

# Michelle Shocked

In some ways, with her new album, *Kind Hearted Woman*, Shocked has come full circle: back to being a feisty folksinger with an indie release, having had to sue to get out of her contract with Mercury. But the former East Village antfolkie is a woman, not a teenager now, and she sings her age, sounding weary, reflective, and worried about things like productivity—biological and imaginative. With its tales of struggling Americans, the album's a female complement to *The Ghost of Tom Joad*—though Shocked's songs come across as fables for her own life as much as sociological portraits. *Saturday*, Irving Plaza, 17 Irving Place, 307-7171. (McDonnell)

