

Street SCENE

Goobar survives switch from stage to 'Complete' CD



LARRY O'CONNOR

looks like he's made up of spare parts kicking straw into the audience and backed up by his legion of cowpoke musicians scoring mutated punk rock and country into our consciousness.

The joke is funny and we continue to howl.

Somewhat lost in all this has been the band's music, which has never really been held up for dissection. The release of "The Complete Works of Goobar & the Peas" obviously changes all that.

Stripped away from all its hokey surroundings, Goobar and the Peas' music is served on a muscled plate unadorned. It's not bad and the guitar work, especially on the harder edged rock numbers, is brilliant. Yet the release misses the proper ambience at times.

Songs such as "Consider Me," which is sung in twangy reverence to Hank Williams Sr., have a stately grace about them while others like the usually scorching "Funky Cowboy" seem to lose some kick under the constraint of a studio. The crackle and spunk on the band's previously released EP was endearing, showcasing for anthems like "Hot Women (Cold Beer)."

The CD version of Goobar and the Peas doesn't retain the charm. (Municipal Records, P.O. Box 20879, Detroit 48220)

"Death of Cool," Kitchens of Distinction: Sure, the Kitchens of Distinction owe their sound to a number of innovative 1980s bands — Jay Division, the Cure, Cocteau Twins and the Smiths to name a few. "Strange Free World," the band's 1991 debut on A&M, was still a captivating amalgamation of

welled up emotion, cloud bursts of guitar and shimmering textures that hinted at free jazz at times. So the direction and mood of "Death of Cool" should come as a little surprise. Patrick Fitzgerald, Julian Swales and Dan Goodwin tinker somewhat, experimenting with various guitar and vocal tracks and revealing a bit more of themselves through more introspective lyrics.

While retaining the radiant aspects of their music, Kitchens of Distinction come away sounding largely formulaic here. "Death of Cool" resembles the B-side of "Strange Free World."

The soft acoustic strumming and an easy rhythm may introduce a song such as "Mind as Snow." The glimmer of hope for any wholesale deviation is promptly squashed by the predictable crescendo of space-age pyrotechnic guitars, protracted to the point of sounding extraneous. (A&M)

"Stand So True," The Lovekings: This seven-song release is crafted in the best breezy heart-yearning pop intentions, the kind of stuff that made Elvis Costello a musical deity and Marshall Crenshaw a king of cool.

The Lovekings pursue this earnestly, revealing several strengths and betraying a few weaknesses along the way.

The sinuous, rhythm-infused guitar playing and the band's effervescent harmonies are the most endearing qualities of the Lovekings. Lyrically, the outfit also packs a good deal of punch while tackling the basest of emotions of love and unrest.

The frustration here is that these attributes never seem to fully reach fruition in the form of a simple, indelible pop song. "Helienda," featuring some great guitar work, is one of the catchier songs here as is the opening track "Lover's Lane."

The ingredients are there, but not always the right recipe. (The Lovekings, 7427 Middlesex, Dearborn 48126)



New project: In addition to singer/guitarist Khalid Hanifi, Kiss Me Screaming includes drummer Donn Deniston, bassist Tim Delaney and guitarist Brian Delaney.

Hanifi tries again with Kiss Me



There's a self-inflicted sense of urgency at the center of Kiss Me Screaming. It comes from its founder, Khalid Hanifi, who has started in on his first musical project since his former band, Map of the World, broke up in 1990. And this new four-man outfit isn't losing track of where its going.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Khalid Hanifi has already watched helplessly as one of his bands sank into the abyss. He's determined not to let happen again.

Such a self-inflicted urgency burns at the center of Kiss Me Screaming, which is Hanifi's first project since his former band Map of the World broke up in 1990. The four-man outfit features a frontal twin-guitar attack and a smattering of aggressive yet melodic songs.

For the singer/guitarist, the group is the musical equivalent to the Phoenix rising from the ashes of Map of the World, a band that carved its own niche in area music circles.

Map of the World, a progressive guitar pop band fronted by Hanifi and his sister Sofia, signed with Atlantic and recorded an LP. Before the album was released, though, the A&R person who signed the band had left the label.

The person replacing him didn't like the album nor the band, according to Khalid. Subsequently, Map of the World was unceremoniously dropped from the label.

"It certainly gave me a renewed distrust for the corporate mentality, not that I didn't have one before," Khalid said. "I saw it and I was a pawn in its grasp, and that's not fun... I was bitter for awhile but I learned from it."

When the band broke up, Hanifi was left pondering for nearly two years what went wrong. He has some ideas, but he's more concerned about getting on with his musical career at the moment.

In Kiss Me Screaming, Hanifi joins Map of the World alumni drummer Donn Deniston and bassist Tim Delaney along with guitarist Brian Delaney. Hanifi's sister Sofia didn't partake in this outfit ("It never came up," said Khalid, who shared songwriting duties with his sister).

As Tim's brother, Brian Delaney provides a sibling connection in Kiss Me Screaming. The former member of the Faithwalkers and Scott Morgan Band also supplies a good deal of the verve as one of the band's two guitarists.

"He's found a unit that is able to come up

with songs," Brian Delaney said about Hanifi. "He comes up with a blue print and we can hammer it out pretty effectively."

Kiss Me Screaming's songs are more personal in scope than those of Map of the World, which intertwined political and social themes into melodic discourse. Khalid is in charge in the songwriting department of this band.

While numbers such as "Mutually Assured Destruction" would appear to fall into the neo-political realm, Khalid puts them more in personal perspective.

"I'm writing for myself as a performer," he said. "I wouldn't say it's more personal, but the person intended to sing the songs is me."

Kiss Me Screaming has performed a spate of the dates since April, including a gig at Lill's Aug. 14. There's talk of a CD being released sometime in six months to a year, but Hanifi is quick to add there's no hurry.

Unlike the past, Hanifi added he'll take more charge in the band's affairs instead of letting someone else do it for them.

"It's difficult," he said. "There's so many people doing this. When you step away for one or two years like I did, nobody remembers what you did and they don't care... You are starting from scratch."

STREET SENSE

Lack of interest calls for therapy



BARBARA SCHIFF

Dear Barbara, My husband and I have been married for two years. We are both happy and content. We are in our early 20s.

When we were dating, we made love all the time. At least it seemed that way. We couldn't keep our hands off each other. It was an exciting time for both of us. Since our marriage, our sexual interest has declined. At first it was four times a week and then shrunk. Now we make love once a week.

I read many articles in women's magazines about this topic. They say two-three times a week is average. I am worried. Does my husband and my lack of sexual interest mean there is something wrong with our marriage or with one of us?

Probably because we do not want to be behind the national average, sometimes we try to make love more often. But truly, the joy is not there at those times — it really isn't any fun.

Thanks for taking time to answer this question.

Muriel

Dear Muriel,

It is not normal to lose your sexual desire at such an early age; an age when many other women are just growing into their sexuality. Often women report that they do not even reach the ability to be fully expressive sexually until they are older and have been in a committed monogamous relationship for some time.

There is no material in your letter to explain what is going wrong in your marriage, but a couple's sexual interaction in revealing their relationship. So, even though you state you are both "happy and content," the assumption is that there are some underlying problem of which neither of you is aware.

National averages are just that, averages, and cannot be applied to individuals. Your difficulty is not that you do not meet the average, but that you seem to have lost a sexual interest in each other.

Call a counselor who is experienced in sex therapy. If you cannot find one, send me your address and I will send you some names. Normally, through therapy couples change their relationship so that their natural desire will return.

Barbara

Monday, Aug. 24

WISE QUARTET
Alvin, 5756 Cass, Detroit.
832-2355

INDIA GREEN
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.
485-5050

Tuesday, Aug. 25

UNCLE CHUNK
Ricks Cafe, 611 Church, Detroit.
996-2747

CHISEL BROTHERS WITH THORNETTA
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit.
832-2355

Wednesday, Aug. 26

MARY MCQUIRE AND MYX RISE
Gayles Chocolate, 417 S. Washington, Royal Oak.
398-0001

RAINBOWS
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555

Performing:
Goobar & the Peas will perform at The New Center Park in Detroit Thursday, Aug. 27.



IN CONCERT

WEATHERVANES
Ricks Cafe, 611 Church, Detroit.
996-2747

Thursday, Aug. 27

MARCIA BAI L
Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, Dearborn.
946-1820

GOOBER & THE PEAS
The New Center Park, West Grand Boulevard and Second Avenue, Detroit. The band will perform 5:30-8 p.m.

IMMUNITY
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.
485-5050

FULL MOON RISING
Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-9292

CIVILIANS
New Way Bar, 23130 Woodward, Farmington Hills.
541-9870

MATTHEWS
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555

HIGH CALIBRE
Detroit Bar, 655 Beaubien, Detroit.
963-3355

MARY MCQUIRE AND MYX RISE
Hoops in Auburn Hills.
373-4744

KISS ME SCREAMING
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555

HANNIBAL
Ricks Cafe, 611 Church, Detroit.
996-2747

FORMOSA POP
With Mashed in Diary at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-9292

CONFUSE A CAT
With the Remains at Lill's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck.
875-6555

FOUR DISGRACES
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.
485-5050

Saturday, Aug. 29

WEATHERVANES
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.
485-5050

THE TRUNCHEONS
With Civilians at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-9292

CHABO JAM SESSION
Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit.
831-8070

THE PRODIGALS
Ricks Cafe, 611 Church, Detroit.
996-2747

JUMPIN' JOHNNY & THE BLUES PARTY
Soup Kitchen, 1585 Franklin St., Detroit.
259-1374

CUPPA JOE
Coconut Joe's, 225 Jos. Campau, Detroit.
259-3675

OUTCASTS
New Way Bar, 23130 Woodward, Farmington Hills.
541-9870

GRITTY HAYERS
With Pet UFO at Hamtramck Pub, 2048 Canfield, Detroit.
365-3429

HOT CALIBRE
Detroit Bar, 655 Beaubien, Detroit.
963-3355

MARY MCQUIRE AND MYX RISE
Mr. B's, 423 Main, Rochester.
651-6534

LAUGHING MYNAB
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555

ROOSTER & THE LOVEMASTERS
With Moss the Clown at Lill's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck.
875-6555

MELISSA STEW
St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.
967-4127

HOLY COWS
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.
485-5050