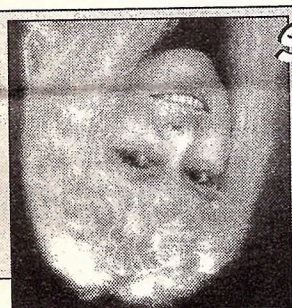


Night Moves

by Michèle Benson



Savoy Brown Transcends Time

Standing in front of the stage at Moe's Alley last Friday night, we could close our eyes and allow the music to take us back to a simpler time of strawberry incense, black lights and musk oil. **Kim Simmonds**, guitarist and lead singer for Savoy Brown, played like time had never gone by and we all were in tie-dyed shirts, bell-bottomed jeans and headbands. We were on a trip through the British folk blues sounds made famous by Savoy Brown in the mid-'60s.

Savoy Brown opened the show with the 1995 tune "Too Much of a Good Thing," which could have been a metaphor for the rest of the evening. The double Marshall set-up that Simmonds pushed his guitar riffs through had all the dirty sounds of a time long past. He played flawlessly throughout the evening, accentuating songs from the release *The Blues Keep Me Holding On*.

The title track proved that players like **Stevie Ray Vaughan** must have listened to lots of Savoy Brown. Kim's raunchy yet hard-driving execution of the blues made you want to boogie-woogie all night long. They did a wonderful version of the Willie Dixon tune "Little Red Rooster" that nearly brought the roof down. The audience was standing mesmerized from the moment the band took the stage. **Nathaniel Peterson** added a third dimension to the band's sound with his deep, authentic vocals, dovetailed with his percussive left-handed bass guitar accompaniments. Drummer **T. Xiques** lit the torch of rhythm on fire so well that you could not tell that he has only been drumming with Simmonds since January. He was in the pocket on every tune and drove the band with real precision.

The hit song from 1968, "I'm Tired," had all the trimmings of the popular sounds from the *Blue Matter* album, which was responsible for the success of Savoy Brown in the UK and the States. The band ended the evening with "Wang Dang Doodle" and we were returned from our exploration through time back to the year 2000. An added coup for the show was the new Moe's Alley addition of a 16-channel Sound Craft-Spitt mixing board, which has enabled the club to really deliver the blues the way they should be heard. Thanks, guys.

Michelle Shocked turns down Palookaville for the Catalyst

The popular folk/punk rocker Michelle Shocked was scheduled to perform at Palookaville last Thursday. For whatever reason, upon arriving at the venue, things went awry. Shocked

and her band packed up their gear and went two blocks up to the Catalyst and played to a very surprised crowd of people who were awaiting the previously scheduled band lineup. Michelle was even willing to play in the parking lot out back, according to one person. But the Catalyst crew, being the true professionals that they are, got Michelle and her band on the stage by 9 p.m. and they played for an hour straight. Michelle's career began in Texas, then spread out to the San Francisco punk scene of the '80s. But her style is all her own. The material on *The Texas Campfire Tapes*, released in 1986, put her on the map in the UK, which eventually led to her contract with Mercury Records. Michelle's voice was crystal-clear and her stage presence was dynamic to the very end.

Her feminist perspective and punk-esque attitude is the perfect platform for the avant garde songwriting that brought her respect and fame. What a great gift to everyone at the Catalyst.

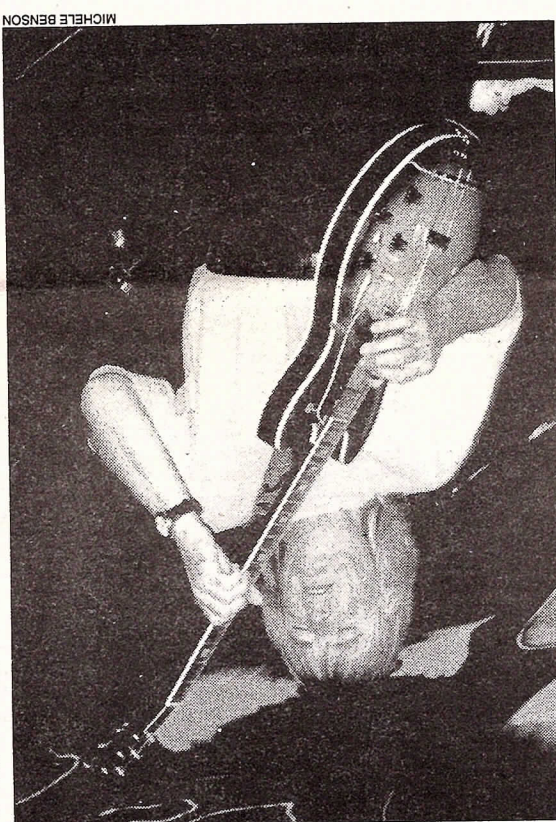
Tony Levin delivers the Waters of Eden

Speaking of Michelle Shocked, **Tony Levin**, bassist and performer extraordinaire, is coming to Palookaville Thursday night with most of the other band members from his days with **Peter Gabriel**.

Levin played with Shocked on the *Arkansas Traveller* LP in 1992. But this is no coincidence, since he has played with just about every heavy-hitter in the music business from the soft sounds of **Paul Simon**, **James Taylor**, **Judy Collins** and **Carly Simon** to the more edgy sounds of **Alice Cooper**, **Richie Sambora**, **Peter Frampton** and **Robert Fripp**, and he stills tours

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with **King Crimson**. He is out on the road in support of his new CD release *Waters of Eden* on the Narada Label. The CD features his Chap-man stick fretless/upright bass work anchored in the roots and classical music realms. Levin is known for his outrageous stage antics and the development of a style of playing the bass using finger extensions fashioned from drumsticks called "Funk Fingers." Levin credits Gabriel with the idea and Andy Moore, his tech at the time, for making the idea a reality. This is a rare and wonderful chance to see a mega-star bassist right in our own back yard. I wouldn't miss this show for the world.

Count Basie Orchestra swings the Cocanut Grove
The Cocanut Grove is proud to present the national tour of "Count Plays Duke," a performance evening featuring a repertoire of Duke Ellington tunes with the added gift of the swing sound made famous by the late **Count Basie**. The legendary Count Basie grew up in New York but helped birth the new Kansas City-style jazz/swing sounds during the 1930s.

This 19-member orchestra will be led by **Grover Mitchell** and promises to deliver such classics as "April in Paris," "Take the A-Train" and "Round Midnight." They have received Grammy awards for "Best Large Jazz Ensemble Performance" in 1997 and 1999, not to mention the other 15 Grammy awards they have received over the years. Break out those dancing shoes and hoof on down to the Grove this Friday. Supporting such guardians of the flame that is Count Basie's music is essential to keeping this genre of music alive for generations to come.

Mary McCaslin breaks new ground
Felton Pрут is onto something really big, and **Mary McCaslin** will be delivering some of the goods: They will be Webcasting the Fat Music Radio Network on Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m. And, McCaslin will be the host of the show.

After several years of hard work, Felton's Fat Music Show can now be heard on the Internet 24 hours a day via his Satellite Radio Network of Stations. The Webcast player can be accessed at www.fatmusic.com. McCaslin is also returning to KZSC 88.1 FM as host of the "Fat Farm" show on Thursdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, check out www.kzsc.usc.edu.

Keep Michèle Benson in the groove by sending music scene updates to NightMovesOnline@hotmail.com.