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# Michelle Shocked

## 'Swings' into town

Michelle Shocked is an unlikely candidate for stardom, but she seems to be well on her way. The jamin-like singer-songwriter-guitar player got her start at a Texas folk festival where her first album was recorded on a Sony Walkman.

That's right, "The Texas Campfire Tapes" were recorded on a Sony Walkman on a hot summer night. You can even hear the crickets chirping in the background. But Shocked's simple yet arresting songs jump out at the listener, just as they did on her follow-up album, "Short Sharp Shocked." That too featured just her and her guitar. When she toured to support it in 1989, it was a solo effort all the way.

But this Saturday she faces a new challenge at The Warfield in San Francisco. Her new album, "Captain Swing," featured full instrumentation, including horns, and even spawned a video on MTV.

So Shocked will have a different burden to bear this time, though it's quite likely she'll still rely on her quirky humor and rapport with her mostly female audience to help carry the show.

The Warfield also has an up-and-comer on Friday night, when English soul crooner Lisa Stansfield makes her Bay Area debut.

Stansfield definitely has the pipes; though her songs aren't all

Her songs are her strength, and "Captain Swing" featured her best work yet. It will be interesting to see how she deals with a bigger crowd (her first show was at the cozy Great American Music Hall) and a full band — but my bet is she'll make it an evening to remember.

Opening is John Wesley Harding, an English singer-songwriter-guitar player who is a mixture of Billy Bragg and Phil Ochs, though not quite in the league of either one. His album is only satisfactory, so he'll have to turn it up a notch to win over a crowd there to see Shocked.

that fascinating. I have a feeling, however, that she's going to knock everyone out. So if you're up to taking a chance, check out Lisa Stansfield.

Slim's is the place to be in the

middle of the week. The San Francisco night club brings World Party in Tuesday, and Karl Wallinger (once of The Waterboys) has the buzz going for his latest record. The first one was awfully good, so this

too could be a surprise winner.

Wednesday, Peter Case comes to Slim's, and though he bores me to tears, a lot of people swear by him. He used to be in the Plimsouls, a band I liked a lot. Now he's just another singer-songwriter with a guitar.

Thursday, though, it's guaranteed. Little Charlie & the Nightcats will play the blues the way they're supposed to be played, and have the crowd dancing by the second chorus.

Speaking of the blues, Taj Mahal will be in San Francisco Friday and Saturday at the Last Day Saloon, and one can never tell what the multitalented but decidedly eccentric Taj will try next.

**WHAT'S GOIN' ON:** Today Madonna at Oakland Coliseum, Air Supply at Circle Star Center in San Carlos; Tuesday — World Party at Slim's in SF; Wednesday — Peter Case at Slim's in SF, Hiram Bullock at Great American Music Hall in SF; Friday — Lisa Stansfield at The Warfield in SF; Saturday — Michelle Shocked, John Wesley Harding at The Warfield in SF; May 27 — Tracy Chapman, Johnny Clegg & Savuka at Greek Theatre in Berkeley, Andrea Marcovicci at Great American Music Hall in SF; May 28 — David Bowie at Shoreline in Mountain View (also May 29).

Clay Kallam is an entertainment writer for the Times. His column appears every other week in On the Go.



**JOHN WESLEY HARDING** opens for Michelle Shocked at 8 p.m. Saturday at The Warfield in San Francisco.

**Clay  
Kallam**

Bay Area music

