

THE TRIBUNE, Oakland, California

Saturday, July 15, 1989 C-7

# Michelle lends 'Short Sharp Shocked' sound to Berkeley's best

**Women folksingers' concert the biggest in Freight's history**

By Larry Kelp  
The Tribune

Michelle Shocked's idea was to hang out with guitarist Nina Gerber and play some music. The Grammy Award-nominated singer-guitarist's regular concerts have become music industry and media events since the success of her "Short Sharp Shocked" album last year.

**CONCERT REVIEW**

They may not have received the coverage of the Who, but Thursday's two concerts at Gerber's hangout, the Freight and Salvage club in Berkeley, became the biggest shows in the folk-rooted club's 21-year history.

Shocked used her drawing power to fill the 250-seat room for a showcase of three of the area's best women songwriters as well as herself, all taking equal time and each accompanied by Gerber on guitar. Shocked may be famous, but she is also aware that there but for fortune she could be drawing small crowds and going as unrecognized outside the folkie community as a Sarah Campbell or Carol McComb.

Even with each musician doing a half hour set accompanied by Gerber — who was the evening's real star, playing five hours of some of the best guitar extant — it was long after midnight when Shocked, Gerber, Campbell, McComb and Betsy Rose joined voices and instruments to sing a roosty "Will the Circle Be Unbroken."

When Shocked's plane from Los Angeles (where she's finishing her third album, "Swing Vote") was delayed, there was no rehearsal time. But with Gerber it didn't matter. "I listened to Michelle's CD," Gerber quipped between shows. "I tell you," Shocked said, "Nina, she makes everything easy."

Gerber usually says little and lets her guitar do her talking. She's a not-so-underground local legend, the youngster who so loved singer Kate Wolf's music that she taught herself guitar and became Wolf's accompanist until Wolf's death in 1986.

Since then her wide-ranging folk-country-jazz-blues stylings have backed dozens of performers on stage and on record. She has an intuitive sense for what to play.

What she played with Shocked was mostly folk and rural blues, except for the pop-oriented hit, "Anchorage." McComb joined the duo, playing dobro on Jean Ritchie's "The L&N Don't Stop



Here Anymore," and the rest of the cast sang along on "Strawberry Jam."

The show was far less political than some of Shocked's previous appearances. She wasn't even hawking her self-designed "When it's radical to be liberal, flugs will burn" T-shirt. Instead, she wore a sleeveless MDC T-shirt and jeans, talked little and sang much. It was likely that few in the crowd knew that MDC was the hardcore punk band Shocked hung out with while she was living with the homeless in San Francisco a few years back. She later used the group to back her, uncredited, on "Fogtown," the wild (and unlisted) finale to her otherwise mainstream "Short Sharp Shocked" album.

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Successful young Michelle Shocked, top, joined veteran singers Nina Gerber and Carol McComb, above, for an evening of music at Freight & Salvage.

pushed the politics, but her stance as a strong feminist (the audience was predominantly young and female), and songs about life from a woman's point of view, is as fresh, honest and easy to understand as hit-record-making musicians get these days.

She was preceded by a crew 10 years and more her senior. Fellow transplanted Texan Sarah Campbell (who now lives near Sonoma) is a wonderful songwriter, a good singer in the Rosalie Sorrells tradition, and the perfect front woman for Gerber's acoustic guitar embellishments, especially on her song about two inner city homeless women, "Geroline and Ruthie Mae."

Berkeley's Betsy Rose followed with an energetic, truncated

version of her usual show celebrating self-worth and using it to positive ends, as well as a song she wrote for Gerber, "Your Heart Is in Your Hands."

Michelle Fark's Carol McComb writes great songs and has a high, strong voice to deliver them. Shocked and Campbell harmonized with her on "Idaho Sky."

As with the chorus line on "Strawberry Jam" — "Everybody knows if you want the best jam you gotta make your own" — so these singers have made their own music, and, on Thursday, found impressively fresh ways to say important things with music.

Now, if Shocked could just get a record company interested in issuing a Nina Gerber album.

**"DO THE RIGHT THING" IS A GREAT FILM.**  
—Roger Ebert, SISKEL & EBERT

A SPIKE LEE FILM  
**DO THE RIGHT THING**

**NOW PLAYING**

<b>CENTURY 9</b> Theaters • 223-0020 Showtimes • 12:30 2:45 4:30 7:00 9:15	<b>FINE ARTS</b> Theaters • 843-0324 Showtimes • 7:00 9:00	<b>UNITED ARTISTS</b> Theaters • 749-3500 Showtimes • 7:00 9:00	<b>CONTELY</b> Theaters • 282-8911 Showtimes • 7:00 9:00
<b>PIEDMONT</b> Theaters • 844-8747 Showtimes • 7:00 9:00	<b>CHRYSLER</b> Theaters • 749-8000 Showtimes • 7:00 9:00	<b>COLISEUM</b> Theaters • 667-1100 Showtimes • 7:00 9:00	<b>COLISEUM</b> Theaters • 676-1100 Showtimes • 7:00 9:00

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**UNITED ARTISTS Theatres**

**Bargain Matinees Daily Including Holidays**

**EMERY BAY 420-0107 6330 Christie, Emeryville**

<b>LAURENCE OF ARABIA (PG)</b> 92 min DOLBY STEREO 1:30 7:30	<b>WEEKEND AT BERNIES (PG)</b> 12:45 2:15 5:00 8:00 10:30
<b>THE ADVENTURES OF BARON MUNCHHAUSEN (PG)</b> 12:15 2:45 5:00 7:30 10:00	<b>GHOS'TBUSTERS II (PG)</b> STEREO 10:00 12:00 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30
<b>GHOS'TBUSTERS II (PG)</b> STEREO 1:45 4:15 7:00 9:45	<b>KARATE KID II (PG)</b> 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
<b>LETAL WEAPON (R)</b> STEREO 1:45 4:15 7:00 9:45	<b>KARATE KID III (PG)</b> 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

**CINEMA 7 843-1487 2274 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley**

<b>DOWNSTAIRS: LETAL WEAPON (R)</b> ON TWO SCREENS 12:45 3:15 5:45 8:15 10:45	<b>LETAL WEAPON (R)</b> 1:15 3:45 6:15 8:45 11:15
<b>DOWNSTAIRS: KARATE KID (PG)</b> 1:15 3:45 6:15 8:45 11:15	<b>DOWNSTAIRS: WEDNESDAY (PG)</b> 1:15 3:45 6:15 8:45 11:15
<b>UPSTAIRS: GHOS'TBUSTERS II (PG)</b> 12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30 10:30	<b>UPSTAIRS: BURN MAN (PG)</b> 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

**Bargain Matinees Daily Including Holidays.**

**CINEMA 6 786-3000 24800 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward**

<b>KARATE KID (PG)</b> 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	<b>KARATE KID (PG)</b> 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	<b>DO THE RIGHT THING (R)</b> 12:00 2:40 5:10 7:40 10:10
<b>SEE NO EVIL, HEAR NO EVIL, SPEAK NO EVIL (PG)</b> 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	<b>GREAT BALLS OF FIRE (PG)</b> 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	<b>WEEKEND AT BERNIES (PG)</b> 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:15

**Today at the Movies**

**ALAMEDA COUNTY**

**ACT 1 & 2**  
Bargain Matinees Showing Before 2:30  
\* "GONE WITH THE WIND" (PG) 12:30 2:45 4:30 7:00 9:15  
\* "THE THINGS YOU SAY" (PG) 12:30 2:45 4:30 7:00 9:15  
\* "THE MAMMA HIAKEE" (PG) 12:30 2:45 4:30 7:00 9:15

**ALBANY 1 & 2**  
Bargain Matinees Showing Before 2:30  
\* "DANGEROUS LADIES" (PG) 12:30 2:45 4:30 7:00 9:15  
\* "THE MAMMA HIAKEE" (PG) 12:30 2:45 4:30 7:00 9:15

**BERKELEY**  
Bargain Matinees Showing Before 2:30  
\* "DANGEROUS LADIES" (PG) 12:30 2:45 4:30 7:00 9:15  
\* "THE MAMMA HIAKEE" (PG) 12:30 2:45 4:30 7:00 9:15

**CALIFORNIA 3**  
Bargain Matinees Showing Before 2:30  
\* "DANGEROUS LADIES" (PG) 12:30 2:45 4:30 7:00 9:15  
\* "THE MAMMA HIAKEE" (PG) 12:30 2:45 4:30 7:00 9:15

**CENTURY 8**  
Bargain Matinees Showing Before 2:30  
\* "DANGEROUS LADIES" (PG) 12:30 2:45 4:30 7:00 9:15  
\* "THE MAMMA HIAKEE" (PG) 12:30 2:45 4:30 7:00 9:15

**CROW CANYON**  
Bargain Matinees Showing Before 2:30  
\* "DANGEROUS LADIES" (PG) 12:30 2:45 4:30 7:00 9:15  
\* "THE MAMMA HIAKEE" (PG) 12:30 2:45 4:30 7:00 9:15

**PARKWAY MEMBERSHIP THEATRE**  
Bargain Matinees Showing Before 2:30  
\* "DANGEROUS LADIES" (PG) 12:30 2:45 4:30 7:00 9:15  
\* "THE MAMMA HIAKEE" (PG) 12:30 2:45 4:30 7:00 9:15

**FESTIVAL CINEMAS**  
Bargain Matinees Showing Before 2:30  
\* "DANGEROUS LADIES" (PG) 12:30 2:45 4:30 7:00 9:15  
\* "THE MAMMA HIAKEE" (PG) 12:30 2:45 4:30 7:00 9:15

**Hilltop Cinemas 1-4**  
Bargain Matinees Showing Before 2:30  
\* "DANGEROUS LADIES" (PG) 12:30 2:45 4:30 7:00 9:15  
\* "THE MAMMA HIAKEE" (PG) 12:30 2:45 4:30 7:00 9:15

**ROCKRIDGE SHOWCASE**  
Bargain Matinees Showing Before 2:30  
\* "DANGEROUS LADIES" (PG) 12:30 2:45 4:30 7:00 9:15  
\* "THE MAMMA HIAKEE" (PG) 12:30 2:45 4:30 7:00 9:15