

# Streetscene

## Kitchens cooks — musically

■ It bothers Julian Swales that some critics have labeled his band's latest effort as being too much of the same old thing. But Swales says they need to give "The Death of Cool" a better listen and they'll see that the *Kitchens of Distinction* have progressed.

By Larry O'Connor  
Staff Writer

In an interview, Julian Swales is quite like the radiant and vibrantly guitar soundscapes he creates for *Kitchens of Distinction*: petulant and gushing.

The native of south Wales raves on in a trans-Atlantic phone call about how the band's next album is going to mark a radical departure. The discourse includes how he plans to shun the space-age effects, his hopes to incorporate samples and other mixed bits into the stew and even how the stark, penetrating guitar style on Neil Young's "Cortez the Killer" off of "Weld" has had a profound effect on him.

Only Swales stops himself, seemingly to obey an imaginary yellow light of caution that has appeared before him.

"I suppose I should be talking about this album," says Swales.

"The Death of Cool," (A&M) the threesome's highly anticipated follow-up to the 1991 college/alternative radio darling "Strange New World," is not something to be overlooked.

The release maintains all the *Kitchens of Distinction* hallmarks: Emotionally-drenched lyrics sung by singer/songwriter Patrick Fitzgerald buoyed by Swales' boundless bery of shattering atmospheric guitar forays.

Critics have had their say with "The Death of Cool" though. Some have dismissed it for being too much of the same old thing.

"There's been a progression," says Swales, discussing the subject without prompting. "Some say there hasn't been. Some say there has."

"Those people (who say there hasn't been) haven't listened to it properly. They've only listened to it once or twice and judge it on the weight of that."

Stomping a bit wounded, Swales goes on to point out some of the groundbreaking aspects of "The Death of Cool." For one, he contends there were less guitar effects used on the whole.

Swales also cites the seven-minute plus tracks such as "Mad as Snow," which is largely melancholic



Sonic wake: "The Death of Cool," the latest from the British band *Kitchens of Distinction*, has members Dan Goodwin (left), Patrick Fitzgerald and Julian Swales exploring new territory through introspective lyrics.

but tendered spritely with deliberate acoustic strumming before exploding into a fireball of guitar pyrotechnics.

What many have latched onto are songwriter Patrick Fitzgerald's more introspective lyrics this time out.

Songs such as "On Tooling Broadway Station" and "What Happens Now?" has the singer bitterly wading through an emotional Tiber while "4 Men" is rather implicit in its, er, unsatiated sexual yearnings.

"It's just that Patrick had been going through a bit . . . before the last album came out," Swales says. "There was much less turmoil when we did 'Strange New World' when all we were really enjoying

playing and we were performing—songs about the ocean and as such."

Has the fact Patrick has dealt openly — such as in "4 Men" — with his homosexuality changed how the band is perceived?

"My experience is all relationships are the same," Swales says. "I know the song is about a man and I sing along with it on stage, but it could easily be a woman he's singing about. It could all be the same thing."

Swales is more engrossed in how the *Kitchens of Distinction's* approach will change in the future.

Underneath the "Strange New World" veneer of lush guitar orchestrations were textures of free jazz. Swales, who's been listening religiously to Miles Davis recently,

would like to include more of those elements into the *Kitchens*' fray.

Also, the band has asked rappers Krisi-Kross to perform on their next single. If anything, Swales just sees the need for change.

"You reach a point. On the last few albums, we've following something and you eventually get bored with it," he says. "This is the sort of album where we've nailed it down . . . so it's time to move onto something else."

*Kitchens of Distinction* will perform with guests, Kingsmaker and Bleach, Friday, Oct. 2, at Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. For information, call 334-1988.



Mystery maker: Comedian Eddie Jaye has taken his laughs to new heights by engineering murder mystery weekends at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.

## He gets his laughs in mysterious way

By Patrick Keating  
Special Writer

It could be that one of America's funniest entertainers lives here in Michigan. His name is Eddie Jaye, and since 1976, he has made people laugh with a mixture of comedy and ventriloquism that never resorts to off-color humor.

For two years, he toured with country songsters Alabama as their opening act. He has also opened for David Copperfield, Gladys Knight and the Pips, Lee Greenwood and Randy Travis.

More recently, Jaye put together a show called "The New Vaudville Revue," a three-man show, featuring himself, comedy juggler Jim Oakley and the comedy magic of Steve Ryder.

Comedy remains his main source of income, but Eddie Jaye is a modern-day renaissance man, and comedy alone is not enough to satisfy him. He's been a television director for ad agencies, a freelance reporter and an award-winning amateur chef.

"I've never been content just to do one thing," Jaye said. "I have a lot of interests."

Since 1985, the Royal Oak resident has been writing and producing murder mysteries at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. The mystery is set in some other era, and for four days, guests live in that era.

"Every one is based on historical fact," Jaye said. "All our guests come dressed in that era. If the scene of our murder mystery is 1939, the clothes everyone wears comes from 1939."

Previous "Murder at the Grand" events have been set during the Civil War, the 1880s and the 1920s. The most recent was set in Las Vegas in 1948.

According to Jaye, every aspect of the event, including the entertainment is appropriate to the time period in which the mystery is set. In fact, during a recent Murder Mystery set in 1944, Jaye arranged to fit the wedding of two of the guests into the plot. Since the setting was World War II, and the groom portrayed a colonel in the OSS, Jaye went so far as to get a real Army chaplain to perform the ceremony.

### A new twist

Jaye tries to use the Grand Hotel as the Grand Hotel whenever possible. The next Murder Mystery, the "Time Machine Murders," will be held Oct. 15-18. According to Jaye, it is a departure from the usual format.

"This one is different," he said. "We always go back in time, but in this one, the time frame is 1992 and all the other time eras are coming to us."

The premise is that in 1892, Sherlock Holmes is visited by an inventor friend named Professor Edmond Montelhi, who has invent-

ed the Inter-Dimensional Time Machine. Holmes sets out to prove to all eras, past and future, that he is the world's greatest detective.

Holmes and the professor end up at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island in 1992, "closely followed by an awesome array of criminals all out to get the men who disturbed their lives."

During the weekend, actors portray the suspects, while guests are part of a detective team of 16-20 people. They examine the scene of the crime, gather clues and question suspects in an attempt to ascertain the guilty parties.

And adds Jaye, with some pride, the late Stephen Birmingham, travel editor for *CBS News*, once referred to the Murder at the Grand as "the Cadillac of all mystery vacations."

### New venture

Not one to rest on his laurels, Jaye has developed a new business venture, which he calls "Artographs." For the past 20 years, he's been acquiring, as gifts for friends, autographs of famous personalities, and framing them along with other related items.

"I'd been collecting autographs and memorabilia for years, it's just something I'm interested in," he said. "I love history . . . and I've discovered over the years, that people have icons, people have . . . heroes."

Jaye's autographs are one of a kind wall hangings, pieces of art, that contain autographs of sports, political and show business legends, creatively framed with rare photos, press clippings and memorabilia.

One of Jaye's autographs features autographed pictures of Nat King Cole and Natalie Cole along with one of his 78 RPM records and one of her CDs. Another features a signed photo of Elvis with one of his early recordings on the Sun label.

Other autograph subjects include Fwz Wee, Herman, Milton Berle, Groucho Marx, Woody Allen, Madonna, Walt Disney, Ted Williams, Johnny Carson and Ed McMahon, Rita Hayworth and a color photo of Bugs Bunny signed by Chuck Jones, Fritz Freleng and Mel Blanc.

Obviously, they're pricey — the least expensive one would probably be around \$250 — however, he guarantees all autographs before framing them. He uses several sources to verify the legitimacy of the autographs he purchases.

"If you sell a burn autograph, your business is shot; you've lost credibility," Jaye says.

Eddie Jaye's upcoming *Murder at the Grand* is sponsored by A.T.S. Travel and costs \$520 per person (double occupancy) or \$730 single. Reservations can be made by calling A.T.S. Travel at 543-7954.

## IN CONCERT

Monday, Sept. 28

**VERVE PIPE**  
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.  
996-2747

**VITAL INFORMATION**  
Featuring Steve Smith and Tom Coster at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit.  
832-2355

Tuesday, Sept. 29

**THE CHILLS**  
St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets are \$5.50 in advance.  
761-1451

**BOURCE & MACLEOD**  
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main, Ann Arbor.  
996-8555

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

**UNCLE CHUCK**  
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.  
996-2747

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

**MARY MCGUIRE & MYK RISE**  
Mr. B's Farm, Novi Road and 10 Mile, Novi.  
449-7038

Wednesday, Sept. 30

**SCOTT STERN AND THE TRUST**  
Doug's Roby Shop, Woodward Avenue, south of Nine Mile Road, Ferndale.  
398-1940

**TERRY FARMER & THE HEAD BAND**  
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.

Thursday, Oct. 1

**RODDPIAZZA**  
Sully's, 4756 Greenfield, Dearborn.  
846-1920

**TOUCHFEAK**  
With Motiv at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.  
334-9292

**FRANCISCOMORO**  
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit.  
832-2355

**BILL STAINER**  
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main, Ann Arbor.  
761-1451

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

**SCREWFACE**  
Paychecks, 2932 Canfield, Hamtramck.  
874-0254

**REGGAEAMBASSADORS**  
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.  
485-5050

Friday, Oct. 2

**NEW POTATO CAROOSIE**  
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.  
996-8555

**STRANGE BEDFELLOWS**  
With Vinyl Back at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit.  
831-8070

**KITCHENS OF DISTINCTION**  
With special guests Bleach and Kingsmaker at Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac.  
334-1999

**BREEDERS**  
St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.

961-MELT

**FRANK ROBINSON**  
Sully's, 4756 Greenfield, Dearborn.  
846-1920

**HOLY COWS**  
Lili's, 2932 Jacob, Hamtramck.  
875-6555

**THE MIND**  
With Nameless at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.  
334-9292

**BLANKS**  
With Time Trials at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit.  
832-2355

**BETTY**  
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main, Ann Arbor. (Two shows at 7:30 and 10 p.m.)  
761-1451

**PRAXIS**  
With Crabby Jacks and Slugbug at Paychecks, 2932 Canfield, Hamtramck.  
874-0254

**CYLINDER HEAD**  
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.  
485-5050

Saturday, Oct. 3

**TRINIDAD TRIPOLI STEEL BAND**  
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.  
996-2747

**DREAD ZEPPELIN**  
St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets are \$5.  
961-MELT

**HARDLINE**  
Featuring Neal Schon at The Ritz, 17580 Truist, Roseville.  
778-6404

**FENTON ROBINSON**  
Sully's, 4756 Greenfield, Dearborn.  
846-1920

DARK CARNIVAL

With Bootsey X at Lili's, 2932 Jacob, Hamtramck.  
875-6555

**CRABBY JACKS**  
With Edson to Fame at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.  
334-9292

**QUEST BAND**  
With Broken Amoebas at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit.  
832-2355

**BETTY**  
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main, Ann Arbor. Two shows at 7:30 and 10 p.m.  
761-1451

**HOLY COWS**  
With Dred Blasted at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.  
996-8555

**COVINGTONS**  
Lenny's, 3265 Woodward, Detroit.  
831-8370

**WALK ON THE WATER**  
With Fraying Gnome at Paychecks, 2932 Canfield, Hamtramck.  
874-0254

**CRACKERBOX**  
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.  
485-5050

Sunday, Oct. 4

**SONIC YOUTH**  
With Royal Trux at State Theatre, 2115 Woodward, Detroit. Tickets are \$15 in advance.  
996-8555

**TIM BLAKE**  
With Peckie Rechart and Jim Pembroke at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit.  
832-2355