, which Apple insisted on taking off for a much needed dose of New York.

The difficulty in making her first album seems to come from the fact that, with nothing but a brand new high school diploma to her credit, and private years alone in her room, Apple had to adjust to creating music with a roomful of strangers and musi-

#### **■** 25 Fiona Apple

someone else's perspective? Why do we have to put people in categories? Why am I having so much trouble fitting into a category? Why can't I be rock and hip-hop and

jazz and folk. Why can't I be all those things? Why can't it just be my music?" she questions, as her huge blue-green eyes reflect annoyed confusion.

Despite her bewilderment and feelings of irritation for the issue at hand, Apple does admit to savoring the Nina Simone reference, but she bows only slightly to the other previously mentioned comparisons.

"I think it's all

cool, like the stuff with Alanis and Tori Amos, and all that," she says. "I'm not offended by it, but I can't be.

"I seriously don't know their music," she maintains. "I don't have their albums. I've only heard the things that come at me from the radio. All of it hasn't really gotten to me, because I guess I'm really secure that I have my own thing going on. You just have to wait for people to realize it, sometimes. I haven't been insulted, yet."

With regards to the Morissette-isms, which every female artist that has appeared

You'll remember me
like a melody, yeah,
I'll haunt the world inside you
and my big secret
Gonna win you over
Slow like honey,
heavy with mood

on the scene in the past year has had to deal with, Apple resigns herself to the industry's process for initial introduction. "I think it's basically because we're young, and we're girls, and we're white, and we wear our hair down. It's just an easy thing.

"I don't know anything about this business," she adds, "but my instinct is that it's

not going to last. I'm not going to be Alanis's little sister forever. I think they're just doing that now, because I'm new and they need to kind of orient themselves, 'What is she like?'"

Of the three songs from the original demo that brought Apple her record deal only one, "Never Is A Promise," made it to the album, and because of that, it holds a special meaning.

"I have a special thing with 'Never Is A Promise,' because it's the only song I didn't write for the album," she explains. "I wrote it when I was fifteen, before I knew about any of this, before I even thought that I was going to try to do this.

"So, when I listen to it on the album," she says, obviously giving the issue some thought, "I listen to my voice and I know that that's the voice of somebody totally unsuspecting, totally unaware that there's any kind of prospect in the future."

Already, it seems like a long time ago.

When the interviewer offers to pick up the food tab, the young artist declines, purely on principle. "The last time I was here was the first time I heard ['Shadowboxer'] on the radio, and some ass changed the station."

With that, she stabs her fork into her dinner, rises to her feet and walks out, vowing never to ingest anything from the place again.







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# **Industry Insights From Top Attorneys**

#### By Bernard Baur

wsic attorneys are the lifeblood of the industry—or the bloodthirsty sharks, depending on who you talk to—but they are also as vital and important to your success (or your financial well-being) as your amp, microphone or guitar.

The problem is, you're a musician and all you really want to do is play your music—business affairs and contracts make your eyes glaze over, but the fact remains that if you are one of the few lucky ones to garner industry attention, then you are going to have to deal with it at some point in time. After all, it is called the music "business," right?

To help you in that transition, or to help alleviate your future concerns, MC spoke with a variety of those infamous suit-and-tie guys—from the seasoned veterans to the hungry rookies—and they told us what they felt were the most important things that you, as a musician, songwriter or artist, need to know about the wacky world of the music business.



**Choosing The Right Attorney** 

There are three characteristics your attorney must have to cut you a good deal: They must know the music business, contracts and how to negotiate them.

They don't teach that in law school, which is why sometimes a non-lawyer can negotiate you a better contract than some of the new or mid-level attorneys. Then, you would have to have a lawyer review the contract to check out the finer points. It's not recommended, but it's also not unheard of. Just try to make sure that anyone who does your deal really knows what they're doing. Simply put, a law degree is no guarantee.

Attorneys tend to come in three categories: New, Mid-Level and Top Guns. Years of experience, and who they may have represented in the past, are not always accurate indicators of who can cut the best deal for you.

With the Top Guns, you usually know about their client list before going in. Some at the top won't even accept new acts, so call and check it out first. But the important thing to remember is that who a lawyer has represented in the past, and what kind of deal they got, may not apply to your particular deal.

Generally speaking, Top Guns are more

consistent—but some may rely on the triedand-true philosophy when a more novel approach can get you the deal you want while Mid-level and Newcomers are a mixed bag.

The most important thing is that you must be sure that any attorney you choose understands how the music business works and how it relates to your contract. Have them explain it to you, so that you can understand it. If they can't, move on. Competent consel want their clients to know what they're signing.

While interviewing attorneys for this survey, one lawyer boasted about the great deal he just got his client, but when more questions were asked, it became painfully obvious that, in fact, the deal was hideous.

Hunting for the right attorney can be scary. So, be careful, ask questions, and, by all means, feel comfortable and confident with the person you choose to represent you and your career.

Make sure that you understand what's happening before you sign anything. The most competent lawyers will explain, in plain English, everything, even if you don't want to hear it. You may not get another shot, so choose your lawyer carefully.



**Attorney Fees** 

Attorneys aren't cheap. And, if you've ever seen a recording contract, you'll know why. Some are over 100 pages long, and all are filled with mumbo-jumbo legalese that even takes some lawyers two

or three readings to fully comprehend. With that said, attorneys will get paid one of three ways: Flat Fee, Hourly Rate or Percentage. (Most flat fees and all hourly rates require you to pay a retainer upfront of \$150 or more.)

#### <u>Flat Fee</u>

The flat fee should give you an understanding of what this job is worth. Currently, lawyers charge from \$10,000 to \$20,000 to negotiate a recording contract. Don't freak out! Most of the attorneys understand that the average musician does not have that kind of money, so they'll work with you.

#### **Hourly Rate**

The going hourly rate is anywhere from \$150 to \$450, so it's a good idea to negotiate a "cap," so that the attorney's fee doesn't get out of hand.

#### Percentage

A percentage is usually taken by an attorney who's very confident about the result. Their piece of the action will be anywhere from five to fifteen percent. What amount that percentage comes from is also negotiable, whether it's gross, net, advance money, recording fund or the full amount you're entitled to under the contract.

#### THREE

#### Demo Shopping



Most Top Gun attorneys will not shop your demo, as their time is largely spent on deals or litigation. Mid-level\_and newer attorneys usually will take on the demo shopping activities, if they like it and

believe that it's worth their time.

Anita Rivas of Walner & Rivas, attorneys for Butt Trumpet, says, "I have to love it, because I don't charge for shopping it. If it doesn't work out, I don't want to feel bad about taking the time I could have been paid for."

Top Gun attorney Eric Greenspan notes that he doesn't actively seek out clients in the clubs or accept unsolicited material: "I try not to, because I might like it, and I'm just too busy negotiating deals to shop something new."

However, a common trait among music attorneys is their love of music. All of them said that if an artist or band blew them away, they would talk to them.



#### Contract Within A Band

It's a good idea to have a contract drawn up between the members of a band, but it's also hardly ever done. Problems can, and do, arise when a member leaves or the

group splits up. Without a written contract, a group is really a partnership. Every member is entitled to use the band's name, and get a piece of the action, if a recording makes money.

Most lawyers suggest that a manager or an attorney should sit down with the group and discuss it. If the members try to do it themselves, it's sort of like a prenuptual agreement, and some of those involved may take offense to that.



#### Protecting Your Group Name

A group name is protected by a service mark, which is like a trademark, but is for services—like playing music. There is a common right that if the name is associated with

your group in a particular region, it's yours.

However, problems can occur if a band across the country has the same name. You can check out the names of touring bands in *The Billboard International Talent & Touring Directory*, or have a search done professionally, although it's pretty costly (from \$250 to \$1,000).

If you want absolute protection, you can register the name with the federal government by writing for an application to the United States Patent and Trademark office, or check out your Secretary of State's Trademark/Service Mark office.

MUSIC CONNECTION OCTOBER 14-OCTOBER 27, 1996

# SIX

#### **Self-Released CDs**

We all know the stories about Hootie & The Blowfish, the Dave Matthews Band and others who came to the attention of a record company through the sales of their self-released CDs, but the important point to remember is that the sales figures were record-

ed, usually through an independent distributor. Anita Rivas points out, "Bands must be pro-active to set them apart from the pack."

Recording a CD and putting it out on

show that the sales numbers are legitimate, you may create a buzz, and have some leverage when negotiating a contract. But if you expect a busy executive or A&R person to listen to your twelve-song CD, get real. Have a short three-song demo available.

If, however, you believe a CD is the only way to go, consider this: Among the attorneys interviewed, there's a division as to their usefulness. Veteran Don Engel says he "hasn't seen it work too well," while Donald Passman, the attorney involved in the R.E.M. and Janet Jackson multi-million dollar deals, points out that "even if you sell a few, it's better than flippin' burgers."

being expressed by more than one label.

On the opposite side of the coin, other attorneys like to wait, or even demand an otter, because it establishes the floor for negotiations—believing that if you send a proposal listing your demands, you give the label a ceiling from which they will negotiate down.

Like everything else, it really depends on your particular situation, and the attorney representing you. Everyone has their own negotiationg style. Some like to have the first word, others would rather wait. However, a proposal may be effective if you have several labels after you, in effect causing a bidding war, where there's always the possibility they will go above the numbers in the original proposal.

#### HERE'S YOUR MONEY

According to the attorneys MC spoke with, here are some of the numbers you may find in a typical record deal for a new act today, depending on the size of the label of course:



#### Major Label

Advance Money: Royalty Rate: Commitment: \$100,000 to \$300,000

12% to 14%

6 to 7 albums to be delivered by the artist 2 to 3 albums guaranteed release by the label

\$ 5

Major Independent Label (Those indies affiliated with major labels)

Advance Money: Royalty Rate \$50,000 to \$200,000 12% to 24%

Royalty Rate: Commitment:

3 to 4 albums to be delivered by the artist

1 to 2 albums guaranteed release by the label

s \$ s

True Independent Label (Indies who are not affiliated with mojor lobels)

Advance Money: Royalty Rate: \$2,500 to \$35,000

Royalty Rate: 12% to 50% Commitment: 2 to 3 albums

t: 2 to 3 albums to be delivered by the artist 1 to 2 albums guaranteed release by the label

your own, without any label affiliation, may be the rage today, but unless you do it right, it can be a waste of time and money. It's best to think of self-released CDs as a marketing tool, but without using a simple business plan, you probably won't get rich, or get a recording deal out of them. Many musicians believe that a ten or twelve song CD is a substitute for a demo. No way!

If you do sell well, and have some way to

# SEVEN

#### Dealing With Label Interest

There's a strong division and debate among lawyers on this issue. A few of the Top Guns like to get involved with drafting a proposal listing artist demands, as soon as a label

expresses interest, but hasn't yet made an official offer—especially if there's interest

#### $_{ m GHT}$ New Artist Deals



"A new artist never gets a fair deal," says Don Engel, attorney for Metallica, TLC and Nine Inch Nails. "They have no leverage, and some would pay the company to record them."

Eric Greenspan didn't go quite that far, but as the attorney for the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Stone Temple Pilots and the Lollapalooza Tour, he notes, "There is no average deal. They're all different. There are trends of deals, but this month's trend may not be next month's."

There is, however, one trend that's pretty consistent: All the lawyers agreed (a rare occurrence, indeed) that if you're a "hot" act with a big buzz, all bets are off and you can shoot for the moon. In fact, Gene Salomon, attorney for the Gin Blossoms and Korn, said, "It's really a two-class society out there—the hot acts and the rest."

Still, whether you're hot or not, there are some general rules that control the outcome of your deal. Greenspan explains that negotiating a record deal is actually a balancing act. And there are numerous factors to be considered—many more than this space allows—but the major points are: Short-Term Money (bigger advance with a lower royalty rate), Long-Term Money (smaller advance with a higher royalty rate) and Commitment (how many albums a label agrees to release).

Music Attorneys 36 ▶

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# Sean "Puffy" Combs:

By Gil Robertson

Step inside the metallic grey and black Courtney Sloane-designed offices of New York-based Bad Boy Entertainment and you feel like you've peeked into a glimpse of the future. Its minimalist and elegant galactic-like decor, however, is in stark contrast to the cacophony emanating from the feet and mouths of various staff and interns, who mill about like ants gathering their meal for the day.

Actually, the Bad Boy vibe is a combination of both; one which releases an energy of camaraderie akin to "the young guns" moniker its CEO and founder, Sean "Puffy" Combs, dubs himself with. The young staff feeds off the aforementioned Bad Boy mantra, plus the knowledge that they are a part of one of the hottest independent labels on the East Coast.

Having formulated and defined itself as a "money-making family" over the past four years, there is no question that the musical hybrid spewing from the Bad Boy camp—two parts hip-hop, one part soul and one part funk—combined with a non-threatening, albeit, 'I don't give a damn' attitude of the street, has swept through urban and suburban neighborhoods like an airborne virus infecting listening palettes to the point where anything sounding remotely different is repulsed.

The proof, however, of Bad Boy's success lies not just in the verbal and monetary acceptance of the urban market, but in the equivalent mainstream recognition that the independent label has received.

Last year, *Billboard* magazine ranked it as the Number One Rap Label with five charted singles, the Number Ten "Hot 100 Singles Label," the Number Four "Top R&B Label," the Number Nine "Top R&B Album Label," the Number Four "Hot R&B Singles Label," the Number Five "Hot Dance Music Label," and the Number One "Hot Dance Music Maxi-Single Label." The accolades were based upon the sales of Craig Mack, Notorious B.I.G., and Faith, the company's first three artist releases.

"Not many start-up labels come out of the gate batting a thousand," states Jeff Burroughs, Director of Marketing at Arista Records, the

# Bad Boy Makes Good



label that nationally distributes Bad Boy's music. "That kind of success speaks for itself, as they produce strong images and deliver hit after hit. [Combs] has his finger on the pulse of today's market," continues Burroughs. "Bad Boy has vision, they know what they want to say and they're saying it."

Mainstream success with urban artists is something Arista knows plenty about. The overwhelming success of pop-friendly R&B acts (Whitney Houston, Toni Braxton or TLC; the latter two are on LaFace) attest to the thoroughness and commitment of Arista's marketing, sales and promotion teams to the music they peddle.

With Arista having such an impressive track record with their own artists, then with independent labels LaFace and Rowdy Records, the marriage to Bad Boy, a label etched in grassroots promotional strategies, made a perfect match—one which gave Arista the ghetto credentials the label had yet to obtain with their previous acts. And in doing so, Arista has held a lock on R&B music—in all of its subdivisions—placing the label in an enviable position amongst its contemporaries.

But just three years ago, this tale of success would have belonged to MCA Records had Combs not been unceremoniously dismissed from his VP of A&R position at Uptown Records, an indie label distributed by MCA.

"I was considered the 'bad apple' of Uptown because I went against the grain," Combs says about the company where he honed his talents for five years. "However, if it wasn't for Uptown, I wouldn't be here today. They took a chance on me, but as time went on, Andre [Harrell] and I had a different position. After the split, every major system called me."

While many labels were interested, it was Arista's Clive Davis who sang the song Combs wanted to hear. The meeting between the two was implemented by L.A. Reid from LaFace. "L.A. played an instrumental role in my partnership with Arista," adds Combs. "I met him at one of the lowest points in my life and he supported me without question. He is like family to me."

The meeting with Davis provided Combs with a major label partnership and a license to be free to create. And therein lies the vision and its visionary. As a label executive and producer, Combs is in the enviable position to change the face of the art form as we know it. Picking up where Teddy Riley left off with "new jack swing," Combs has helped resuscitate the life of R&B, making it more accessible to a younger audience with the addition of hip-hop, while not alienating traditionalists.

The partnership between Arista and Bad Boy is such that Bad Boy whets the appetite of the urban market with their marketing strategies that create credence to the artist they are pro-

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—Sean "Puffy" Combs

moting. Step through the doors of any Bad Boy function and you'll see their street soldiers waving banners. handing out flyers and chanting the entertainment label's moniker like the rival gang in *The Outsiders*—beckoning everyone to come out and play.

"For the last three years we've always had a different edge," maintains Kirk Burrows, GM for Bad Boy. "We would do more than the noxt person. We worked on establishing identities through clothing, T-shirts and other promotional items. It's refreshing to work for a company like this, because in larger companies, there is a VP

of this and a VP of that, and it seems like it stands still. When they finally get a chance to shoot, the target has moved."

The innovation of Bad Boy that is lauded, appears to come from the fact that its CFO is constantly seen, according to Michelle Joyce, "with the heads on the street," and finding out what they like

Combs is also seen in the videos of his artists, dancing and having fun. He appears on tour dates, you hear him on wax and he greets the crowds of fans—who know his face and his name as much as they know the artists on Bad Boy Entertainment.

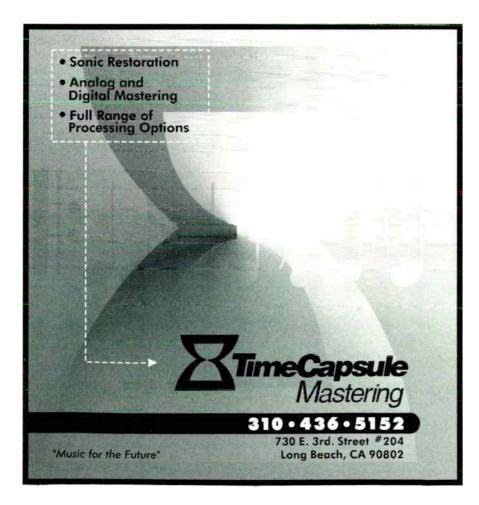
However, this in-your-face type of promotion has been a double-edged sword. While it gained notoriety for Combs and his company, it also solicited sneers, snickers and a lack of respect amongst peers. "There was initial resistance to take him as a serious business man in the beginning," admits Joyce. "[But now] he's starting to receive the respect that is owed to nim."

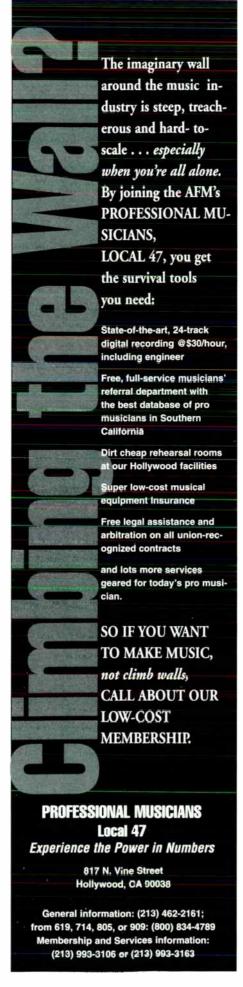
"Puffy keeps his ear to the street Ho's constantly researching," adds Kirk Burrows in his defense. "He's very aggressive."

That aggressiveness is a positive aspect of Combs' work ethic and personality. And if Generation X has a sound for their own claiming, the contribution or movement which Teddy Riley started, Combs has taken over and made his own, thanks to his unorthodox methods of achieving and sustaining success.

While it's often been said that bad boys are no good for you, in the case of Sean "Puffy" Combs being a 'bad boy' has been, well, all good—for him, his staff and the artists on Bad Boy and Arrestee Records.

For more information, contact Bad Boy Entertainment at 212-741-7070.





#### **■ 29 Music Attorneys**

#### Short-Term Vs. Long-Term Money

The important thing to understand is that there is no right or wrong answer when it comes to deciding which way to go on this issue. You should feel no shame in going for the short-term money, because the reality of the business is that less than ten percent of new acts signed to a record deal get to release more than an album or two. So, if you want to hedge your bet, you front-load the deal and go for the bucks.

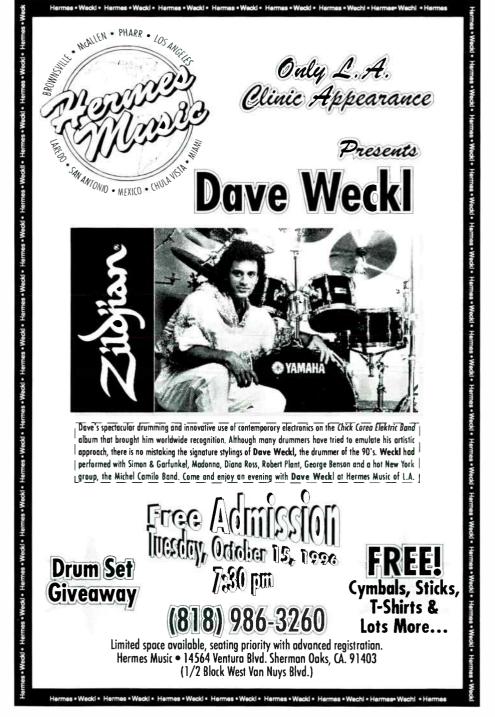
However, if you really believe in your music, you may want to shoot for a higher royalty rate and settle for an advance that might eliminate your day job. But remember that most of this advance money (whether small or large) is "recoupable," which simply means that until the label

earns back your advance through sales, you won't see a dime in royalties.

#### **Label Commitment**

Gary Stiffelman, attorney for Aerosmith, Dwight Yoakam and Michael Jackson, states that "no one wants to sign a two-album deal." The popular deal today is a three-album guarantee, but only the majors will consider it if you're a hot act. However, the indies are starting to fall in line since the Offspring jumped ship from Epitaph.

Most deals also include "Incentive Advances," which simply means that if you sell gold or platinum, you'll receive a larger advance on your next album. And, if you are a huge success, most labels will give you a "gift" or "bonus," or at the very least, they will renegotiate your contract after about three albums.



#### WHERE'D MY MONEY GO?

Once you sign your deal, don't buy that new car just yet. Here is a basic example of what will generally happen to your advance, before you even see the money. Of course, it depends on how many people are in the group and the number of people on your music team, which usually consists of a manager, attorney, agent and maybe a business manager.

Let's say you're in a four-piece band, and have the bare minimum business team around you—a manager, an attorney and an agent. Then, let's say your band is a hot prospect, and some major label loves you, and you've signed an incredible \$1.5 million deal, with a \$300,000 advance. Life's pretty good, right?

Well, before you think you've hit the promised land, let's do a little math, and see what you may ultimately end up with:



Attorney 5% = \$15,000 Agent 10% = \$30,000 Manager 15% = \$45,000

That's \$90,000 right off the top (using the lower percentages). Now, you divide the remaining \$210,000 by the four members in the group, if you all share in it equally. This comes to \$52,500 per person, but before you quit your day job, remember that you still haven't paid Uncle Sam, and he will definitely know about this transaction.

After all is said and done, you'll probably end up with somewhere around \$35,000, and your album probably won't come out for a year or longer, so that money has got to last you until your next payday (if you ever get one).

# NINE

#### Understanding Your Contract

Everybody likes to at least hold their first record deal contract in their hands, while stars glisten in their eyes. But only one lawyer we spoke to had a client who actually took

it home and read it. What the client really understood remains a mystery, but the attorney did notice that his client did ask more detailed and sophisticated questions when they spoke afterwards.

According to some label attorneys, there are some lawyers who have never read every page themselves. In fact, many label attorneys receive phone calls from other attorneys asking them what a particular provision means.

This is more understandable if you ever check out a recording contract. Record companies respond to every little injury they've ever received in their history by inserting another clause into their contracts. So, what you'll see is a paragraph beginning with an introduction and then 30 or 40 clauses, bracketed by commas that condition, restrict, limit, qualify and otherwise pick away at everything the first and last part of the paragraph gives you.

Indies are no better. They flat out steal from the major label contracts and piece them together like Frankenstein's monster.

Many provisions they include don't even apply to their operations, but they've also learned that it frequently gets them more money. So, if you think that an indie label is more musician friendly, don't be fooled when it comes to your contract.



### **Pursuit Of Publishing**

When to look into getting a publishing deal is the one issue that caused the strongest division and debate among the attorneys. Publishers adminster the copyright of your song by licensing it to record

companies, print music publishers, film and television, and any other medium that may exploit it for licensing fees. For this service, publishers traditionally get 50 percent of any income generated.

Donald Passman says, "You should hold on to your publishing rights as long as possible. After you sign a recording contract and have any measure of success, you'll be able to cut a much better deal with a publisher-getting a bigger advance and more favorable terms."

Danny Hayes, attorney for Hunger, Haze and A&M Records, admits to pros and cons of signing a publishing deal early on, but advises struggling artists to do so. "A publishing deal can be a great advantage to an artist. The artist will get some money, maybe get financial help making a demo, and can utilize a good publisher's contacts and connections in the music industry." The most recent example often cited is Alanis Morissette, who, as a songwriterartist signed to MCA Music Publishing, was hooked up with writer-producer Glen Ballard, and the rest is Grammy history.

Publishing advances can start at less than \$10,000 and rise beyond \$100,000. The hot new prospect can generally expect, at this point in time, anywhere from \$10,000 to \$35,000 "It really comes down to whether you're looking for short-term money or longevity and long-term benefits," explains Don Engel.

In other words, if you really need the bucks, you might consider it. But, if you can hold out, the advantage can be great.

# **ELEVEN**



### The Royalty Wait

How long will a non-songwriting musician have to wait for a royalty payment? The answer is quite simple: A long time. If you're a band member and you don't write songs, you'll make most of your

money touring, playing gigs, merchandising and any other way the band has figured out to make a few bucks while waiting for the royalties to kick in. Even the songwriters, if they've signed a publishing deal with an advance, will have to wait until it's recouped before they see any money.

You really shouldn't count on royalties for your income, because not only are they a long time in coming, but the accounting procedures and deductions used by all the labels cut into your royalties pretty heavily.

In fact, it is not uncommon for a group to sell gold, and still not receive any royalties.



How long a label can hold you under your contract is another concern for all artists. You agreed to deliver a certain number of albums under the contract, and as long as

the label fulfills their obliga-

Free Agency

tions, you must fulfill yours. However, California has a seven-year statute that says you can't be held to a personal services contract beyond that time.

What usually happens if you are a couple of albums shy, and that time period is approaching, is the the label will renegotiate your contract, starting the whole time

period all over again. Some acts manage to deliver their albums right on schedule and beat the clock, and do not renegotiate their deal while they're still under the original contract. And that's how you get free agency, and multi-million dollar megadeals like Metallica, R.E.M., Janet Jackson, etc. Of course, what they all have in common, besides a good work ethic, is that they sell records. Jots of 'em.

Bernard Baur is a former music industry attorney, who is currently Director of Management and Business Affairs for an entertainment/management company in Southern California.

(The opinions expressed in this article may or may not reflect the views of Music Connection, Inc.)



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Republica
Label: deconstruction/RCA Records Management/Contact: David James, Diane Wagg, Rise Management Address: Studio 223 A, Canalot Productions, 222 Kensal Rd., London, W10 Booking: Little Big Man Booking Band members: Saffron, Andy Todd,

Tim Dorney.

Type of music: Alternative Rock Date signed: November, 1995 A&R Rep: Dave Novik

f you think about such concrete concepts as the speed of sound, relativity, gravity, and so on, you'll find all these theories may be empirically grounded. There is no randomness or variables involved. Not so in seeking out the formula in landing a record deal. Logic is replaced by luck and creativity nudges out the x-quotient.

Such was the case with Republica, a fivepiece band based in England, which recently signed with deconstruction, a tentacle of the huge BMG recording octopus. According to Saffron, the quintet's alluring singer and frontpiece, what gave this particular unit a leg up on its competition was the fact that she had established a connection with the label years earlier.

"I had a relationship with deconstruction. They started off as a small label, releasing dance and alternative music, and I was with a band called N-Joi.'

Saffron kept these lines of communication open, and after writing but one song, the label signed them. It was simply a piece of the crucial networking puzzle—when you find someone interested in your music, stay in touch.

What Saffron attempted to explain was that so many bands, starved for attention and just that minute amount of respect, dive into the first deal offered. "I know it's very hard for bands because they go with any record company who shows interest and that may not be the right decision. I know a lot of record companies expect you to have releases right away, and have a hit. It's very, very difficult for new bands.'

This ties in with what may be the most essential component—be the master of your domain. Take as much control out of the hands of nonband members as you can. Take that job as a phone salesman, work part-time in the local quitar shop, and release your own CD.

Summing things up, Saffron merely says, "At any time, there are always great bands out there. I think everyone has their time and place. If you believe in yourself and what you do, that comes across and people will see it. I think that no matter how long it takes, if you want it --- Śteve Rosen enough, you'll get it.



### **BR5-49**

Label: Arista Nashville Management/Contact: Barry Coburn,

Ten Ten Management

Address: 33 Music Square West, Suite

110, Nashville TN 37203 Phone: 615-255-9955 Booking: Ron Baird, CAA

Legal Rep: David Wycoff, Nashville Band Members: Don Herron, "Smilin" Jay McDowell, Chuck Mead, "Hawk"

Shaw Wilson, Gary Bennett.

Type of Music: Hillbilly-eclectic & bizarre

Date Signed: October, 1995

A&R Rep: Jim Sherer

he fact that Arista Nashville signed a hillbilly band is strage enough. The fact that this outfit spent the last two years playing at Robert's Western Wear makes this signing story even more miraculous. It started on April Fools Day in 1990, when all five of the members first set foot onstage together.

Coming from all over the U.S., the five members of BR5-49 hooked up in Nashville. A half block is all that remains of Nashville's glorious honky tonk past, and it has revived itself and given birth to a whole new contemporary underground music scene that is far removed from the wheeling and dealing of Music Row.

Their rise to fame was a slow and steady process that involved grabbing the attention of the industry folks who came into Robert's to buy a pair of boots or have a brew at the bar.

Chuck Mead says, "We didn't go through [the signing process] the conventional way. A Billboard article came out about us. We were on the cover of Billboard and we didn't have a record, but we were making things happen down at Robert's." A demo soon followed.

Arista's VP of A&R Jim Scherer had been to

Robert's to see the band. According to stickman Shaw Wilson, "Jim had come in earlier [prior to the demo release]." Liking what he heard. Scherer returned and eventually threw Arista's hat into the ring, but by that time there were nine other labels vying for BR5-49's traditional hillbilly sound.

Taking up the story, Mead says, "We went down to Robert's and played a show for the Arista people. Everybody showed up, the entire crew-58 out of 60.

Recalling that night, Don Herron adds, "They were all really into it. [Arista President Tim DuBois] said, 'We're going to do it,' and he's never done that before."

Admittedly, it all sounds like a fairy tale, or at least a Hollywood movie, but BR5-49 is one group that believe that there is room for everyone in the music business, even pickers who got their deal while playing in the front window of Robert's Western Wear on lower Broad in Nashville. After all, miracles do happen.

-Jana Pendragon



### Pluto

Label: Virgin Management/contact: Mick Brigden,

Bill Graham Management Address: 260 Fifth St., Second Floor,

San Francisco, CA 94103 Phone: 415-541-4900 Booking: The Agency Group

Band members: lan Jones, John Ounpuu, Rolf Hetherington, Justin Leigh. Type of music: Alternative Rock Date signed: October, 1995

A&R Rep: Geoff Kulawick

n their first practice session in 1993, Pluto wrote two songs. In less than a month, they had recorded the songs and released them as a 7" on their own Popgun label. More singles were to follow for independent labels Mint and Shake. (Mint would also release the band's first full length album, Cool Way To Feel, in the spring of 1995.)

Cool Way To Feel was a way-cool record, at least to Canadians. The Vancouver B.C. guartet had made quite a name for itself by the time the full length album showed up in stores. In particular, their songs were favorites on college radio. The problem was that no one in America had ever heard of the band, much less its recordings.

It wasn't from lack of trying that their name meant absolutely nothing to households in the States—other than being a neighboring planet or a dog who hung out with Mickey Mouse. Still, plenty of big name recording artists had heard of Pluto. On their own turf, the band played gigs with Everclear and the Flaming Lips and toured with Pansy Division and Cracker.

That was likely the key to their eventual deal with Virgin. "We've always tried to tour as much as we could possibly afford to," says guitarist and vocalist lan Jones. "We garnered a buzz and eventually got people to our shows.

Jones isn't too sure when or where Virgin A&R rep Geoff Kulawick first showed up, but he knows that he did. The band, which Jones said, "always had a misconception we wanted to be on Geffen," were taken in by Virgin's international focus and on the focus of the individual staff members. "We talked to other people at other labels, but we liked what Geoff had to say," says Jones.

Signing with Virgin was particularly painless because the deal let the band do what they wanted. The main thing Pluto wanted to do for their eponymous big label debut (it was preceded by a four-song EP entitled Cut And Paste) was to fix Cool Way To Feel.

"It never got mixed properly because we originally mixed it in 24 hours," Jones explains. 'So for the new record we took six songs from Cool Way To Feel. We picked our favorite

Now that the signing wars are over, Pluto is ready to get down to the business of having fun. "For us, music isn't about wallowing in the negative," explains bassist/vocalist John Ounpuu. "It's a release—something that goes bevond all that."

—Tom Kidd



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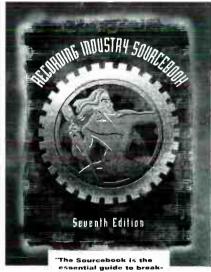
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Tracy Todd Contact: Artist Hot Line 818-843-5020 Seeking: Label Deal Type of music: Jazz



Stephen Lage Contact: Artist Hot Line 310-202-0437 Seeking: Label Deal Type of music: Country



Tamberli Rae Contact: Artist Hot Line 213-876-6889 Seeking: Label Deal Type of music: Country



Smoke "N" Burn Contact: Wide World Mgmt. 805-965-3747 Seeking: Label Deal Type of music: Rock

Production
Lyrics
Music
Vocals
Musicianship
Average
00000000000

Comments: Backed by impressive musical talent, Todd shows off the necessary subtle vocal style of a jazzy lounge singer. While she didn't include any original compositions of her own, she does have what it takes as a jazz vocalist, and with the support of these talented musicians, Todd seems to have a recording future indeed.

Production
Lyrics
Music6
Vocals
Musicianshlp
Average
00000000000

Comments: Lage's voice isn't his strongest suit, which is why we see a much better shot for a publishing deal. Writing (and creative packaging) is where he shines, although his chops as a musician are strong as well. The songs have memorable melodies and catchy lyric. Lage looks to be a songwriter waiting to be discovered.

_
Production
Lyrics
Music
Vocals
Musicianship6
Average
000000000

Comments: With her wispy voice. Rae fails to captivate, and she doesn't match the intensity of the rockin' band that backs her up. The music that she writes is nothing new, but it shows promise. The problem is on the lyrical end where she writes with cliches, and her forced vocal phrasing doesn't help matters. Not ready yet.

Production
Lyrics
Music4
Vocals
Musicianship5
Average

00000000000

Comments: This Santa Barbara outfit is probably an engaging live act, but what comes across here is a band that's having too much fun to really care about what they're doing. They fail in the songwriting and vocal areas, and are not ready for industry attention with this demo, but a lot can be said for just having a good time.



Hawk & Jones Contact: Longhorn Mgmt. 818-904-9400 Seeking: Label Deal Type of music: Country



Chris Roseberry
Contact: Artist Hot Line
818-781-3569
Seeking: Label Deal
Type of music: Rock



Eve's Life Contact: Artist Hot Line 212-697-5211 Seeking: Label Deal Type of music: R&B

Production
Lyrics
Music
Vocals
Musicianship
Average

# 00000000000

Comments: "Here Today, Gone Tomorrow" is a seductive single, and there's also some catchy West Coast boot-scootin' barroom rock mixed with saccharine ballads. While there's no groundbreaking material, and the vocals aren't of a stellar quality, there's no reason why these guys don't at least have a deal.

Production
Lyrics
Music
Vocals
Musicianship
Average

0000000000

Comments: Roseberry has a way with writing melodies, but the focus of his material is questionable, as he moves from alternative rock to an A/C pop ballad. In fact, the one ballad was actually a little stronger than the opening rocker. A talented artist, but this demo is unfocused. Don't hedge your bets, be firm in your artistry.

Production4
Lyrics
Music
Vocals
Musicianship
Average
0000000000

Comments: While this is a pleasant enough sounding demo, the Seventies-styled soul ultimately misses the mark. There are nice grooves, but they fail to match that aspect with any of the other vital elements—vocals, lyrics and production. Their future might be in songwriting or production, rather than as artists.

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Send package to: Demo Critiques c/o Music Connection, 4731 Laurel Cyn. Blvd., N. Hollywood, CA 91607. All submissions should include the following four items:

- 1. Cassette tape with no more than three songs
- 2. Unscreened black & white photograph (no larger than 8x10)
- 3. Brief biography with a contact name and phone number
- 4. Lyric sheet

Send us the identical package you plan to send out to the A&R community, management companies, publishers and attorneys. All of your packages are selected at random and reviewed by an executive committee. Packages are not selected in advance, but rather, at the very time they are to be critiqued for a given issue. All submissions become the property of *Music Connection* and will not be returned. Because of the tremendous amount of packages we receive, we unfortunately cannot guarantee that each and every demo tape or CD will be reviewed. Submissions for Disc Reviews should also be sent to the same address. If you are submitting an indie CD for review, please let us know how one can purchase your product so we can pass that important information on to our readers. Once again, we cannot guarantee that every submission will be reviewed.

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The Braxtons So Many Ways Atlantic

00000000000



Robyn Hitchcock Moss Elixir Warner Bros.

00000000000



The Marilyns Fumbled By Karma Tremor Records

00000000000



Trisha Yearwood Everybody Knows

00000000000

Producer: Various

Top Cuts: "Slow Flow," "Only Love," "I'd Still Say Yes."

Summary: Yes, these Braxtons are related to the Braxton, and Toni's sisters—Trina, Towanda and Tamar-aim for a similarly lush, cool vibe, dripping passion and late night slow dance numbers all over the place a la SWV. Vocally, they are not quite as deep and memorable as their sibling, but they can hold their own. It's the material that falters at times. As with any of these similar female soul projects, however, the problem is simply a lack of true tempo variation. They're good, but their sis is the real deal.

-Nicole DeYouna

Producer: Robyn Hitchcock

Top Cuts: "Sinister But She Was Happy," "Man With a Woman's Shadow."

Summary: Once you get past the longwinded but entertaining entering the afterlife liner notes, this is a quirky collection whose surprises just keep growing on you (and in a nicer way than moss!). Combining a distinctly Sixties Brit vibe with a modern, alternative, even industrial edge, Hitchcock weaves hypnotic hooks and odd storylines that make each tune, no matter how brief, a story worth telling many times. Hitchcock's best trait is his constant tempo variation. The only guarantee is you'll never be bored.

–Jonathan Widran

Producer: Rusty McFarland and the Marilyns

Top Cuts: "Fact Is Stranger," "Fear Of Clowns," "This Mess."

Summary: This veteran quartet from Memphis doesn't wear the Blue Suede Shoes that made Elvis the King of that territory, instead playing alternative pop-rock that is at times invigorating and at others run-of-the-mill. The all-girl outfit is now co-ed, mixing Sixties garagepop sensibilities with new wave energy reflecting Blondie or the Go-Gos. but with much more punch. Harmless, bouncy alternative pop-rock that would have found an audience ten years ago, but now...who knows?

-Ernie Dean

Producer: Garth Fundis

Top Cuts: "Believe Me Baby (I "Everybody Knows," Lover Is Forever.

Summary: Be forewarned, this is not a country music album. Like her heroine, Linda Ronstadt, Yearwood seems to do best when she is in that middle-of-the-road place that appeals softly and gently to the masses. Unlike her barnyard break through single, Yearwood shows very little affinity to the C&W genre here. While she has her moments, there is nothing that reaches out and demands your attention. This is mostly a series of pop tunes with very little grit. Still, her voice is in fine form

-Jana Pendragon



Gabrielle Gabrielle Island

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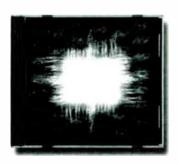
Susanna Hoffs Susanna Hoffs London Recordings

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Travis Tritt The Restless Kind Warner Bros.

00000000000



Tool Aenima Zoo

00000000000

Producer: Trevor Horn and others Top Cuts: "There She Goes," "Forget About The World," "Have You Ever Wondered," "People May Come."

Summary: Following on the success of her single, "Give Me A Little More Time," which is a huge hit with the dance crowds both overseas and domestically, Gabrielle's self titled album is masterfully tracked and well produced. The London Session Orchestra, incorporated on various tracks, helps add a richness to the album's appeal, but this album isn't a big dance album-it is smooth and laid back. Still, regardless of that fact, this album is entertaining enough to be a good buy.

-Michael Hill

Producer: David Baerwald, Jack Joseph Puig, David Kitay and others.

Top Cuts: "All I Want," "Falling." Summary: The former Bangle returns after a five-year absence, with her second solo outing, far and away stronger than her first. While that may not say much, the truth is that collaborating with such songwriters as David Baerwald, David Lowery. David Kitay and former Go-Go Charlotte Caffey has resulted in some material that rivals anything Hoffs did with her previous band. While her voice is still limited with its "little girl" lilt, there are some adventuresome moments that re-establish her as a viable artist, albeit not a platinum act like the band she left. -Charlie Ray

Producer: Don Was & Travis Tritt Top Cuts: "Restless Kind," "Did You Fall Far Enough," "Sack Full of Stones."

Summary: Tritt is an artist of substance who refuses to be molded into some MBA's ideal country singer. This release puts all the creative pieces together and gives the listener a clear picture of a legend in the making. With Was at the helm, the production is just enough, never too much. Support comes from Marty Stuart, Mike Henderson, Lari White and others. With tradition in mind, Tritt and Was have created a disc that firmly places the artist on his own path outside of Nashville. And yes, Hank would be -Jana Pendragon proud.

Producer: David Bottrill Top Cuts: "Eulogy."

Summary: Tool continues to pump driving beats with a hard edge on their latest release, not quite hitting the metal plateau, but coming very close. The songs are solid, though there may not be any pieces that are going to stick in your head on the first listen, which isn't necessarily a bad thing—if it draws you to listen again, looking for something to latch on to. The best news is that the album is extremely well produced, which always makes listening to hard-edged music a bit more palatable. Not quite Grammy material, but a solid effort with a lot of energy that should keep the band's fans happy. -Michael Harris

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#### ROCK



**Fishbone** 

Fishbone recently performed at the House Of Blues, and showed once again why this is still one of the best live shows anywhere. Angelo performs with such manic delight and really revs up the crowd, as the music keeps everybody's feet moving. This band has an energy level that bands half their age wish they could match. So, keep up the good work, as this is what rock & roll is all about.

They Might Be Giants had the problem of John Linnell having no voice when they recently played the House Of Blues, but with the help of the lead singer from the opening band, The Candybutchers, and special assistance from Frank Black, they did manage to put on a great show. This is another of those bands that will probably always be associated with the Eighties, but they are still producing fine music and the creative quality hasn't dropped one bit.

James Taylor brought his son onstage at his Universal Amphitheatre show and they traded verses on Lowell George's "Dixie Chicken." This capped a very good show by this veteran performer, who seems to have more energy than ever.

Local blues star Kal David also played a fiery set at B.B. King's Blues Club. His band has unusual instrumentation, featuring a bassless trio with a Hammond B3, drums and a female vocalist.

Two local club notes. First, it looks like the Club Lingerie is going to reopen. The booker will be Tequila Mockingbird. Stay tuned for an opening date. Second, if you have nowhere to go on Thursday nights, you might want to check out Hollywood Moguls, where Mary Nixon is bringing some of the finer local alternative bands, and all for free.

Several very fine CDs have come out. The first is the second collection of blues from House Of Blues Music called Essential Blues 2. Next, is a compilation album of bands from Athens, Georgia called Five Ring Circus on Flip Records. Some very good cuts, including a live R.E.M. track. Also, Primus bass player Les Claypool and the Holy Mackerel have released an album on Interscope called Highball With The Devil. A very fun disc. Last, but not least, is Lynn Miles' album Slightly Haunted on Philo. This is a great collection of sensitive and introspective sonas.

A couple of shows to check out. One is the Blasters and Rod Piazza & The Mighty Flyers at the House Of Blues on October 19th. If you have never seen or heard of Rod Piazza, go check him out, as he is one of the finest entertainers in the world.

—Jon Pepper



**Buck Owens** 

Buck Owens recently did a surprise show at the Crazy Horse in Santa Ana. While very few knew about the event, those connected to the Bakersfield Renaissance had an inside line, and showed up in droves to support Buck and his band, the Buckaroos. For twoand-a-half hours Buck entertained a full house of enthusiastic fans. Look for more live performances from this Bakersfield legend and recent inductee into the Country Music Hall Of Fame, after the opening of Buck Owens' Crystal Palace Museum and Theatre, sometime in late October. You can expect to see queen Bonnie Owens, Merle and Dwight at that event.

Longtime Buck fans, BR5-49, rode through town and did a showcase at LunaPark. This hip bunch are big fans of Merle, Johnny Horton and Red Simpson, too. In fact, their man of steel, Don Herron, lived and played in Bakersfield a while back. One of their current West Coast favorites is Big Sandy & His Fly Rite Boys. This band really loves the music they make and it shows. Look for them the next time they come to town. They may even show up in Bakersfield. Check out their new selftitled debut CD on Arista.

Another guest to our fair city in recent weeks was Billy Ray Cyrus. Like Travis Tritt, whose current release was recorded and produced here by top producer Don Was, Cyrus is breaking away from the pop schlock format. His new disc, Trail of Tears, is very traditional and heartfelt. Always a grand performer, Billy Ray did a lively acoustic set at the new Billboard Live club on Sunset. His mandolin player, Michael Joe Sagraves, is inspirational. This project should bring Billy and his band the respect they deserve. Mercury Nashville is Billy's label.

Another enlightened soul, Charlie of Shanty Town Productions, has turned Tuesday nights into something special at the Foothill. Roots and C&W are her specialties. Recent guests

included Wayne "The Train" Hancock, Ronnie Dawson and one of Germany's best touring bands, the Speedos. Look for more good stuff from Charlie. You can call her at 310-434-9936, and plan on making it down to the Foothill on Tuesdays.

The country rock format seems to be catching on again. The City of Angels is now home to three very diverse country rock bands: Rio Grande, Kacey Lee & Trouble Train and Hawk & Jones. Bakersfield-based Hawk & Jones have already won over a number of radio listeners with a Number One off their current disc, Honky Tonk Highway. This outfit is on the road, but hopefully they will do a gig in L.A. very soon. Write to Hawk & Jones at 2621 Oswell, Suite 109-133, Bakersfield, CA 93306.

The Ash Grove was the spot for a special Bill Monroe Tribute. Jim Lauderdale, a bluegrasser from way back, opened the night. Local bluegrass band the Laurel Canyon Ramblers followed. Led by the peerless Bill Bryson and Herb Pedersen, they paid a worthy tribute to the recent passing of Monroe, the father of bluegrass music

Willie Nelson is putting together Farm Aid '96. Slated for October 26 at Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, South Carolina, John Mellencamp and Neil Young will also be there. Guests include John Conlee, the Beach Boys, Jewel, Hootie & The Blowfish, and—at Nelson's request—Marshall Chapman. TNN will broadcast the event across North America starting at 6:00 p.m. (EST). Contact Jerry Bailey at 615-871-6995 to find out more.

Finally, after weeks of rumors, Jacks Sugar Shack has announced that Ronnie Mack's Barn Dance is now on "indefinite hiatus." Mack, who has been running the weekly showcase for the past eight years, is taking an extended vacation. Mack started his Barn Dance, along with James Intveld, at the now-defunct Little Nashville, before moving it to the Palomino and then to Jacks. The final outcome of this decision remains to be seen.

—Jana Pendragon



"Charlie" from Shanty Town Productions with Big Sandy.





**Lalo Schifrin** 

At 39, the Monterey Jazz Festival, under the direction of Tim Jackson, continues to improve each year. Held the third weekend of September, at Monterey Fairgrounds, the Festival features top-notch music simultaneously at four different venues. Its 30 hours of music (120 if one counts all of the stages) always contains dozens of highpoints. By constantly running, I was able to catch at least a glimpse of nearly every group performing.

Jon Hendricks presented his classic Evolution Of The Blues show (with guest spots for Joe Williams and Dianne Reeves) for the first time in 20 years. Pianist Jon Jang's sextet mixed together avant-garde jazz with his Chinese heritage, featuring David Murray on tenor, James Newton on flute, and Chen Jiebing on the haunting erhu.

Several performers appeared in different settings, most notably tenor-saxophonist Joshua Redman and trumpeter Roy Hargrove, who both served as artists-in-residence. Howard Johnson's Gravity (a remarkable unit consisting of piano, bass, drums and



**Howard Johnson** 

six tubas) showed that the tuba could be an unexpected high note instrument, and Herbie Hancock played acoustic jazz with his quartet (featuring the tenor of Craig Handy). Jon Faddis' Carnegie Hall Jazz Band did a much better job of interpreting Lalo Schifrin's "Gillespiana" than they had at the Playboy Jazz Festival last June; Monterey's excellent sound (as opposed to the Hollywood Bowl) certainly helped.

Of the L.A. musicians, Billy Mitchell's group with John Bolivar emphasized soulful bebop, young tenor great Robert Stewart honked and screamed his way through a spirited trio set with organist Ed Kelly, while pianist Billy Childs was heard playing exciting duets with trumpeter Hargrove.

Saturday afternoon is traditionally dedicated to the blues (this year Johnny Nocturne, Taj Mahal, Irma Thomas, Otis Clay and Smokey Wilson were the main stars, although harmonica whiz Andy Santana was most memorable), while Sunday afternoon is dominated by college and high school bands, but for the first time the two nightclubs also featured major jazz groups during the day. Among the daytime highpoints were the Alice Arts Center Jazz Orchestra (an exciting big band led by Mike Vax) and brilliant pianist Jessica Williams.

And that was not all. Dave Douglas' fascinating String Group matched the trumpeter in an adventurous quintet, with violinist Mark Feldman, cello, bass and drums. The wonderful singer Kitty Margolis swung her way through an enthusiastic set. Cedar Walton and Eastern Rebellion debuted his "Autumn Sketches" (which featured a string section), the Yellowjackets and George Benson had enthusiastic crowds, and Leon Parker, with his stripped-down drum set, was one of the hits of the weekend. Whew! -Scott Yanow





**Darius McCrary** 

The big news in the urban community continues to be the mystery surrounding the shooting death of Death Row recording artist Tupac Shakur. Although many feared that the rapper's death would further exacerbate the choas that exists between various rap factions, the opposite has occurred, with many high-profile rappers from both the West and East Coast mourning the rapper's demise, and calling for an end to the senseless violence affecting the genre. By the way, sales of Shakur's entire catalog have skyrocketed, with some retailers predicting that his most recent release will surpass the ten million sales mark.

The other big news in the community is the closing of the Perspective Records label. Founded by Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis in 1990, the A&M-distributed label had been the home to an impressive array of urban talents, whose music encompassed the complete spectrum of the R&B art form. Although the label consistently issued recordings that were met with critical praise, commercially the label failed to deliver on the expectations of its foreign owners. While no official reason was forthcoming from the label's representatives, it's believed that three of Perspective's top performers (MInt Condition, Solo and Ann Nesby) will be absorbed into the A&M camp.

Upcoming events for "Players Night" at the House Of Blues include a birthday bash for KCBS newscaster Jim Hill on October 20, an Oscar De La Hoya Night, the College World Party '96 on November 23, and a reunion celebration for New Edition in early December. "Players Night" is a monthly event presented by HOB Sports, a full-service marketing enterprise designed to further develop the natural kinship between professional athletes, entertainers and the corporate world.

Another popular music industry hotspot is the **Beverly Club**, a new and exclusive bistro/club that has been attracting a stellar lineup of industry insiders. With an elegant dining room, and a revolving entertainment lineup, the Beverly Club is the place to go to have a good meal and enjoy a night out. Artists looking for information on booking can contact **Makeda** at 818-848-6056.

The Atlas Bar & Grill, in the mid-Wilshire district, has become a meeting place for musicians to showcase their talents. Darius McCrary, from the TV series Family Matters, recently featured a set of new material from his upcoming album, that left the crowd wanting more. For more showcase information, you can call Phatt Jazzy Productions at 818-753-0319

Veteran recording industry executive Eddie Pugh recently released the debut recordings from his two new labels, Our Turn and God's Turn Records. Initial releases include a gospel recording from Pugh's daughter, Inger Reid, entitled "He's My Everything," plus still untitled releases from the pop/R&B group Final Four and the rap group Ultra (formerly known as Ultramagnetic). Demo submissions for both labels can be sent to Pugh at 27520 Sierra Highway, Canyon Country, —Gil Robertson



Perspective Records' Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis

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# CLUB REVIEWS



The Rhinestone Homeboys: A class act all the way.

# The Rhinestone Homeboys

Jacks Sugar Shack Hollywood

Contact: Mel Harker: 310-827-

The Players: Mel Harker, vocals, bass; John David, vocals, lead guitar; Matt Betton, drums.

Material9
Vocals
Musicianship
Performance



This is another L.A. favorite with all the right chops. Fronted by three of the hippest cowboys the City of Angels has to offer, the Rhinestone Homeboys are, above all else, entertainers. But, when the neon is turned off and everyone goes home, the three principles metamorphose into songwriters with flair. Never will any listener mistake a Homeboy song for something by someone else. Distinctive is the key. Such crowd pleasers as "Highway Lovin'," Left My Boots," "Cowboy Jazz" and the breezy "What A Way To Go," all display this quality with a touch of spice. Like Bob Wills, the Sons of the Pioneers and other C&W artists with an eclectic bent, the Rhinestone Homeboys draw their inspiration from a wide variety of influences including blues, jazz, roots rock and traditional C&W. It is how they combine these multifaceted influences that astounds and amazes. Very original and thoughtful.

As for musicianship, John David is one of the finest lead players anywhere. Just fancy enough to call attention to his abundance of talent, David moves flawlessly and with precision as he keeps pace with his extroverted cohorts and their on-stage shenanigans. David Jackson has never been shy on stage or anywhere else. A steady bassman who leads a double life as a comic, Jackson helps to create the mood with his playing and his

vocals. Smooth and cool, his singing on "Cowboy Jazz" is most fitting. Mel Harker, a genius of sorts, completes the fronting threesome. A devastatingly charismatic figure, Harker is mesmerizing as he plays off of Jackson and David. A musician of energy, he is always in control. As for the long forgotten drummer, Betton filled in on this particular occasion for Steve Duncan, who can often be found keeping time at the back of the stage for the 'boys. Betton, another seasoned player, didn't miss a beat and added a dash of excitement to the mix.

I've yet to see or hear about a less-than-successful Homeboys performance. Always prepared, this is another band that comes alive in front of a live crowd. Very accessible and easy to watch, the Homeboys are very good at what they do. Audiences are drawn in by the fellowship and the music, and stay because it is such a good time. Performance highlights this time included the Reeva Hunter/ Mel Harker honky tonk song, "It's Closin' Time" and the encore performance of Tom Paxton's "Yuppies In the Sky," sung to the tune of 'Ghost Riders In the Sky." Never has music and humor combined so effortlessly.

Overall, it is hard to describe the Rhinestone Homeboys as anything but a class act all the way. Catch them the next time they are out and about playing around town, which should be sometime soon.

—Jana Pendragon

### I Found God

Coconut Teaszer Hollywood

Contact: Stress: 213-876-7228 The Players: Christy Gerhart, vocals; Stress, bass; Devin Kramer, guitar; Todd Wyatt, drums.

Material
Vocals
Musicianship8
Performance
00000000000

I Found God is familiar to frequent visitors of the Coconut Teaszer. As a newcomer, I was not disappointed. In fact, I had a great time. The band has an Eighties sound that sets them apart from the grunge/alternative sound of Nineties rock, but, at the same time, they are growing out of this sound and creating their own contemporary groove.

To their credit, this band has a sound that makes every song distinct. Drummer Todd Wyatt stood out, especially during the intros, as his melodic pacing urged you to move. At the same time, guitarist Devin Kramer and bassist Stress had an almost heavy metal sound. Together, it was an almost danceable rhythm.

Stress, the bass player, grooved on "Yeah, Yeah, Yeah," and his solo rocked the house. Vocalist Christy Gerhart ventures near hard rock territory, but veers down into the alternative area. Unfortunately, her range is only utilized on a few songs, like "Find A Way" (written by her father's friend who died of AIDS), but while her voice demonstrated itself to be strong and insistent, it resisted taking on the range she is capable of.

The band's energy is contagious, and the crowd surged into the room as soon as I Found God was announced. There was no pomp and circumstance here, just the band. Gerhart, seemingly unafraid to create a casual intimacy with the audience, tugged at her stockings between sets.

Lyrically, the band had an interesting array of material from the haunting "I Don't Mind" through the soulful "Got No Home," and while you hear the work going on in "Off Time," it does sound promising. As the music guides the band, their lyrics formulate complex life stories that are universal.

While I Found God is working on their next CD, and they will only make infrequent visits to the stage during that time, I'm looking forward to hearing it.

-Nyenye Kitchings



I Found God: Creating their own groove.





Malfunction: A really bizarre Vegas act?

### Malfunction

Viper Room West Hollywood

Contact: David Benveniste: 310-271-8001

The Players: Frank Perez, lead vocals; Al James, guitar; Shane McGlaughan, bass; Sean Clark, drums.

Material	į
Vocals	
Musicianship6	į
Performance	į
0000000000	)

The lead singer, dressed in black vinyl pants, matching jacket, and sporting a haircut ala a young Elvis Presley, is surrounded by dreadlock-haired musicians playing hard-core industrial thrash rock. They may look like a really bizarre Lás Vegas act, but donít let Malfunction's outlandish and diverse appearance dissuade you; they are as hard-core as a band can get, and nothing about them sounds like a cheap Las Vegas act, either.

Lead vocalist Frank Perez is a highly charged ball of sexual energy. His erotic gyrations and exceptional vocals were the high point of the performance. Perez showed great diversity in his singing style. which ranged from a melodic and rapid vibrato to a hard-edged throaty roar. At times possessing qualities reminiscent of Jim Morrison, Perez unabashedly exposed his raw talent-and his chestthat night, while proving to be a capable and confident frontman. (How hot did it get in those vinyl pants, Frank?)

Complicated rhythms and constantly changing tempos were well executed by drummer Sean Clark. He had excellent control and meter while playing demanding drum patterns and rhythms. Sean drove the pulse of this band with his excellent chops and dynamic

drumming style. However, this can't be said for the bassist and guitarist. Between incessant and annoving tuning at full volume, guitarist Al James never attained a tight and cohesive groove with the other players. The same goes for bassist Shane McGlaughan, who spent more time trying to untangle his dreadlocks from his strap than concentrating on his bass playing. The result was poor and sloppy musicianship.

Most of the material was repetitious and there really wasn't anything here that we haven't heard before. However, one song did stand out: "Feel," a combination of both melodic and hard edged rock, sung excellently, and, despite the aforementioned musical flaws, played okay too.

Malfunction isn't a band for the feeble-you've gotta like it hard and you've gotta like it fast to get off on this one. As a whole, this band didn't give the most impressive performance, but they unquestionably have a loyal fan base, who seemed to enjoy and mosh to every song. I wouldn't discount Malfunction, either. With a little more practice and honing, Malfunction may achieve a higher level of competency in both their songwriting and their musicianship.

-Renee Silverman

### **Imperial Crowns**

Ash Grove Santa Monica

Contact: Laura Engel at Engel Entertainment: 213-874-4206. The Players: Jimmie Wood, vocals, harmonica, guitar; J.J. Holiday, guitar; Billy Sullivan, drums.

Material
Vocals
Musicianship
Performance

00000000000

The Imperial Crowns are a blues band with a rock & roll attitude. The majority of the material they play is either covers of older blues material (Robert Johnson, Blind Lemon Jefferson, etc.) or originals that sound like they could have been written on the Delta.

Now this is not to say that they are a one-note band or anything like that. This music has a great depth and entertains on many levels. In fact, it is even dance music. And, as Jimmie Wood said himself, "The blues are supposed to make you feel better, not worse.

Wood handles the vocals, with a voice that ranges from a sneer to a down-home, Howling Wolflike growl. He also adds his talents on harmonica, blowing a mean harp, and on guitar. Joining him in this bassless trio is J.J. Holiday on quitar, who handles the majority of the melody duties. And backing all this up is Billy Sullivan, who is a master at knowing when to lay back and when to jump in with both feet.

But it is Wood's voice that carries the set and makes all the difference. If this same trio were to appear and the vocalist were lackluster, they would not be anywhere near as effective. Wood's voice has soul and character. It is the voice of the brokenhearted and the cry of the survivors.

The other amazing thing about this band is the level of intensity they managed to obtain on the stage. Playing to a small crowd, the Imperial Crowns still worked up enough energy to have the audience responding to them, dancing and shouting back at the stage. The performance was topnotch.

While their music may be hard to classify, the Imperial Crowns are one thing: a good time. Whether it is identified as psychein a while.



Imperial Crowns: A blues band with a rock & roll attitude.

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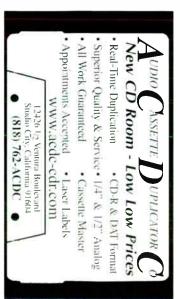
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# CLUB REVIEWS



System Of A Down: Industrial rock with the flavor of Middle Eastern melodies.

### System Of A Down

Viper Room West Hollywood

Contact: David Benveniste: 310-271-8001

The Players: Serj Tankian, lead vocals; Daron Malakian, guitar; Shavo Odadajian, bass; Andy Khachaturian, drums.

Material	
Vocals	)
Musicianship	)
Performance	)

000000000000

System Of A Down plays a mesmerizing blend of heavy groove and riff-laden industrial rock with a unique flavor of Middle Eastern melodies thrown in for good measure. These guys, who all hail from Armenia (hence their Middle-Eastern influences), play a brand of music once exclusively heard in the hard-core rock alternative scene, but recently making headway into the mainstream with groups like Primus.

Overall, the band executed a tight and cohesive groove throughout their 30 minute set, transitioning smoothly between songs. Individually, the band's biggest asset is their bassist, Shavo Odadajian, who not only held the feel together, but played some tasty, kick-ass bass riffs. Odadajian, who, at times, seemed to compensate for some of the drummer's minor inconsistencies, continued playing his bass with both technical proficiency and verve. It's great to see musicians having fun doing what they love.

Drummer Andy Khachaturian had some minor inconsistencies in his meter, but was able to keep up a tight groove in this power-charged unit. He held his own in a style of music where timing and meter are changing frequently, and fast. No pretentious or glitzy guitar playing here, but good solid rhythm and blending. The guitarist, Daron Malakian, shone best when playing his intoxicating blends of Middle-Eastern riffs and melodies.

Looking at times like a madman with dark piercing eyes and a Manson-like beard, lead vocalist Serj Tankian flailed wildly, and at times broke out in what looked like Middle-Eastern folk dancing. His singing was intense, roaring with raw guttural tones one minute and pulsing into cross-fire rap the next. Although it was hard to decipher all the lyrics, Tankian brought unique style and conviction to his performance.

Dynamically, System's performance spanned from heart heart pounding to head banging, crescendoing into earth moving riffs and mosh inducing drum beats. The songs were well-crafted, and contained many musical elements, including rap, punk and metal. Tunes like "Sugar" stand out, with heavy grooves that seemingly meld into an earth shattering chorus; and "Temper," which begins innocently enough, then propels you into another mind-blowing dimension. Particularly amusing was System's cover of Berlin's "Metro." They get an A+ for most interesting cover rendition of the year.

From their like-gangbusters opening to their ground shaking encore, System of a Down pulled off a tight, well-rehearsed set to a packed and fully charged crowd at the Viper Room. A must-see act that brings a real musical earthquake to I.A.—Renee Silverman.

The lounge scene is alive and well in SoCal, and so, it should come as no surprise that French Continental pop swing band 8 1/2 Souvenirs—who've created quite a buzz in their own hometown of Austin, TX—would pack one house after the next on their short tour through this area, recently.

The band's one hour performance at the Viper Room was electrifying. Vocalist Giraud sat center-stage with an acoustic guitar in his lap and a devilish grin on his face. And in between tunes, he'd talk to the audience and set the scene for the next song, which in many cases, he sang in French or Italian. Eventually, they were joined by the gracious and beautiful Juliana Sheffield, who may be the newest member, but was completely at ease with the material. And she handled even the most difficult vocal parts with the charm and expertise of a seasoned professional, even though she looked to be in her early twenties.

Not only are the members of 8 1/2 Souvenirs excellent musicians. but they are a hoot to watch. Giraud described his band as a "five-piece Italian circus." Expressive and always willing to crack a joke, Giraud easily held the audience's attention. His smoky vocals and smooth, articulate guitar work brought the material to life. Then there was rockabilly-inspired Todd Wulfmeyer, who slapped that bass with every ounce of his wildman soul. Helping Wulfmeyer hold down the bottom-end was drummer Adam Berlin, who draws inspiration from Gene Krupa. And finally, tattoo-sporting and classicallytrained pianist Glover Gill's expressive face and exaggerated hand gestures brought a sense of play to the material.

Combined, the band made you feel like you were no longer in some trendy, smoke-filled club in L.A., but rather, you had been transported back to the WWII era, and were wandering through the streets of Paris, soaking up the sights and sweet sounds of a time when life was simpler and music was an escape. —Pat Lewis

### 8 1/2 Souvenirs

The Viper Room Hollywood

Contact: Continental Records: 512-478-1414

The Players: Olivier Giraud, vocals, acoustic guitar; Glover Gill, piano; Todd Wulfmeyer, stand-up bass; Adam Berlin, drums; Juliana Sheffield, vocals.

Material Vocals	
Musicianship Performance	•
0000000000000	



8 1/2 Souvenirs: French pop-swing.



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### LOS ANGELES COUNTY

#### AL'S BAR

AL'S BAR 305 S. Hewitt St., Downtown Los Angeles, CA 90013 Contact: Lizzy, 213-625-9703 Type of Music: Original, unique Experimental only Club Capacity: 175

Stage Capacity 10 P.A.: Yes Piano: No Lighting: Yes
Audition: Call
Pay: Percent of door No guarantees

CHIMNEY SWEEP LOUNGE

4354 Woodman Ave , Sherman Oaks CA 91423 Contact: Hal Cohen, 818-783-3348 Type of Music: Blues & Classic Rock

Club Capacity: 70 Stage Capacity: 4 P.A Vos

Auditions: Call for information or come in Sunday night and see Hal Cohen Pay: Negotiable

CINEGRILL (HOLLYWOOD ROOSEVELT HOTEL)

Lighting: Yes
Plano: Yes—Baldwin Baby Grand
Audition: Send promo
Pay: Negotiable

FM STATION "LIVE"

North Hollywood, CA 91606 11700 Victory Blvd , Nor Contact: 818-769-2221

Contact: ...
Type of Music: Rock, ane...
Type of Music: Rock, ane...
Club Capacity: 500
Stage Capacity: 10-12
P.A.: 4-way concert system with 24-channel board with independent monitor mix system. full effects, houseman

Independent mounts
Lighting: Yes
Piano: No
Audition: Send tape, promo pack SASS

#### GENGHIS (COHEN) CANTINA

740 N Fairfax Ave., Hollywood, CA 90046 Contact: Jay Tinsky, 310-578-5591 Type of Music: Original vocal/acoustic po nal vocal/acoustic pop. rock folk

Club Capacity: 60 Stage Capacity: 6 P.A.: Yes

Lighting: Yes
Audition: Send promo package to Jay care of club or

Pay: Negotiable

THE JUNGLE

THE JUNGLE
17044 Chatsworth St., Granada Hills CA 91344
Contact: Lorna Kaiser, 818-832-4978
Type of Music: R&R cover and onginal bands

Club Capacity: 250 Stage Capacity: 5-7 P.A.: Yes

Lighting: Yes
Audition; Send promo to The Jungle, P.O. Box 467,
Canoga Park CA 91305 Pay: Negotiable

LIBRARY CAFE

10144 Riverside Dr., Toluca Lake, CA 91602 Contact: Jennifer, 818-505-0930 Type of Music; Original acquetic or semi-acquetic of all

Club Capacity 25 Stage Capacity: 4-5 P.A.: On Saturdays Piano: No

Lighting: No Audition: Open Mic Let them know you are auditioning Pay: No

ST. MARKS

ST. MARKS 23 Windward Ave , Venice CA Contact: Steve Salmon, 310-452-222 Type of Music: Jazz. R&B and salsa Club Capacity: 150

Stage Capacity: 10 Lighting: Yes

Piano: Yes Audition: Call Steve or send package

SUNSET

322 W Sierra Madre Blvd , Sierra Madre, CA 91024 Contact: Bob, 818-355-3469 Type of Music: Hard rock, alternative, blues, Top 40 Club Capacity: 238

Stage Capacity: 15 P.A.: Yes Lighting: Vas Piano: No

on: Send tape, bio and photo to above address Pay: Negotiable

THE TOWNHOUSE

Venice CA 90291 intact: George Czarnecki or Frank Bennet, 310-392-

Type of Music: All types Dance, rock, alternative

acoustic, top 40 Club Capacity: 150 Stage Capacity: 20 P.A.: Yes

P.A.: Yes Lighting: Yes Piano: No Audition: Send promo package or call

Pay: Negotiable

TROUBADOUR 9081 Santa Monica Blvd , West Hollywood, CA 90069 Contact: Lance or Zack, Tues -Fri 2-6 pm, 310-276-

1158

Type of Music: Rock, alternative, acoustic top 40

Club Capacity: 350 Stage Capacity: 10-12 Lighting: Yes

Piano: No
Audition: Tape bio, picture, or call
Pay: Negotiable

### **ORANGE COUNTY**

Contact: Ken Phebus 714-496-8930
Type of Music: Rock, alterantive CrW, jazz, world beat Club Capacity: 480
Stage Capacity: 10-12
P.A.; Yes
Lighting: Yes
Audition: Call <sup>1-</sup>
Pay: N'

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818-760-7841

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NEW LATIN/hip-hop label seeking interns. Please call Melanie or Lee, 310-550-0233
MAJOR LABEL seeks molivated responsible, ener

getic interns for marketing department. Fun. fast-paced environment. excellent learning opportunity. Must receive college credit. Call. Karen at 213-469-2411, v3735.

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ny Must be reliable and creative. Learn and grow with company. Possible pay. Call 310-659-7906. PUBLICITY INTERNS needed for busy indie publicity firm. Hardworking, serious about career in music industry. Contact Kristle. 213-655-4151.

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MAURICE GAINEN - Producer 213-662-3642  ADAT Digital Fostex 16-trk analog, MAC w Logic Audio, 2 DAT sax, flute EPS 16+ sampler, many synths, piano. Mackie 64 X6	////// mix & editing. 3 mixer.	Read music Berklee College of Music National Endowment for the Arts	Master & demo production. Best live drums for the price. Keyboards arranging composing. & woodwinds. MIDI & studio consultation. CD and cassette mastering. No spec.	V V V V V New jack swing, MIDI-rock
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RUSS MILLER-Drums/Perc/Elec Perc 818-759-5022  Also: Arranging & Programming, Master Classes, Lessons, Sou Film work includes The Specialist, Mortal Combat. AF of M #47	/ / / / / / / nd Design. member.	Internationally recognized player newly relocated to L.A. Tons of four and album credits including. Joh Secada. Slash. Dave Koz. N.Y. All-Stars (w.Spyro Gyra & Sting members). Full Yamaha. Zildjian. Remo. and May Microphone endorsee. Member of electronic design for Yamaha.	Top professional advanced reading (have book with Warner Bros). Very versatile, together person and image. Resume and demo (solo album)	Also afro-cuban
CRAIG OWENS - Keybrds./Prod./Arr. 310-559-8403 ADAT Digital DAT mixdown full MIDI recording studio. vocal bod synth's sampler guitars Hammond B3 Wurlitzer piano. bass h	oth, killer	Young talented keyboardist producer Good ears ass kicking arrangements. My programming sounds as live as any band. Play many styles of music. Have done hundreds of sessions. Clients signed from my demos. Soulful lead & backing vocals.	Professional attitude Friendly & easy to work with Professional results Can work very quickly to achieve desired goal	Alt hip-hop funk rock
WILL RAY - Country Producer/Picker 818-848-2576 Electric & acoustic guitars, mandolin, lap steel, vocals. String ben rings on both hands make my guitar sound like WWIII thru a Fen	der	Many years country exp incl TV & recording dates. Worked with Carlene Carter, Steve Earl. Joe Walsh. Tom Jones, etc. Can produce 16,24,32-track master recordings. Access to the best country musicians in town for sessions & gigs. Currently, a member of the Hellecasters. Friendly, professional affordable.	Cow thrash, farm jazz, prairie metal, nuke-a-billy I specialize in country music, both as a producer & session guitarist. Hove to discover new talent and work with established giants as well. Let's talk	/
RANDY REVO-guit/drum 213-874-5437  Tom Anderson Strat. Lag & Ibanez guitars. Ovation acoustic. Me pre'power amps. Rocktron Intellifex. Crybaby & numerous fx/guita	sa Boogie	Tons of experience in studio & stage situations. TV dates arranging song writing drum programming. Read music learn fast play with a lot of feeling and emotion. Advanced music education and theory. MI grad, very reliable, always on time. Guitar lessons available.	Professional attitude friendly fast and easy to work with Ready to help develop the song (if desired).	Strong melodic lead player
"STRAITJACKET" - Violinist 818-359-7838	11111	20 years experience on violin & electric violin in all styles. Quality vocals. Fast and	Easy-going, but fast in the studio. State of the	11111



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•A Vestax 6-trk hard disc recorder w/on board mixer immaculate hardly used \$1400 818-973-2246 •Lexicon Alex effects processor mint co

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•1959 Silvertone Kay model, red sunburst hollow body

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### 9. GUITARISTS AVAILABLE

•1 guit & kybst voc wixlnt songs looking for ong band You must baria vint songs. Serious only, Euro flavor 310-

•18 yr old guit w/a lot of dedicatn avail to start band or jam w/other guit & drmr. Infl. Pumpkins, Rage. Aaron. 310-794-5587 310-794-5587
•A1 soulful pro guit w Pauls Marshalls Slide Strats

oc chops cool look 8 major credits. Seeks pro rock band full band only Doug. 310-370-0360. Alt guit avail. Tremelo. Echoplex phase shifter, Les Paul wah-wah. exp stage/four/studio 818-341-0850. Dedicatd pro guit. extensiv toung studio exp fully



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Funky Diesey, psyched guit sks grooving pro band Infl James Brown. Funkadelics. Hendrix. Nobi. 310-207-6136

it, indus/goth, vamp image 12 yrs early 20 s pro

581 4861
•Guit avail for R&R band in styles of Thunders, Richards Lead, rhythm, slide, open tunings, Les Pauls, Teles, 310

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Guilt tooking to pointform rock band Infl Black Crowes Wallflowers 818-293-1500

Guilt sks versall cover band have PA & much exp. will sub Fliverside area Will drive for rights 1909-789-2116

Heavy metal quil looking to form band Infl Ozzy, Pantera KISS I have exp. transpo equip Serious only Nicholas 818-559-6544

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Lead guit, Beatles to Basia Aerosmith to Alchemy 310-390-7758

390-7758
-Lead guilt looking to join established. Play anything from tunk punk to alt. Gabriel. 818-281-6474
-Lead guilt unry malander, great melorly, mill. Garcia. Zappa. Hendrix Coltrane for ong or cover. pro or non-pro. Serious calls only. Mike, 213-874-2880
-Lead/hythm guilt wibacking voc sks CMJ type band, up.8 coming, lour reciproj ok ready to go now. Dan. 818-786.0076.

Proguit, great ears, great att. versatt. sks highly pro sit 310-398-1221. Proguit.

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### 9. GUITARISTS WANTED

\*\*\*Oversatl guil or vocinded teamplyr, 20-28 must have equip & franspolino drugs 213-969-8840
 \*\*\*I R&B/soul act in 1997 inviting AfroAmer guits



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•A creatly guit sngwrft wid for estab band to work on CD band #1 priority nud drugs or metal Mark 310-266-6313
•Ace retro coveer band THE JITTERS sks talentd sng guit for weekend paid show Classic rock-a-billy & blues ages 30-40 only MG 818-566-8745
•Aggress V lead rhythm guit wiedge wid by complete band no beginners wiggs mgmt & lockout 818-769-2738 213-933-1104
•Alt fem voc sks guit for band. Serious commitment 4 rehers/week. You understand the concept sometimes less is more Well connected 213-254-9567
•Are you diverse? Band sks 2nd guit in style of Navarro, Marr. Summers Jymm, 213-962-2926
•Are you diverse? Band sks musicn who play guit to complete band Infil Johnny Marr, Andy Sommers Dave Navarro Jymm, 213-962-2926
•Awesome, versall guit wid to form grip w CD label intent. Be responsibl business minded easy going Lyrics help Beatles. Bread, Air Supply Frank 909-945-5678
•Band ready to go on road, waiting for fead guit w good.

5678
-Band ready to go on road; waiting for lead guit w good chops & att to join us 310-842-8581
-Christian lead guit wid for pop praise band. Bill, 818-

7574 variety guit faze labet into radio alipsay 616-261-7574 variety guit faze estat all taxas THREE ALARM FIRE formerly Medicine Rattle skis exp tasty lead plyr Promgmt deal lockout etc 310-826-2093 voreaty guit to form futuristic band Clean wah-wah, delay effects Kevin, 213-655-0970 veltermed melodic sing 24, nds guit or band to build next big thing. No metal Send tape now 4230 Laurel Caryon, Studio City LA, 91604 vol. 141 Neal Finn, Mathlew Sweet, Paul Westperberg, 818-998-6542 veltec guit nided into Talk Talk Laughing Stock, Dariel Lanois, Leonard Cohen, Netl Young, John Abercrombie 213-927-2730 velter guit nided into Talk Talk Laughing Stock, Dariel Lanois, Leonard Cohen, Netl Young, John Abercrombie 213-927-2730 velter guit nided into Talk Talk Laughing Stock, Dariel Lanois, Leonard Cohen, Netl Young, John Abercrombie 213-927-2730 velter guit nided into Talk Talk Laughing Stock, Dariel Lanois, Leonard Cohen, Netl Young, John Abercrombie 213-927-2730 velter guit nided into Talk Talk Laughing Stock, Dariel Lanois, Leonard Cohen, Netl Young, John Miller 1818-850-2544

n alt artist w/rec deal sks guit w/cool innovatv sound

215-852-1400 •Fem lead guit with for conceptual cross-over alt rock proj quality material have refiers recistudio serious

•Fem sngr/sngwrtr sks quil to nlav live. Have snogs



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•FLOGGING MOLLY sks thythin lead guit to completensh folk punk band Infl Pogues Clash The Jar

h folk punk band Infl Pogues Clash The Jam orge 310.395-5370 orming melodic took band w aggressy edge. Need 8 guit or either one Very seniors accepting all mate-to work with will work with add material. No comies 213-856-0517

nal to work with will work with add material. No com-lakes 213-856-0517.

German sings sks black guit for pop rock soulful prop-Pros only 818-700-2802.

Guit inded: pro minded creats artist. Page. Sommers Hendrix Very 60 s yet very 90 s. We have repertoire brit-lant Voc. composifaring guit. 213-459-0847.

Guit singwrit w 17 yrs exp sks talentd mature singr, ong material, into rock, blues, funk. No metal grunge or all 818-761-7253.

Guit with by voc to form band of spiritual power, focus, significance, purpose & design. Truth, beauty, love. No bs., no religion. Daniel, 213-462-3583.

Guit with by bist & lead voc for ong lop 40 proj. Rehers spc. provided. Be dedicated to grp. success. Raynard 2210-657-7532.

Guit with by major label band wingmt. style is mix of ventures. & orchestrated pop. 310-540-4825.

Guit with for art windmin. Cl. mix of town rins. & hidh goals. No drugs pro att tone is the key 213-939-7557.

Guit with for all pop band four proj in Nov Dec. Beatles. Foo Fighters, some pay after gip poss. CD rec. Bob. 818-703-0194.

Guit with for MEDUSA HEAD TRIP. We have label int.

Foo Fighters, some pay after gig poss CD rec Bob 818-703-0194

\*Guit wild for MEDUSA HEAD TRIP We have label int Melodic dark psyched creaty plyr infl REM Floyd early Bowe Siouxsig & Banshees, Robby 310-289-4682

\*Sam 818-441-2725

\*Guit wild for rock band :infl Richard Lloyd Dave Daves Nail Yzung Ju-6 805-526 785.1

\*Guit wild for unique ensemble w CD & airplay Rhythm & lead abil Encompass all musical gener 310-205-2617

\*Guit wild in vien of Gibbons Gilmore Barrett Betts for upcoming Spring four. No hobbysts or session cats Jimmy or Robin, 818-505-1152

\*Guit wild need hof rhythm guit & lead acous/elec for estab pwr pop punk band wiCD & label int Infl No Doubt, Gold Finger, Green Day 310-838-1647

\*Guit wid for Green Day 310-838-1647

\*Guit wid for Green Day 310-838-1647

\*Lead & rhythm guit wild by estab all pop rock band w\*smr angr All Grig, enp viv. & Jingrishing a. 1 818-386-7108

\*Lead Guit ala Slash Mars, Frehley for estab band wiCD & Lead quit ala Slash Mars.

4-Lead guit ala Slash Mars, Frehley, for estab band w/CD & image ala KISS, Crue, NIN Talent, gear, looks a must 213-469-2496



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Lead/rhythm guit nded to complete Hillywd band
w street sound Page Perry Morris type No flakes
posers marriedfathers etc Good rhythm music #1 goal
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-Lead/rhythm guit wtd R&B hip-hop pop soft rock ong must be able to learn quickly night clubs studio

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\*Master blues rock guitsks to join/form high quality blues band or classic rock cover band Stones Dylan Exceptional slide plyr part time ok Tape avail Msg 818-

Metal band, infl Fight, Pantera Skids & old Metallica. wisongs, there's spot, siks pro lead gui wisngwining abil-sexp 8 long har 1818-762-8520 Money, let's make some Guirbst/sngr/sngwft w/many songs looking for dedicald guit Max, 818-353-904 "Open minded drim sks guit for collablor sngwining 818-

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\*S' Garden to Cocteau Twins, pro but no gooks. Chris.

818-344-5723 Sngr & guit wtd for Genesis cover band. Other pro-gressy material also. Joe, 818-771-9184

gressy material also. Joe, 818-771-9184

\*Sngr looking for young passionate guit, 21-26, great songs, great att, desire to make if more import than exp. No metal, 818-761-7713

No metal. 814-761-713

\*Sngr/sngwfr acous guil sks acous guil w/backing voc for coffee shops, adult pop, R&B style, very orig, must be senous. Johnny, 213-874-4599

\*Soufful disco funk guil wid for working proj. Pls be familiar w/70's music. 805-252-2155

lamillar w/70's music. 805-252-2155

\*The total rock-a-billy guit, must be commid, avail to tour, gear, look, N/D, 25-35, Cochran, Reverand lover. Believer a \* Tony, 818-70-36-795

\*Veteran rec artist sks guit for hr/alt type band, writing a \* Infl Foo Fighters, AlC 310-380-2845

\*Witt: guit wigood voc for high profile unplugged showcase, must have good looks, no pay but great exposure. Cntry/rock. 818-829-2109

### 10. BASSISTS AVAILABLE

\*#1 bst w/lead voc, 4 & 6 string, SWR amp, looking for paid perf, live/studio, 805-297-1325

paid perf, live/studio. 805-29/-1325
•20 yrs exp bst wilead voc avail for paid sit, studio, live, current, classic, top 40, 6-string. SWR gear, Brian. 818-715-0423

•36 yr old intermed level bst w/voc looking to jam, serious but fun, Chicago blues, roots rock, cntry. 818-763-

 Avail bst plays acous upright & elec fret/less. Into jazz. blues, rock, R&B. Has groove, reads, for gigs, rec, show-cases, Joseph, 818-763-8078

- Bst & drm avail for rec sit and/or dark atmosph band proj. Infl Cure, Smiths, Radiohead, Louie, 310-768-8223

\*Bit & drmr avail for rec sit and/or dark atmosph baris proj. Infl. Curs. Smiths, Radiohead, Loue, 510-768-823
\*Bat avail for great band, going places, no metal. Hayden, 310-471-5504
\*Bat avail for pro proj. formerly w/members of Louo Hale, Vince Neal Band, Jeff, 818-769-7247
\*Bat avail for rec/perf. All styles, fret/less, elec/upright acous, pazz, Lunk, R&B, sight reading, etc. Pros only. 818-909-4952

·Bst sks band/musicns ready for new era of R&R, full of filth, full of soul. Stones, Aerosmith, GNR. No dinosaurs over 25, 213-876-9816

·Bst/voc. solid, reliabl, rootsy, sks touring band of Americana or folk rock, Phil Frazier, 510-489 •Fem bst avail for top 40 working R&B funk pop band.

nporary funk jazz band, touring band, Msg, 213-•Fretless bst sks modern band, must be bold, textural,

ambient sounding, Infl Sylvian, Japan, Roxy Music, Msg.

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Nay, 310-359-0055

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Pro bst avail for pro paid sit, versati, blues, rock, pop. etc. 213-288-1101

 Pro rock bst avail for session & showcasing work, major rec credits & tall, young image. Serious pros only pls

618-362-2005

\*Solid 6-str bst, can sing 20 lead voc/night, looking for band playing 4 nights/wk w/i 100 miles of LA. 818-424-

Versatl bstsks pro sit or estab band, solid, dependable

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### 10. BASSISTS WANTED

•#1 pro rec act sks aggressv bst, great voc a must, heavy rock, must tour. Leave phone msg for Rick, 805-273-4321
•#1 R&B/soul act in 1997, inviting AfroAmer bsts w/amazının talenti dvnamite soul, xint sho open audition. Eric, 24 hrs, 310-726-3677

•21 yr old Dave Navarro hybrid looking for Flea, origs, some covers, fast, some slow. 213-876-5751

A bass plyr is witd by ong band ala 70's pop, melodic sngwrting w/90's edge, stage friendly, voc a +. Msg. 310-669-6019 Ace retro cover band. THE JITTERS, sks talentd

sngr/bst for weekend paid show. Classic rock-a-billy & blues, ages 30-40 only. MG, 818-566-8745 -Aggress volid exp bis wid by hard working all hr band w/upcoming shows, serious & dependable only. Brock,

•All orig versatl alt fusion hard & funky rock band. Must ous, dedicatd & willing to join a band. Jim, 619

Alt pop band w/good melodic songs sks mature groove orien bst. Great oppty. Robert, 213-954-8295 Alt rec arist looking for bst. & drmr for album & tour, seri-ous only, send tape or DAT: 1112 S. Bedlord St., Ste 1, & C. & Moral.

LA. LA 90035

\*\*Band ske bet, versall, pro exp. for label showcase, gigs
Orig & covers. Must be able to play rock, blues, pop &
soul, 310-289-4-734

\*\*Band ske bst. Zep. Phish, Yes, Jane's, S'Garden,
Peppers, Crimson, Cream, Beatles, Dead, Santana,
Scott, 818-796-649

Scott, 818-796-6467

•Black bst ala Bootsie, Larry Graham, w/superstar image, wtd for all black funkadefic mob. Early Prince. 310-372-3208

Bst & drmr wtd by guit/sngwrtr w/lockout in WLA. Infl Improv Dead, Tramps, Fairies, etc. No beginners. 213-396-2976

•Bst and/or kybst wtd for world music proj. 310-559-5052
•Bst for top 40 band, equip & transpo a must, serious only. Infl Sheryl Crow, Alanis, Sarah McLachlan. 818oniy. Infl : 762-2426

762-2426

Bst nded ASAP, melodic plyr w/cool looks, pro gear, transpo for hr kinda punk, slightly pop band. GNR meets Blondie. 213-876-5104

•Bst nded for guit heavy rock proj, must be able to learn quickly. Infl Vi, Satriani, Saraceno. 714-846-3963

quickly. Infl Vi, Satriani, Saraceno. / 141040-05556

•Bst nded for orig song onen pop alt band. Backup voc
a +, have rehers/rec studio, already gigging. 818-346-

\*Bst nded to complete band w/demo, interest, etc. Heavy alt style. Kenny, 818-386-0538

Bst nded w/thick heavy sound for upcoming CD rec & showcasing. Must have balls, skills & att. Msg, 213-587-

\*Bst to complete ultra heavy hr bluesy band, ala Zep. AlC, STP. Pro minded, voc a +, no heros, no flakes. 818-

780-6424

\*Bst w/great groove, backup voc, wtd by full band wmaterial ready to go. Call for demo. BMI showcase, gigs, rec. senous only. 213-656-3170

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\*Bst w/strong backing voc wtd for bodge stage.

•Bst w/strong backing voc wld for heavy gloom jazzy space pop band. Estab, have mgmt, rec now. Msg. 213-656-8517

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•Bst wtd, age 22. w/vintage 60' & 70's sound, P or jazz bass pref, talentd only. Bryan, 310-392-2833 •Bst wtd ala early Elton, all ong songs. Rick, 818-287-Bst wtd by soulful rock band v mgmt & label int & Past with by solution tock baint wingint a laber in a wiradio airplay. Rick, 213-856-0982

Bat whid by talentid sngr/sngwrit guil for melodic hr band. Inll Zep, Hendrix, Grand Funk, James Gang, Blue Cheer. XInt plyrs only. 310-455-2597

Bast witd for 70-90's orien band, heavy, diverse, vibe

oren songs elec to acous, must have creativity vision sngwrting abil, motivation, independ, 818-901-7102 

-Bst wtd for 70-90's orien band, heavy to acous, mature

vibe orien songs, must have songwrting capabil, cre-ativity & motivation. 818-901-7102 Bst wtd for alt band, styles incl Pumpkins, U2.
Radiohead, REM. Serious only. Backing voc a +.
Anthony, 818-776-9221

\*Bst wtd for alt pop band tour proj in Nov/Dec, Beatles Foo Fighters, some pay after gig. poss CD rec. Bob. 818

•Bst wtd for estab OC band, SPIRITTREE, must be 90's minded, exp & pro. Infl S'Garden & Zep. Blake. 714-731-

Bst wtd for estab punk hip=hop band. Must be deci-

\*\*Task with the establishment of the control of the

•Bst wtd for heavy groove funky band. Infl Rage, Krong jazz, funk, etc. Must be open minded & serious. 818-286

\*Bst wtd for hr metal act w/heavy groove. Skid Row meets Pantera, Long hair rocker image & att a must. Msg, 818-763-2421

•Bst wtd for orig pop rock band, must be dedicatd, creaty, have good gear & possess pro att. Jeff, 310-374-

Bst wtd for orig rock band, must be exp & dependable

•Bst wtd for orig rock band, must be dedicatd. 818-286

2408

\*\*Bst wind for orig rock band, Infl Queen, Xtreme, Duran Duran. Cory, 213-874-1055

\*\*Bst wind for trashy R&R band to play upcoming gigs. Infl Dolls, Stones, Thunders, Chuck Berry, 310-862-0398

\*\*Bst wind R&R band, Andy, 213-227-0740

\*\*Bst wind to complete 4-pc att band. Pro minded & committed, No rock stars. Band ages 22-29. We dig music that procks the soul. Have repers Soc in LA area. Infl. that rocks the soul. Have rehers spc in LA area. Infl Pumpkins, Nirvana, Floyd. James, pgr, 213-888-5516;

Bst wtd to complete honest orig working alt band, motivated only. Infl U2, Beatles, Pearl Jam, Zep. John, 213-

valled only. Infl U2. Beatles, Pearl Jam, Zep. John, 213-876-1921

Bat wid to join orig sounding blues rock grp, fem voc w/guit & keys. Paul, 714-497-5036

Bat wid to join orig sounding blues rock grp, fem voc w/guit & keys. Paul, 714-497-5036

Bat wid: strictly orig. tasty pocket plyr. Mellankamp, Costello, Steely Dan. Have great songs, great drim, rehers spc, killer studio, great att. 818-365-1327

Bat wid: tasty playing & pocket. Phil Lynott meets Bruce Thomas. I have great songs, great drim, great studio, great att. 818-342-5260

CLOUD NINE, estab band, needs bst who can sing and has transpo. 60's infl. under 30 prel, practice in N hollywood. Hoffa, 271-381-6350, Tim, 818-508-1176

\*\*Come unto me all ye who cannot write but play & let me lead you. Have label in & radio airplay, 818-281-7574

\*\*Creat v Asian guit sngwrtr sks dedictd bst for new procyressy hr band proj. Infl O'Ryche, all Euro hr. Serious only. Howe, 213-481-1359

\*\*Creat v bst nded for rock, funk, folk, fusion band. Infl Phish, Hendrix, Beatles, Simon & Garfunkle. Voc a \*\*\*Jim, 213-395-8311

\*\*Dedicatd, serious bst wid for orig R&R proj. Will audition any level plyr, 818-760-4569

\*\*Dependabl talentd dmin, age 21-27, wid. Have mgmt, Er, showcases. Infl Dasis, Beatles, Hendrix Sean, 714-631-6646

\*\*Dormr looking for bst to form tight rhythm section. Infl Kings X, Joe Satinani. Pro gear, transpo, pro image. Mitt. 818-552-0807

tooking for bst to form tight rhythm section. Inf X, Joe Satriani. Pro gear, transpo. pro image. Milt.

Kings X. Joe Satnani. Pro gear, transpo. pro image. Milt. 818-352-0907

\*Flate or upright bit nded into Talk Talk Laughing Stock Daniel Lanois. Leonard Cohen. Neil Young. John Abercrombie. 213-937-3730

\*Energetic eclectopop band nds versall. creatly bit. Infl Bealies. King Crimson. Jocy, 310-784-7284

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\*Exceptional proj. Iem sngr/kybst. lead & rhythm guit. sk bit or bst/drum team. Joe. 213-874-1844 (if no answe. leave msg.)

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Hir band ala Van Hallen, GNR, looking for bst to complete proj wipro mgmt & backing, Ready to rec/play, Must be willing to relocate. No drugs/girl problems, 510-357-2163

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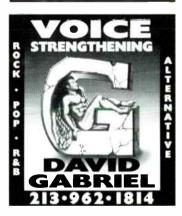
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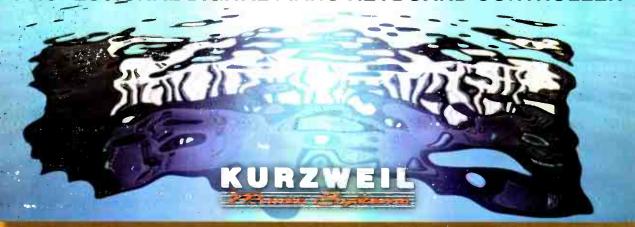
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