

Sound Waves



Volume 28
Issue 2
February 2018

An
Interview
with
**JOSI
DAVIS**

**THE CARLEANS
JESSE ROYAL
RESTAURANTS
CONCERT INFO
BAND LISTINGS
REVIEWS
& MORE**

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Ali Kaufman
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Sound Waves

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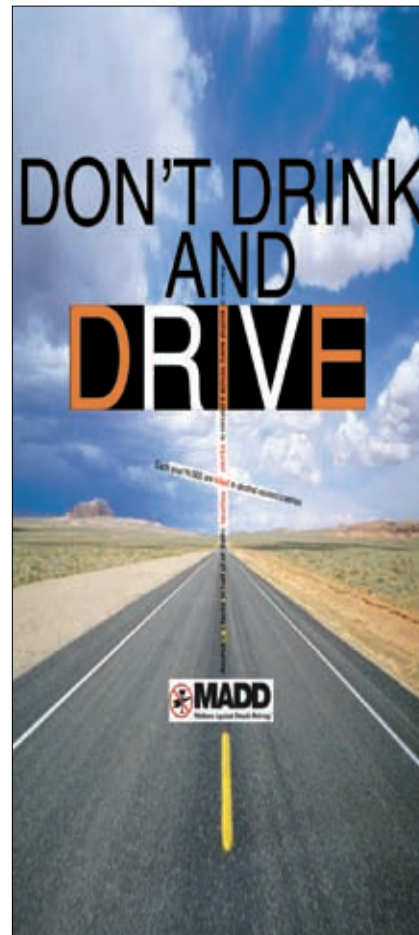
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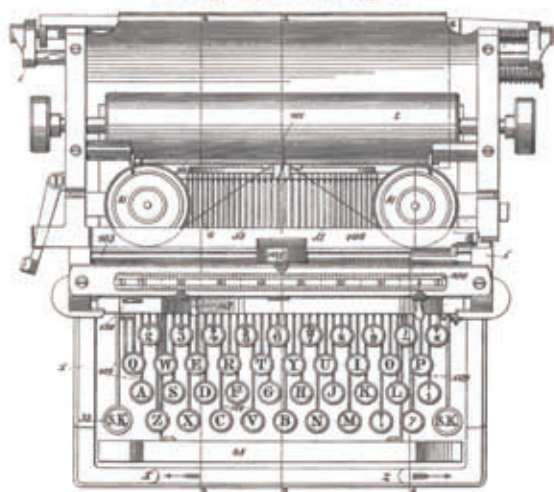




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Thu 8-11	Fri 10-1	Sat 10-1
1 Izzy Malek	2 James Harris	3 Bloomer
8 Dan Watson	9 Luke & Mike	10 Andy Chaney
15 Ben Freiert	16 Kris Ryan	17 Pajama Party with D.J. Mega Hertz
22 Andy Chaney	23 2 Cat Zoo	24 Luke & Mike

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MUSIC NOTES

"The Not So Quiet Corner"

By Mark T. Gould

The musical mecca bore a lot of apt descriptions over the years.

"The best blues place." "Oh, to be a fly on the wall..." were a couple of them.

Then, there was my personal favorite:

"Some of the best memories I can't remember."

Yet, the ultimate one may have come at the close of one of its legendary concerts,

from one of my friends from UConn, who attended the show with my friends and me.

The exact date is left for the ages, but it had to have been in '75 or '76. Roy Buchanan had just blown the doors off the place with his seemingly not-of-this world guitar playing, and he had finished his final encores with his signature tune, "The Messiah Will Come Again."

After the final notes and a thunderous ovation, my friends and I put down our final beer bottles and stumbled satisfyingly out into the parking lot.

We hadn't gone far when we noticed that our quartet had somehow dropped to a trio. One of us was missing.

I was appointed to go back into the venue to find him.

The place was pretty cleared out by that time, so all I had to do was move deftly around the empty bottles scattered all over the floor, all the while looking for him.

Given the sanctity of the place, I should have known. I found him, all alone, standing in front of the stage, where we had pretty much been anchored all night, staring at the roadies who were breaking the equipment down and starting the load out.

As I walked up, I noticed his lips moving, muttering to an audience bereft of only himself.

I listened closely.

"Oh My God," he said, over and over.

Well, that pretty much summed up many of the rocking, rolling and rollicking nights I had over the years at the Shaboo Inn, the iconic nightclub seemingly dropped by a musical God on the outskirts of Willimantic, Connecticut (truth be told, it was actually in Mansfield, but it was always known, and probably always will be known, as "Shaboo in Willimantic."), where just about anybody who was anybody played to packed-in, beer quenched and sometimes drenched audiences from 1971 until 1982.

I've been to literally hundreds of concerts over the past almost half century, and I can truly say that many of the best took place inside that somewhat non-descript, yet oh-so-sacred place.

Emmylou Harris and her original Hot Band (with Rodney Crowell, Glen D. Hardin, Hank DeVito and Emory Gordy, Jr.), the Flying Burrito Brothers (almost the original band, minus only Gram Parsons), Bonnie Raitt (where there was a curiously innocuous contest of who could drink more, the audience or the performer), Muddy Waters (with one of the loudest ovations I've ever heard, when his backup band went into his signature 'Mudcat,' and he sauntered, Cheshire-cat grinning, onto the stage), Miles Davis (after he cancelled the first night of a multi-date gig, forcing all of us

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to make back-up plans that were more than worth it).

And, let's not forget Roy Buchanan. My friend certainly never will.

Among the others who graced the Shaboo stage were Aerosmith, the Police, B.B. King, Albert King, John Mayall, T-Bone Walker, Howlin' Wolf, Bob Weir, Joe Cocker, Tom Petty, Lou Reed, Elvis Costello, Cheap Trick, Count Basie, Buddy Rich, Woody Herman, Blood, Sweat & Tears....

...actually, it might make for a shorter list of who didn't play there.

The Shaboo, as we all called it, was as down to Earth as the people and the community around it, in the so-called "Quiet Corner" of the state. From the outside, it looked like a cross between a funky farmhouse, a rural town hall and a quaint bed and breakfast, set off by a massive water tower with the club name on it that could be seen for miles around, and let you know you were in the neighborhood of some great music and a very good time.

My memories of this wondrous place have come flooding back now, because of a wonderful, and yet long overdue, decision by the Windham Town Council.

Following a donation by a well-known local entertainer who was a co-owner of the Inn, the council is planning to name its proposed band shell at Jillson Square the "Shaboo Stage."

The idea for the name was a condition of an agreement with the Lester E. and Phyllis M. Foster Foundation, which has pledged to donate \$100,000 in ten, annual \$10,000 increments for the project.

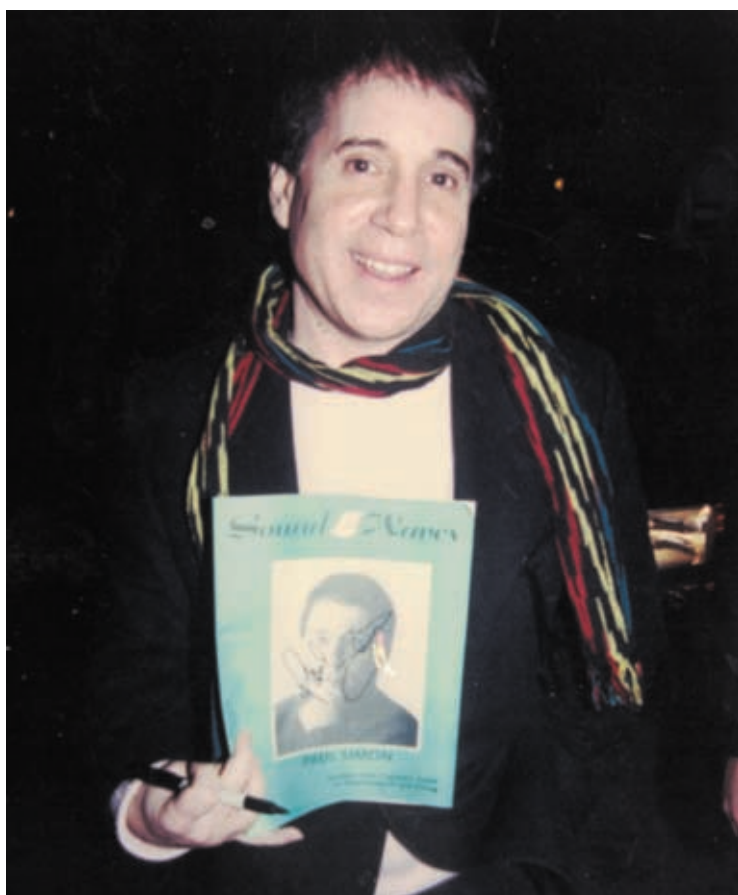
If the name "Foster" sounds familiar to Shaboo patrons and fans, it should. The genesis of the donation, and the naming, was the brainchild of David Foster, who co-owned the Shaboo with Bruce Johns and who, in addition to running his family's foundation, fronts and has kept the faith with the Shaboo All-Stars, which is pretty much the house band at the Mohegan Sun Wolf Den. He also runs Shaboo Productions, a Willimantic-based company that rents musical equipment to musicians.

The bidding process for the project is just underway, and there are still a number of hurdles to climb before the band shell comes to fruition. But, you can bet that the ghosts of a thousand and one great nights at the Shaboo will all be there to help out, drink up and cheer on.

"Oh my God," indeed.



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All The World's a Stage



“#Musician-ship Goals”

By Sue Menhart

The beginning of a new year is always such a joyous and hopeful time for bands. Just like normal people, bands set goals, make resolutions and promise themselves all kinds of things. They vow to "get better," "practice more," "get better gigs," "write Grammy-worthy songs," and

"really grow the audience." Stuff like that.

So when I get the email from BandsinTown.com containing a rundown of other bands' new show announcements, and I see that some of them are booked through the spring already, through the summer, through the fall, and all the way until the end of 2018, I sort of, kind of, WANT TO SCREAM MY HEAD OFF.

Are you freakin' kidding me? Booked through the end of the year, already? Don't you think you're being just a tad greedy? Maybe a little selfish? Maybe a little over-zealous? Have you no conscious? Don't you want to leave some time to watch music documentaries as a team-building exercise with your band? Don't you want to ride roller coasters or race bumper cars or go on a hike or go skiing or sit on a beach? How about reading a book. Do you people even READ?!?!?

No fair I say. The "other" bands taking "all" the gigs needs to STOP. Give somebody else a chance! Why can't we all just swimmingly get along? Why do you have to be such sharks? What on earth is compelling you to take EVERY SINGLE REMAINING GIG ON THE PLANET?

Here's how it goes down for me to get just ONE gig, never mind every single remaining gig on the planet:

I tried to get a jump on things and thought in February I could work on getting a gig for St. Patrick's Day for the next month in March. Irish bars are just THE PLACE to be around St. Patrick's Day so I wanted in. I had heard "Whiskey in the Jar" a couple times, so I assumed I was all set.

I picked out an Irish pub in town because it was classy, the drinks were expensive, and I thought the chances of people buying my CDs were higher. I went into the place, drank four black-n-tans at the bar and headed over to the bar owner who'd already had ten.

The white-haired, red-cheeked flabby-faced elf-like Irishman barely looked up from his race book as I slithered over with my promo package and sat next to him. I said, "Hey. I have a great band that would fit in really well here. How about giving us a gig?" He ignored my pretty green folder, turned to me, looked me up and down, and said, "OK. Let's see what ya got. Let's go to the back room. You can give me a little live audition." We headed back to the secret room full of broken-down leather chairs, a green and orange couch, and tons of bric-a-brac hanging from the walls. From behind a two-seater bar, he whipped out a guitar, handed it to me and said, "Go."

I proceeded to play and sing an original song, with all my heart. Then, like that scene in the movie "The Da Vinci Code" when all the descendants of Mary Magdalene miraculously appear at the Rosslyn Chapel, burly guys

of questionable character began to fill the small spooky room. The nice bar owner guy rudely interrupted my audition with a "Ho Ho Ho" (of some sort) and him and the other "musicians" broke into a series of Irish folk songs complete with Gaelic accents and songs about the Moors. I don't know if they were in a trance, drunk, or flat out insane.

I put the guitar down and found a way to sneak out of the room. He didn't want to get to know my music. He just wanted to have a bit of craic. I never got the gig.

Because every other band on the planet is mean.

Peruse more cautionary tales, rants and raves over on my blog "Menhart Musings" at www.suemenhart.wordpress.com.



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LOCAL BEAT



“Telegraph Records Semaphore Puts a Fresh Face on Southeastern CT Rock and Roll”

By Andrew Krebs

New London County has always been a hotbed of rock music talent over the past few decades . . . The Reducers, Low Beam and now to-

days music: nicely summarized nuggets of tunes by various artists on a compilation album called “Semaphore:” a fitting tribute to great rock acts in or around the Whaling City.

Firstly, Semaphore talks about the ups and downs of relationships. For instance, Brazen Youth’s “Reassess Me” is a redemption song after female rejection and features a hypnotically cold yet moving keyboard drone overtop a church organ. The song quickly goes bipolar, punctuated all too quickly by a marchbeat and cliché guitar riff, calming down into an airy vocal quality only to end in a horn solo and vocal wail of a crescendo. Elison Jackson’s acoustic lament “DARE T-shirt” finds the singer “wishing he had the time” as a sad horn and strings fade out. Finally, Olive Tiger’s “Find Myself” bespeaks feeling weak in the knees when finding some new bad boy love interest amidst cool vocal and violin harmonies punctuated by rimshots and a cacophonous coda.

Telegraph’s compilation also includes dark fast punk rock by a variety of acts. Lost Riots “Dead Boys” is straight ahead hardcore and Quiet Giants’ “There’s No Future” has indecipherable but sweet vocals and guitar riffs like Cranberries meets Better Than Ezra. Violent Mae’s “Birthday” is cacophonous like Sonic Youth with shrill guitar crashes amidst a wall of distortion while Hempstead’s “Pharaoh” is fast and light ska with staccato guitar stylings and whiney horns. Pharaoh is a bar-room sing-along like Rancid at their poppiest or the Dropkick Murphys at their drunkest. The singer’s dictatorial command to “Obey the pharaoh!” abruptly ends with a trumpet squok. Fatal Film’s “PJ was Here” features 8th note licks, drum rolls and dissonantly arpeggiated broken guitar chords and a lo-fi sounding gothic rock riff. Matt Potter’s unmistakable vocals are just off-key enough to sound punk as sings of sleeping in a tent with a fed-up Dad and a bed full of snakes. Numbers such as these make you close your eyes and imagine indie rock of the 80s or 90s.

Furthermore, Semaphore is not without its waltzes like Forester’s “Tenement Sweep” and Daphne Lee Martin’s squeezebox-laced “Maturity of Proof.” Tenement Sweep features very lively piano and guitar with lyrics about “keeping warm” while doing janitorial drudgery on lonely mean streets in which no one can be blamed: an optimistic tone for a rather pessimistically themed song. Maturity of Proof concerns a deal with the devil who breaks your will and steals your soul by granting your deepest wishes (like dancing with him or swimming in a river in a skirt full of stones). The devil will also romance your “heart full of brimstone,” touching your flesh burnt red as penance for sin (as the key of the song turns sour).

Yet, the most remarkable songs of this bunch are Marvelous Liar’s “Strut Rock NL” and the song “Sink” by Pocket Vinyl. The Marvelous Liars “Strut Rock NL” features a smooth riff like 90s-era Foo Fighters with lyrics about the familiar camaraderie of drinking with the boys: “so drunk, so rude, slurring your words in outer space with faces you don’t know. Singer Nick John also admits “Time is boring the story doesn’t change . . . it just moves along as the feeling goes away. Lying like a bastard . . . no time like the present to kill your mind before it kills you back.” Some readers may disagree with sabotaging future health for immediate gratification but the lyrics make for a fun party song nevertheless.

“Sink” nicely ends the album on a calm note . . . starting with a sentimental-sounding piano as the singer mourns: “I’m alone when by myself and with God when someone else. The further you resist the faster you sink.” This seems to suggest the struggle to choose between commitment phobia and romantic consumption. The music symbolizes orgasm too, as blocks of piano chords get stronger as the wall of vocal sounds draw deeper and more sonorously with each repetition of chorus. An oddly unexpected monologue surfaces at the end, only to fadeout with a memorable piano melody. Fans of local music should enjoy this compilation which sums up the crème of the crop of local Southeastern CT rock music. Enjoy!

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Jeff Daniels

BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn

Hello my sweet Bar Flies..how I've missed you! Happy Valentine's Day! I hope you all have someone special to spend it with, even if it's me and SOUND WAVES! But let's pick up where we left off. Busy, busy month ahead. I'm leaving for Mexico within minutes, but I wanted to touch base with a few happenings before the jet leaves the tarmac!

Had a crazy week (as uje) went to an amazing Playoff Party with friends STEVE and NIKKI (Food done by DIPPER) then headed to CLEATS/ALLEY KATZ for the final 2 minutes of the PATRIOTS/JAGUAR game! Whooooooooo! Place was Rockin'..Hi



TONY BELL! It was the AMIGOS vs BRAZEN HEN Employee Christmas Party and I was on hand for moral support. LENO, MARCO, NICK and RAFI (with exceedingly long selfi arms) battled it out..Things got a bit rough, but SYLVIA was a beast and brought home the victory!

From there TINDER-ELLA and I headed over to show some support for the Grand Dame of Westerly, ANGIE SMITH at the TWISTED VINE. Beautiful night, beautiful people including ANGIE'S handsome husband ARTHUR, LISA KONICKI, JIM and BETH FRENETTE, BARBARA STILLMAN and the gloriously handsome new President of the Westerly Town Council ED MORRONE with the always lovely FRAN!



Along with contentious Airport Happenings in my little corner of the world, our Town Council Members have been agreeing to disagree. When I return from my Amazing Girl Trip to the Mexican Riviera I will be forcing myself back into the Board of the Westerly Airport Association! Time to try and make friends with the neighbors!

Soupy time in Westerly! The AZZINARO, ALGIERE Clan along with JAMIE QUATTROMANI, JIM CUNIAN and WAYNE MOORE are all



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creating meat magic for all of us to enjoy! If you haven't had soupy, you haven't lived a full life but soon it will be ready everywhere! Time to try it out!

In the social media world...Congrats on the impending arrival of TINAMARIE PLENNINGERS new grandbaby, JOAN DEFANTI and DAN CABRAL are cruising the highways all over Florida, making friends wherever they go. JEANETTE and MATT VERTENTES welcome new fur Baby MEMPHIS.

Heard they the grapevine that newly opened MILLTOWN PIZZA in North Stonington with DENNIS BILLIAS, is Delicious! Shout Out to JUANITA coordinating the POETS CAFE at HYGENIC ARTS in New London on Feb 9. Stop by and be a part of WCNI Radio and #hygenicart and #liveradio !

BONNIE PIZZA was out Secret Spying with her posse and visited CC O'BRIENS to see an Amazing Show with KEN SERIO & TEN DIRECTIONS BAND. Featuring MARK EGAN and FAYE GREEN that night, they brought down the house! And say hi to the staff at MAÑANA in Groton from the Bar Fly while you sip a delectable margarita! And a small mention about an amazing time had at LISA SHAW'S 29TH Birthday Party at the HANDLEBAR CAFE! Oh what a night!



I realize I've missed many Super Fly Birthdays and I apologize. CHRIS POST I'm sorry! Sad face!! But it's ROMPER STOMPER TIME BABY! I see CAROL CANOVA, ALICIA PICCOLO, PETER BEERS, JAMES RUTH, JIM CAMPO, ZACH GENESE, TODD BROOKES, JAY PALAZZOLA, WENDY GARAFOLA, LARRY MATHEWS, DINO COZZOLINO, JOE GENCARELLI, DAVE TRANCHIDA, CHARLIE PENDOLA, JERRY PREJEAN, BEN CHARLES, WENDY LATHROP, TONY LOWE, BRIAN ALBANO, MEGHAN LUZZI, TOM REGAN, SALLY



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So, a new year and some new things to check out! IZZY MALEK

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has been killing it at FRIAR TUCK'S. Live entertainment in this unique spot in Mystic on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights also includes DAN WATSON, THE NOBLE EXPERIMENT, BLOOMER, JAMES HARRIS, LUKE & MIKE and ANDY CHANEY! And check out their food! CT Magazine rated Friar Tucks BEST NEW RESTAURANT! And their Chef David Pottie got the #1 BEST



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So I'm leaving on a jet plane...hopefully Trump won't build a wall quite yet and I make it back from Mexico. And I'm assuming that the resort will never be the same again! Stories to come! I promise!

Love you my Sweet Flies! Ciao!



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BAND DATES

ANDY CHANEY & FRIENDS

1,15 - The Irons, Mystic, CT 5pm
2 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
3,16 - Shipyard Tavern, Mystic, CT 7pm
9 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT
10,22 - Friar Tucks, Mystic, CT 8pm
14 - Steakloft, Mystic, CT 7pm
20 - Chapter One, Mystic, CT 8pm
23 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 6pm

APRIL MARIE

& PETER EMANUEL DUO

17 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT 7pm
23,24 - Cedars, Mashantucket, CT 6pm

AZALEA DRIVE

9 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10
17 - On The Waterfront, New London, CT 7-10
23 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT 7-10

BARSTOOL DIPLOMATS

3 - Tamarack Lodge, Voluntown, CT
24 - Kresges, Brattleboro, VT

THE CARTELLS

1,8,15,22 - Norwich Inn, Norwich, CT 6:30pm
2,16 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 6pm
3 - Port & Starboard, New London, CT 7pm
9/- Maple Tree, Simsbury, CT
14 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT 6pm
21 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI 7:30pm
24 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT 7:30pm

CRAZY ANTS

16 - Doc's, Clinton, CT

DAN STEVENS

1 - Public House, Old Lyme, CT 5pm
2 - Veracious Co., Monroe, CT, 6:30pm
6,13,20,27 - www.icrvradio.com 4pm
6,13,20,27 - Nightingale's, Old Lyme, CT 6pm
7 - Bee & Thistle Inn, Old Lyme, CT 6pm
8 - Strange Brew, Norwich, CT 8pm
9 - Kinsmen Brewing Co., Milldale, CT 7pm
10 - Note Kitchen, Bethel, CT 8pm

10 SOUND WAVES

15 - Tapped Apple, Westerly, RI 8pm
16,17 - Manhattan Pizza, Burlington, VT
23 - Still Hill Brewery, Rocky Hill, CT 4:30pm
24 - Packing House, Willington, CT 7:30pm
25 - Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge, MA 8pm

DAN WATSON

1,15,25 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
3,24 - Harbor House, Mystic, CT
6,13,20 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
8,18,27 - Friar Tucks, Mystic, CT
9 - Breachway, Charlestown, RI
10 - Harp n Hound, Mystic, CT
11 - M Bar, Mystic, CT
17 - Dog Watch, Stonington, CT
21 - Chapter One, Mystic, CT
22 - Dog Watch, Mystic, CT

DARIK & THE FUNBAGS

2 - Blackstone, Southington, CT
9 - Anthonys Oceanview, New Haven, CT
10 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT
17 - Shamrock, Waterbury, CT
23 - Twin River Casino, Lincoln, RI
24 - Poor Richards, Chicopee, MA

FAKE EXPERIENCE DUO

24 - Calabrese Club, Westerly, RI 8-11:30pm

F & BLUES BAND

22 - Atrium lounge, Mashantucket, CT 8:30-12:30
24 - Elks, Willimantic, CT 7-12

FOUR BARREL BILLY

1 - Sneaker's, Groton, CT 7:30pm
2 - Windmill Tavern, Stratford, CT 8pm
4 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT 2pm
10 - June's Outback, Killingworth, CT 8pm
11 - Donahue's, Madison, CT 4:30pm
23 - Winchester Café, Portland, CT 8pm

FRANKENPHIL

2,24 - Sons Of Liberty, Wakefield, RI 6pm
9 - McBrides, Providence, RI 7pm
10 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT 7pm
17 - Sherrmans Taphouse, Derby, CT 6pm
18 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 6pm

GREEN TEA

10 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI
16 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
21 - Strange Brew, Norwich, CT

GREEN TEA LIGHT

7,22 - The Irons, Mystic, CT 5:30-8:30pm

HOPE ROAD

2 - Ocean Mist, Matunuck, RI

JAMES HARRIS

2 - Friar Tuck's, Mystic, CT 10pm
3,7,14,19,21,28 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
6,13,20,27 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT 8pm

9 - Tuscany, Mohegan, CT
10,16 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT
15 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
23 - Iron's, Mystic, CT 8pm

JUNKYARD HEARTSTRINGS

16 - Grill 37, Pomfret, CT 7-10pm

KEN SERIO JAZZ TRIO

24 - ButtonWood Tree, Middletown, CT
25 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI

LLAMA TSUNAMI

2 - Strange Brew, Norwich, CT
3 - Fury's, Dover, NH

THE LOCOMOTIVES

2 - Adams Mill, Manchester, CT
3 - Toyos Lounge, Colchester, CT
24 - The Stand, Branford, CT

NICK BOSSE

1,8,15,22 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT 5:30-8:30
17 - Mystic Pizza II, N.Stonington, CT 8-11pm
23 - Two Brothers, Voluntown, CT 8-11pm

THE PIRANHA BROTHERS

17 - The Diamond, Glastonbury, CT 8-11

PIRATES FOR PEACE

3 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT
10 - French Club, Jewitt City, CT
16 - Tamarack, Voluntown, CT

POSITIVE NRG

3 - Lakeview, Coventry, CT 6pm
10 - Yantic River Inn, Norwich, CT 7:30pm
16 - Sneekers, Groton, CT

RED LIGHT

3 - Lansdowne Pub, Uncasville, CT
10 - Margaritaville, Uncasville, CT
24 - Aroogas, Uncasville, CT

ROB BRANNON

2 - Tamarack, Voluntown, CT 8pm
16 - Aroogas, Uncasville, CT

SUGAR

24 - Blues Cafe, Newport, RI 10pm

SUNDAY GRAVY

9 - Sneekers, Groton, CT
24 - Wood River Inn, Richmond, RI
25 - Ocean Mist, Matunuck, RI 3:30-6:30pm

THE SYSTEM

24 - Rusty Nail, Torrington, CT

2 CAT ZOO

23 - Friar Tucks, Mystic, CT

VINCE THOMPSON & THE NEXT FUN THING

11 - Woodbury Brewing, Woodbury, CT 3-6
15 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10
16 - Chamard Vineyards, Clinton, CT 5:30-8

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Al Stewart

10 - Odeum, Greenwich, RI

Chris Young

3 - Foxwoods, Mashentucket, CT

Dropkick Murphys

24 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Dwight Yoakam

10 - Fox Theater, Mashentucket, CT

Gin Blossoms

22 - Infinity Hall, Hartford, CT

Jason Isbell

2 - The VETS, Providence, RI

Joe Louis Walker

21 - Kate Center, Old Saybrook, CT

Ladysmith Black Mambazo

10 - Jorgensen, Storrs, CT

Little Big Town

23 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Marcia Ball

18 - Infinity Hall, Norfolk, CT

Masters Of The Telecaster

3 - Kate Center, Old Saybrook, CT

Nellie McKay

22 - Kate Center, Old Saybrook, CT

Pat Benatar & Neil Giraldo

3 - Park Theatre, Cranston, CT

Ryan Montbleau

9 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI

24 - Infinity Hall, Norfolk, CT

Slambovian Circus Of Dreams

23 - Odeum, Greenwich, RI

Steve Martin, Martin Short

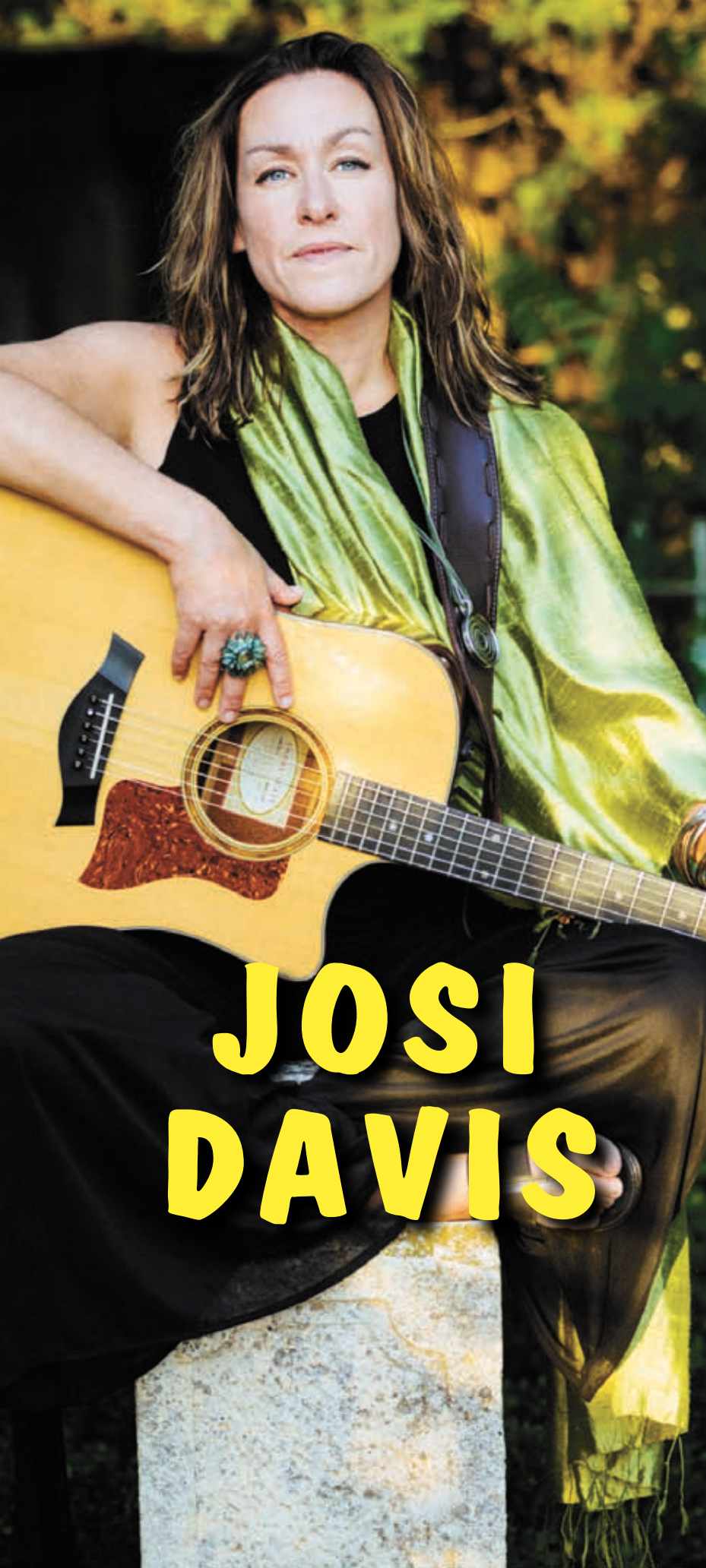
17 - Bushnell, Hartford, CT

Taylor Dayne

17 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT



SOUND WAVES 11



JOSI DAVIS

By Sue Menhart

Popular local singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and theater buff Josi Davis was born in the Washington D.C./Baltimore area but moved to Connecticut several years ago to attend Eugene O'Neill Theater workshops in Waterford. She currently resides in East Lyme. Folks around here harmoniously agree that Davis is an undeniable musical talent with a breezy and heartwarming demeanor, with a willingness to teach and collaborate, who delivers passionate live performances and writes heartfelt, catchy, great songs. She released her first album "The Evolution of Love" in 2013 which garnered a "Best Album" nomination in the 2014 Connecticut Music Awards. Her second album, to be separated into two EPs, is called "Love/Rain." She will celebrate the release of the first EP at the Garde Arts Center Oasis Room in New London, CT on March 9.

I sat down with Davis at the String Theory School of Music in East Lyme where she has been teaching for the past ten years. Her "office" had a piano, a chair, a stool and oozed creativity. I sat on the piano bench and she came in crying. "I'm listening to the master for the first time and I'm literally going to cry. Just listening to the songs going from one to the other, I can't believe it. It's been A LOT of work."

Davis is referring to the years of effort she put into her latest album "Love/Rain" and finally getting to hear the finished product. The songs are jazz-infused, cinematic, theatrical, and orchestral with beautiful melody lines and harmonies, and even sound effects. Listening to them is like an event, or like watching a film. The songs are simply captivating. Though it's customary for original bands and singer-songwriters to write songs, go into a nearby studio to record them, and put the CDs out there and hope for the best, Davis decided to significantly step up her game with this release and built a team around herself to do it. She sought out and obtained a collaboration with legendary producer Louis Anthony deLise whose credits include a Billboard Number One with Patti LaBelle, and hits with William DeVaughn and cult dance club favorite, John Gibbs. DeLise pulled in Philadelphia studio musicians for the production including veterans Alan Slutsky and Andy Lalasis, percussionist Pablo Batista (Alicia Keys) and saxophonist Carl Cox (Maysa). Davis credits Cathy Yuhas, owner of Hook River Music Company out of Niantic, CT, with finding producer deLise in the first place. "She suggested I contact him so I did. I sent him some of my stuff, we had a two-hour meeting in Philadelphia and we agreed to work together." This partnership has made all the difference for Davis, as she has instantly been put on a new level.

Record label Philly Nouveau Records (an imprint of Bocage Music Publishing, LLC Philadelphia) released the single "First Kiss" off the album in November 2016. The second single "Calling," was an immediate hit, climbing up the charts to #1 on Canada's WAVE FM ("Toronto's Smoothest Groove") alongside new recordings by Michael McDonald, U-NAM and Peet Project.

"I had forty stations that were spinning my song all the time. And then we climbed to number one on WAVE FM in Toronto. It was hilarious," Davis said. "I chased Michael McDonald up the chart. Every week I'm looking at the chart and he's still right in front of me. I'm thinking I'm going to pass him one of these times. All of a sudden on the fourth week, I was at number one and he was down at number six. And I was like WAIT, WHAT?!"

"I've spent some time listening to the station because smooth jazz is like a new genre," she said. "It's basically adult contemporary with a jazz fixation. There are a lot of horn-driven tunes. They're spinning Steely Dan, Ed Sheeran, and Adele, people like that. These are the artists that I'm playing next to. And it all works. They're all theatrical, cinematic, story driven. Everything I write is story driven too."

With the momentum going after the radio climb, Davis and team decided the time was right to release the next batch of songs, while continuing to

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tweak and refine the rest of the songs for a later release. “This has been a pretty large scale production project. Aside from the financial aspect, I wouldn’t want to do it any other way. Working with Lou (deLise) has been awesome. Would I love to have the whole thing out? Yes. Do I want to cut corners? No.”

Figuring out how things really work in the music business was another big challenge Davis decided to face. She researched music distribution services, PR companies, obtained entertainment industry legal counsel, familiarized herself with how to book shows outside of her local area through booking agents, how to get radio stations to play her music, and collaborated with this industry-savvy producer. She built a team, organically, from the ground up. “I just don’t want to take anymore shortcuts,” she said. “I think that’s what it comes down to for me. I feel like I know my purpose in this world. If I don’t serve it, then why am I here? It’s not an easy attitude to have. Sometimes I wake up and look myself in the mirror and I say, ‘Can I? Can I do this?’ So if I feel like that I have to tell myself, ‘Yes you can.’ Just like ‘Bob the Builder’ - Can we fix it? Or the train - I think I can I think I can I think I can,” and she laughs.

So basically, “I’m in!” she said. “All of my chips are in the middle of the table. The song ‘I Give In’ was a wordsmithing exercise for me. There’s a stigma in the industry about writing card game songs, how cliché it is. My goal was to write a song about a card game that was not cliché. In a lot of ways it is absolutely the picture of what I am doing in my career right now. I give in. I’m in it, or I’m not. I have to make the decision. A lot of us will spend the time working the day job and doing as much as we can afford, making sure that we’ve got the chance to gig, trying to get our music out there to as many people as possible. This area has been marvelously supportive and there are so many talented people here. I cannot think of a better place to have started. I give in.” she said.

Working with a team that can “make things sound the way they sound in your mind” has been an amazing part of “Love/Rain” for Davis. “Lou has done all of it. He is the arranger, producer, and the conductor for the production of these songs. He pulled in a lot of folks from Philly. Dr. Licks on guitar, Andy Lalasis on bass (an incredible upright player) and he did some five string work too. Carl Cox, who tours with Mesa, is another smooth jazz figure on sax. He did gorgeous work. He was so fun. When we did ‘Your Kiss’ which was the first one I was trying to describe to him, I actually got to be there when he was in the studio. I was telling Carl that feeling you get when you kiss somebody for the first time and there’s this butterfly thing and you think that you’ve fallen in love and maybe you have. I said, ‘That’s what I want this particular moment to sound like.’ And if you listen to the sax there’s this one spot where he absolutely nabs that!”

Besides the expert production, arrangements, instrumentation and song-writing on the album, the vocals from Davis are just superb. They are heartfelt and expressive; a little bit Liza Minelli and a little Barbara Streisand. She’s not just singing, she’s telling a story. She expresses the notes theatrically, and the result is like watching a movie or a Broadway play. “I have always been singing,” she said. My family is musical. My father was a U.S. Air Force musician and my mother was an educator. So my exposure has been great. I was the girl practicing piano and my dad calling from the living room, ‘That was wrong!’” she laughed. “When I was ten I really wanted to be an opera singer. I heard Jesus Christ Superstar and then I saw a television program with Maria Callas. I saw her intensity in a rehearsal room and I was like, oh that looks cool, I could do that. I would watch Ethel Merman and try to figure out how to make this big sound come out of my body.”

“I got to play around with my voice in a lot of different ways,” for “Love/Rain” she said. “A lot of people want to hear a Janis Joplin rocking power house. I love to sing that way. What you get out of yourself emotionally, what it can do for you medicinally. When you’re having a day and you

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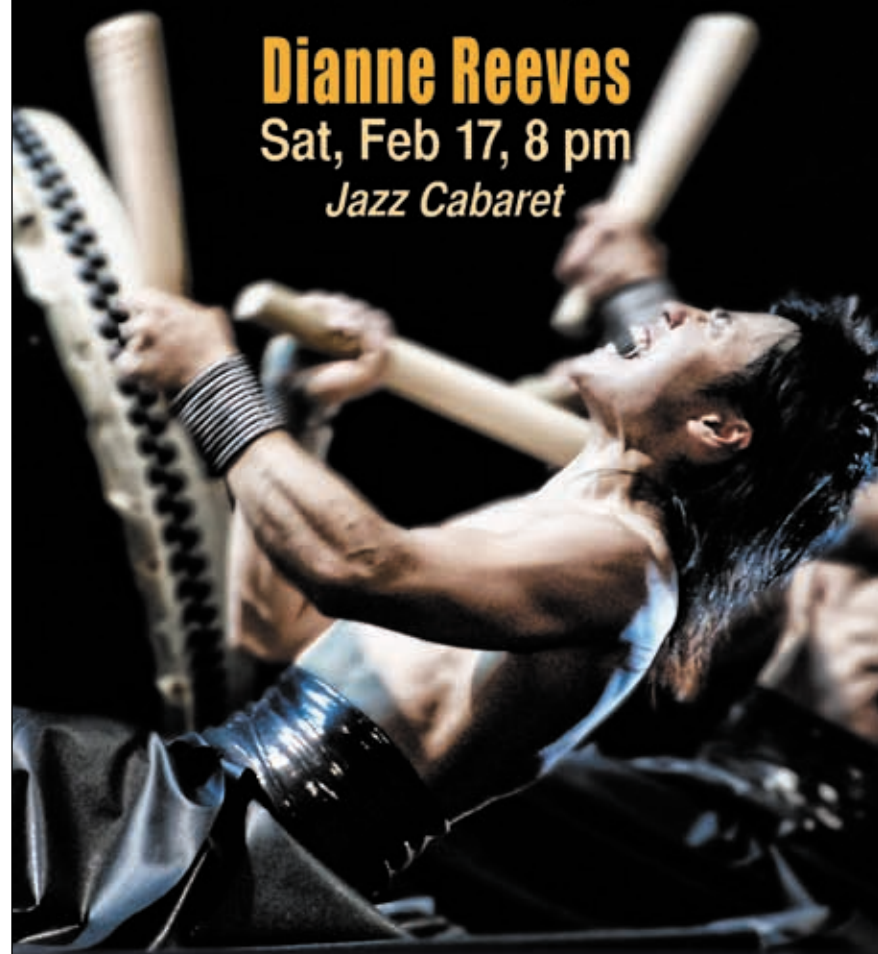
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want to just yell, do it! Even though it is something I CAN do, I prefer to take my voice and do something I feel that it was built for. I see the character of jazz is utilizing every dynamic that you have. That's the challenge. When I'm writing I don't write easy melodies for myself, because I want to know, can I do this? That was one part of it. And the second part of it, when you find a good producer, they are bringing out the absolute best in you. A couple times I thought I had takes for these tunes and then we would go back and listen to them and I would say huh, I bet I could do that differently. And so I would go down and do my whirlwind trip to Philly. I would leave the night before, stay in Brooklyn with my bestie, jet down in the morning and do these marathon sessions. Twelve hours in the studio is a lot. On a good trip I would have two days where we would do our session one day and a good day of listening and fixing."

Davis and her team plan to release another single, "Do You Get It?" and work with a PR company called SmoothJazz.com on promoting it. This global marketing company will also help Davis get booked into music festivals. "This is the way for me to get my music out past this wonderful place that it's built on and into the hands of others."

But above all, Davis wants to remain the same person, no matter what happens, and to what level things happen. "I'm paving my own way. You can wipe your slate clean and re-invent yourself. However, if you're not telling the truth then you're not telling anybody anything. You have to decide what your truth is and you have to tell it true. It's hard work. I've spent the most time teaching myself. Anybody can stand outside of your body and tell you what they're hearing but unless you know how to express what you feel happening in your body, your instrument, then it won't work."

Davis is still looking forward to playing locally at places like the Breachway Grill in Charleston, Rhode Island. "I just love it there. The people come and throw songs at me and challenge me to play them. And they fill my tip jar!" she laughed. "Music is about the exchange. If you don't have that then why are you doing it?" Also, "The Release Party on 3-9-18 at The Garde is going to be wonderful. The group that I have put together is all veteran players. The official ad date for radio is the 12th. I wanted to do (the release party) in New London, this is where my career really began, not in Philadelphia where this is all originating from. It will be nice to do something down there as well. I owe it to the people locally who have continued to support me. All of this just doesn't happen unless you have supportive people around you."

Links:

<http://www.josidavis.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/josidavismusic/>

<http://www.stringtheoryschoolofmusic.com/index.html>

Upcoming Shows:

Feb 2 - Breachway Grill, Charlestown, RI

Feb 13 - Strange Brew Pub, Norwich, CT (unplugged night)

Feb 18 - Cafe SoL, Niantic (students, faculty and friends of String Theory School of Music)

Mar 9 - Garde Arts Center Oasis Room, New London, CT (Love/Rain EP Release Event)

14 SOUND WAVES



HEARING AID



The Carleans "Forgotten Pages" Loco Dare Records

It seems just yesterday that Niantic, Connecticut based Americana trio The Carleans had released their second album, "Drowning Moon" when boom! They've got another one! Their third release, "Forgotten Pages," will be out February 24. More vivid storytelling, heartfelt vocals, precision guitars and mandolin, silky upright bass lines and twin sister harmonies are on the way, so fret not!

All songs on "Forgotten Pages" were written by Jim Carpenter, with the exception of the cover "Jesus in New Orleans." The album was recorded, mixed, and mastered by Carpenter as well at his Loco Dare Studio in Niantic. Carpenter sings and plays acoustic and electric guitars, mandolin, and drums while Sarah MacLean sings and plays acoustic guitar. Corina Malbaurn handles the upright bass, Rachel MacLean Sargent sings, Mike Derry plays piano, organ and accordion and Joe Grieco adds some keys.

The album kicks off with the light and breezy "Maggie's Underwood." Every time I listen to The Carleans, for some reason, my cares just drift away. I believe this must be a large part of their appeal and popularity. Their songs, even if they are filled with heartbreak, aching, longing, and really bad stuff, when you listen to them, you just feel like everything's going to be OK. I'm not sure what that is, but I think it's something like magic.

Carpenter talk-sings in his low, gravelly voice on the next tune, "Leslie." There's a video on YouTube from a few years back of Carpenter performing this

with his son Jake and it's a joy to watch. Speaking of songs from the past, "He Gave Her Roses" is a tune released previously on The Hoolios (Carpenter's other project) album "Rosalie". It gets a fresh new take with passionate female vocals from Sarah MacLean. Hoolios fans will also recognize the revamp of "But for the Loneliness" from "The Dream" album.

Carpenter takes the lead on the lovely "Too Little Too Late," the drinking song "Papa's Shine" and "Lovers Only Waltz" which features a sweet mandolin solo. Sure to be a live show crowd pleaser, "Don't Call me Baby," is bluesy and teasing with a syncopated beat as MacLean and Carpenter trade vocal lines. The lone cover, "Jesus in New Orleans," has been a live show staple for the trio and fits them to a tee. MacLean knocks out some simply fantastic vocals on this one as she throws some Gospel vibrato into her voice.

The highlight of the album is the old Hoolios favorite "Even Her Eyes." MacLean owns it on lead vocals on this new recording of this timeless song. This should be a radio hit on country or roots radio right now. MacLean's vocals are off the chart awesome hitting a higher register and taking more chances.

The Carleans will celebrate this album release at The Knickerbocker Cafe in Westerly, Rhode Island on February 24 at 7 p.m. with special guests The Hoolios.

Links:

<http://www.thecarleans.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/thecarleans>

<http://thecarleans.bandcamp.com/>

<http://www.reverbNation.com/thecarleans3>

<http://www.locodare.com>

Upcoming Shows:

Feb 2 - Infinity Hall, Norfolk, CT (Special Guests for Joint Chiefs Album Release Party)

Feb 24 - The Knickerbocker Cafe, Westerly, RI (Forgotten Pages Album Release Party)

- Sue Menhart



www.Swaves.com



Jesse Royal

"Lily of da Valley"

Easy Star Records

Jesse Royal is one of the hot rising stars in Jamaica's modern reggae scene. In his short career, he's already had a #1 single and achieved industry respect for his powerful voice, fantastic hooks and strong songwriting.

He follows in the tradition of other modern day Jamaican reggae stars such as Chronixx, Protoje and Jah9 who have dug deep into their cultural roots whilst maintaining a very modern feel. Innovation and creativity abound in this modern new-wave reggae and Jesse Royal is a strong part of this movement.

"Lily of da Valley" is his first full-length album, and it's pure fire. He comes out swinging with the opening track "400 Years". It's a hard-hitting social critique about injustice and the struggle of minorities to overcome their history. Like most of the album, it's a thoroughly modern blend of classic roots-rock reggae with a contemporary urban feel.

The album features "Modern Day Judas", which rocked the top of the charts in 2013 as his first big single. It's got a catchy chorus, chilled out beat and some nice keyboard hooks. The song addresses themes of loyalty and honesty in dealing with friends and critics.

Another one of my favorites on here is "Always Be Around". It has a great melodic feel, and one of those hooks that just gets stuck in your head on repeat: "I would never let you down / Always be around". Again, it features heavy roots-reggae elements with threads of dub and electronic sound effects weaved throughout.

"Lily of da Valley" also features the mandatory herb-praising track with "Roll Me Something Good". It's an upbeat number with a light feel and an extremely catchy chorus repeating "The chalice have to bubble all night". When

I saw him in concert this winter he had the audience doing a call and response with it, with thousands of people singing it back to him.

I am thoroughly impressed with this album. It has dance numbers and ballads, all punctuated by his incredible singing voice and knack for putting together a great hook. The production is amazing, and every song front to back feels like it belongs. Even if you aren't a reggae fan, you can still find a lot of enjoyment from listening to this great work.

- Tom Matthew
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16 Who Made Who Who Tribute	17 Kristie Dix & The Fat Cats
23 Frankie & the Know it Alls	24 Call for info

COOKING WITH THE BLUES

By Jack Chaplin

Brrrrr, It's been some nasty ass cold weather out lately but today it feels great, the sun is shining and it's 32 degrees outside! We had a small snow storm the other day, 3 inches with ice and the cars got all caked with that new road de-icer that they came up with. It probably corrodes the rubber hoses and undercarriage of your car better so we can pay more in repairs. I'm old school and will only pay 2 or 3 dollars and spray the car off myself and every 4 or 5 times I will spring a dollar for the 4 minute vacuum. I see people lined up to pay 10 or more dollars to have the deluxe wash, interior, tires, floor mats, hand wiped and waxed and think nothing of it. My Dad use



to have a whisk broom in his trunk to sweep out his car and back in Texas I did the same thing, Old School. By the way, any idea where I can find a whisk broom these days?

I was driving back to my nice cozy and warm home when I saw a guy pushing a shopping cart loaded with three bags of cans and bottles crossing the street by Burlington Coat. We all see these people but mostly it doesn't register, part of the landscape. I took off towards home but doubled back and met up with him close to Shop Rite. I got out and asked him if I could talk to him a minute and that I'd like to interview him for this article. He had a deer in headlights look or that of a cornered cat. Of course he was leery and didn't want to be taped or have his picture taken, shopping cart only. He thought I was going to mess with his operation like I'm sure he deals with on the daily. His name is Yang and had been pushing that cart since 6 am when it was probably 15 degrees out. I asked him how much he thought he had in returns, about 20 bucks he said which was a good day, recycling day! He had a look that he had been on the wrong end of a bad scuffle a time or two. I had seen him over Bank St. going through garbage cans like a honey bee gathering nectar. I was impressed about his speed, people hanging on the corner would saddle up and try to talk but he didn't stop, kept his focus on the job at hand. I told him that I appreciate him doing what he does and told him stop in for a pizza one day. I threw him 10 bucks for the interview, what's that 200 cans?

It kills me when the threat of snow regardless whether it be a few inches or a nasty Nor'easter the grocery stores are jammed, the ole Bread, Eggs, and Milk mentality. I feel that 99% of anyone shopping has at least 3 weeks worth of food in the fridge, freezer, and cabinets! The big problem for me is that after the storm they still have so much food left over that they had cooked the last thing they need is to go out for dinner! My sister Pam has a thing where once in a while she won't buy any food until she has usurped every last morsel in her house. I think we should all do that once or twice a year. Suppress our natural hoarding DNA.

Congratulations to Cory and His Newlywed Kaylee! A very nice affair

16 SOUND WAVES

was had at the Thames River Greenery, a room in the back had been a Speak Easy back during prohibition. These days it was used for this special occasion and others, one being a free wine tasting on Friday nights. Charlotte, Fred and Geo did a really nice job with flowers, a beautiful cheese / charcuterie platter, and a huge bottle of Prosecco, iced and delicious. Afterwards we met up for dinner at Michael Jordan's Steak House at Mohegan Sun. I hadn't been there before, I had eaten at the bar next door where the food is very good and fairly priced. If you go to Jordan's be prepared to throw

a few bucks out the window. It's ok to do that every once in a while but I don't usually do so because I work with food everyday. I know the prices of food and wine, as I've stated here before I can be on the cheap side. I ordered up a few jumbo Shrimp Cocktail to start with and a Bloody Mary, Then I ordered up the Nueske's Apple Wood Smoked Bacon, three uber thick monsters, unbelievably tasty and not to be missed! Up next, The \$20 dollar Lump Crab Cake, a Maryland Style, all Lump Crab and very little filler. Next came the Double Cut Lamb Chops cooked to a medium perfection. We ordered a bunch of sides, the Mac and Cheese, Sautéed Mushrooms, Roasted Asparagus, Grilled Corn w/ Chili Lime Butter and a few potato dishes. We all shared, LaKisha ordered the Baby Iceberg which was close to a Wedge Salad, You know I had some of that. She ordered a Filet Mignon which was butter tender! Everyone was sharing and passing plates around, the sides were big enough for three or four easily! The saying, "Go Big Or Stay Home" comes to mind, the sticker shock hit hard but I got over it quick. The bill was equal to a few weeks worth of groceries but the experience was priceless and it was awesome to be a part of Cory and Kaylee's most special day.



The flu bug has hit real hard this year, whoever created this one did a bang up job! Pharmacies are having record sales, doctors and hospitals are seeing patients at record levels. CVS bought Aetna, I think, and is morphing into a health insurer and a care provider overnight! You really have to wonder when you see a pharmacy giving away free flu shots and then they are in business to sell you the drugs to make you feel better! Want to talk about a conflict of interest. My personal belief, you ready? When flu shot season starts the flu season starts, ever notice that. I believe those that get the shot spread and are carriers of the flu and pass it around everywhere they go. How does it spread so fast all around the states? Do other countries in Europe and around the world have this yearly flu season, I never hear so! On that note I wish you all a Happy Valentine's Day.

Love those that You love but most importantly love yourself and be good to others! Jack

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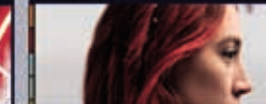
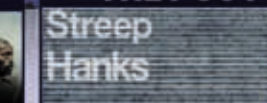
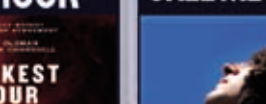
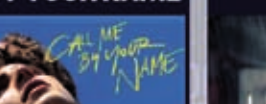
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