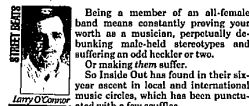


Local female contingents rock on their terms



Being a member of an all-female band means constantly proving your worth as a musician, perpetually debunking male-held stereotypes and suffering an odd heckler or two. So *Inside Out* has found in their six-year ascent in local and international music circles, which has been punctuated with a few scuffles.

Singer and bassist Karen Neal relates how drummer Cathy Carroll recently had to give an onlooker a taste of her knee-cap and provides a quick account of her bout with an unruly spectator.

"I punched him in the mouth a couple of times," Neal said. "We try not to make it a habit, though."

Inside Out, like another all-female band, the *Trunchcons*, prefer to prove its mettle with loud, discordant music.

"We consider ourselves a good band, not just a female band," said Neal, whose band also includes guitarist Lydia Mandolyn. "People see you as you see yourself."

In the long run, we got our respect from being good musicians rather than the novelty of being an all-female band," said *Trunchcons* drummer Monica Reynolds.

It's not easy. The mention of an all-girl band elicits the same banal giggle Go-Go's meets the Bangles expectations from music listeners and the industry itself.

Inside Out and the *Trunchcons* both aptly dispel that notion. Wearing black, spewing profanities, they don't portray themselves as the girl next door.

Both go about it in a different manner, though.

Inside Out's music is rooted in hardcore, dissonant stylings. Shards of punk crunched into the band's penetrating ethereal and laser rock 'n' roll sensibilities, the dynamics of which create an engaging feedback.



Blunt objective: The *Trunchcons* perform a spirited, uncompromising brand of searing rock 'n' roll.



Another voice: Guitarist Lydia Mandolyn adds an ethereal element to *Inside Out*'s otherwise unrelenting hardcore sound.

Veterans of the circuit, *Inside Out* has released two LPs ("Take You Apart, Put You Back Together" and "She's Lost Her Head"), toured Europe twice and even recorded a vaunted Punk Session in England.

By contrast, the *Trunchcons*' sound encompasses more of a guttural straight-ahead rock 'n' roll feel with a filtering of rhythm and blues. The band has been performing as a unit for just a year or so, but members carry an extensive resume.

Guitarist and vocalist Paula Boufford, bassist Dana Forrester and drummer Monica Reynolds all performed in the pop rock outfit the Vertical Pillows.

Trunchcons founder and guitarist/vocalist Karen Monster meanwhile has forged her own reputation for an uncompromising rock 'n' roll stance with her critically acclaimed, self-titled 1989 release and by working with the Detroit all-star conglomeration New Barbarians.

The *Trunchcons* have recorded 16 songs but, according to Monster, "How they're going to show up in public we don't know yet." (The band will perform Nov. 7 at Alvin's, Nov. 21 at Griff's Grill and Dec. 12 at Paycheck).

During the course of performing, members of both *Inside Out* and *Trunchcons* notice a difference in how they're perceived. For women in the audience, Boufford believes it's a vicious thing.

Men are either taken aback or respectful.

"You're good for being an all-girl band," I haven't heard that in a long time," Reynolds said. "I think that's good."

"Most of the time we don't have any problems," Neal said. "A lot of people are intimidated by our boldness. I guess that's what you would call it—and a lot of male musicians respect us because we take our music seriously."

In what Neal classifies as boldness, *Inside Out*'s antics on stage can include an assortment of profanity and well-timed belches—sounding more like guys than guys.

At a recent gig at Willa 404, a male patron mockingly chastised the band for "unlady-like language."

To which Karen said, "Our motto is you don't have to act like a lady to be a woman."



Inside track: Vocalist and bassist Karen Neal sets the tone for *Inside Out*, which squashes any stereotypical Go-Go's/Bangles image that hangs on all-female groups.

Thursday, Nov. 5

PAT DANTON
Blind Pig, 200 S. First, Ann Arbor, 999-6555

MISSIONARY STEW
3D Club, 1815 N. Main, Royal Oak, 659-3344

THE DEAD BANG
Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac, (From California, by way of Livonia, Terry Farmer returns to his old stomping grounds with his new outfit that kicks out a lean, bracing sounds sound that sits the lava lamp in all of us.)
334-9292

RISE ME SCREAMING
WITH THUNDERBOLT CHAIR AT LIFE'S, 2933 Jacob, Hamtramck, 875-6555

SATURDAY, NOV. 7

NIGHTMARE
WITH CLAWHAMMER AND (TUGBOOTS) at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.

DC DRIVE
The Pit, 17580 Frisco, Roseville, 778-8150

SUNDAY, NOV. 8

CIRCA CAN
Sully's, 4756 Greenfield, Dearborn. (As a child, daddy took him to see B.B. King, Ray Charles, Johnny Otis and Fats Domino. No wonder this young guitarist has got the blues. His new album on Blind Pig, "Can't Buy a Break," aptly reflects his mus'cal upbringing.)
846-1920

MONDAY, NOV. 9

ICED FUEL (ALL BASS WITH BLUE DOGS)
3031 BROS. ROAD, ASTORIA, MIAMI AND CRACKERBREAD
Blind Pig, 200 S. First, Ann Arbor, (JAM college radio celebrates the season in a big way with some rocking local acts. Check out Brothers From Another Planet high-energy performance and

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11

STRANGE BEHAVIOR
3D Club, 1815 N. Main, Royal Oak. (Local pop songstress Missy Gibson leads this light outfit, which has evolved into something more visceral, harder sounding.)
589-3344

FRIDAY, NOV. 13

GENE PARSONS AND MEDIAN GREENLACAR
Birmingham Unitarian Church, 651 N. Woodward, at Lane Pk., 674-9250

SATURDAY, NOV. 14

ARUL ARULUM WITH LEMMONADE
St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (Much like their Minneapolis predecessors, The Replacement, this rocking foursome has never been short on energy on stage with its full-throated Midwest-inspired guitar attack. Recording-wise, Soul Asylum has yet to yield tangible results that is representative of such an unfettered work ethic.)
861-MELT

THURSDAY, NOV. 19

BASES IN TOWN
Blind Pig, 200 S. First, Ann Arbor. (This all-female trio is the out of the vibrant Minneapolis scene has major label backing now to go along with its frenzied, no-holds-barred sound.)
996-6555

best bets

Friday, Nov. 20

DREAM CATCHER'S SILENT FEATURING THE THREE OF US, RICHARD CRY, DAVID FRIER, HOWARD GARDNER, RAY J. GIBSON, THE WATKINS, THE UPSIDE AND BROWN TOWN. Alvin's, 5705 Cass, Detroit. Tickets are \$5 at the door. (Chris Slater's delicate efforts to help the Native American community is celebrated by this two-night event to coincide with the release of "Dream Catcher's Volume 2" CD.)
832-2355

Saturday, Nov. 21

MARACATH WITH GUESTS SUNDAY TENDRANCE
The Pit, 17580 Frisco, Roseville. (Local pop songstress Missy Gibson leads this light outfit, which has evolved into something more visceral, harder sounding.)
589-3344

FRIDAY, NOV. 26

BLASPHEMIA
3D Club, 1815 N. Main, Royal Oak. (Closely tied, this local garage metal band is one of the leading charge.)
589-3344

THURSDAY, NOV. 27

POLINA MULLINS WITH CATSBORE
Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-9292

FRIDAY, NOV. 28

FRANK ALLISON (WOLLY MAMMOTH)
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. (Day it isn't so, The Odd Sex are no more. Trust Frank Allison to keep up the musical mayhem and great songwriting with his new band.)
996-2748

Here are the Top-10 recordings on Detroit Music Scene, which is heard 4:30-5:30 p.m. Sundays and 5-6 p.m. Thursdays on 101.1-FM 90.5.

local spins

- 1. A New World Order, PraxisBodbus
- 2. The Distance, various artists
- 3. Change the World, JohnnyAlton
- 4. Kids Can Be So Cruel, Touch Freak
- 5. More Maniacs from the MotorCity, various artists
- 6. Sand So True, The Lovings
- 7. More Than You Bone
- 8. Endless, Jimmy G.
- 9. Good Bye, David Glass
- 10. Jungle Rock, Billion Watts

cutting grooves

- 1. U2, Rattle and Hum
- 2. Welcome to Wherever You Are, INXS
- 3. Wish, Cure
- 4. Automatic for the People, REM
- 5. Temple of the Dog, Temple of the Dog
- 6. Achtung Baby, U2
- 7. Your Arsenal, Morrissey
- 8. 99.9 Degrees Fahrenheit, Suzanne Vega
- 9. Sweet Oblivion, Screaming Trees
- 10. Moodfood, Moodfoots

Here are 10 releases in heavy rotation on 101.1-FM 90.5.

His Name is Alive

Warren DeFever's violin has always been one of extremes. With their 4AD release "Livonia," His Name is Alive's invigorating debut three years ago, the unconventional music project succeeded in manufacturing soundscapes both serene and chilling in contrast brought to light by singer Karin Oliver's lovely ethereal voice.

"(Home Is in Your Head)" has been re-released state-side by Rykodisc, which includes a new EP "The Dirt Eaters."

Like its predecessor, "Home Is in Your Head" creates a similar tension with a range of Gregorian chants to angelic choral renderings, tender acoustic strumming to feedback drenched blazes of guitar.

HNIA continues to be a fascinating ride on an unerring musical course.

— Larry O'Connor