

# Street SCENE

4A(F)

Monday, Nov. 23

## PARADISE VALLEY JAZZ JAM

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

Tuesday, Nov. 24

CHERYL WHEELER  
The Ark, 637 1/2 Main, Ann Arbor.  
761-1451

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

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

Wednesday, Nov. 25

BIG CHIEF  
With Rollinghead and Mouth at State Theatre, 2115 Woodward, Detroit.  
961-5450

GOOSER & THE PEAS  
St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets are \$6.50 in advance.  
961-MELT

YOTHU YINK!  
The Majestic, 4140 Woodward, Detroit.  
833-9700

MULE  
With Cathouse at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit.  
832-2355

UGLY BUT PROUD  
With B.B.C. at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.  
334-9292

MISSIONARY STEW  
With Jason McCauley Berry at Lili's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck.  
875-8555

SCOTT STERN AND THE TRUST  
Doug's Body Shop, Woodward Avenue, south of Nine Mile, Ferndale.  
996-1940

REGULAR BOYS  
Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, Dearborn.  
846-1920

GEORGE BEDARD AND THE KINOPINS  
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.  
996-8555

MOTHER SUPERIOR  
With Mirror Mirror and 10-Foot Poll at Paychecks, 2932 Canfield, Hamtramck.  
874-0254

Thursday, Nov. 26

BLASPHEMOUS  
3D Club, 1815 N. Main, Royal Oak.  
689-3343

Friday, Nov. 27

THE FINAL CUT  
With Majesty Crush at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.  
961-MELT

POLISH MUSLIMS  
With Cathouse at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.  
334-9292

BENEFIT FOR KEMP AWARENESS  
With Cyndorhead, Leaping Gnome and Footnot Slew at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit.  
832-2355

BOP (HARVEY)  
The Majestic, 4140 Woodward, Detroit.  
833-9700

DISCIPLINE  
Lili's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck.  
875-8555

ASIA  
The Ritz, Frazz Road, Roseville.  
778-6404

CANNIBAL CORPSE  
With Fat Tuesday and Wilard at The Marquee, 8139 E. Seven Mile, Detroit.  
366-8633

SHAWN PHILLIPS  
The Ark 637 1/2 Main, Ann Arbor.  
761-1451

PAUL VORNHAGEN QUARTET  
Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor.

662-8310

GUGS BEDDOW BLUES BRIGADE  
Q Club, 29 S. Saginaw, Pontiac.  
334-7411

KIM WILSON'S BLUES EXPLOSION  
Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, Dearborn.  
846-1920

TRINIDAD TRIPOLI STEEL BAND  
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.  
996-2748

STEVE FERROUSON OF NRRQ  
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.  
996-8555

WITS END  
With Top Soil and Flock at Paychecks, 2932 Canfield, Hamtramck.  
874-0254

9332 ME  
With Technetworks at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit.  
831-8070

JAX MYTH  
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.  
485-5050

Saturday, Nov. 28

MINISTRY  
With Helmet and Sepultura at the Michigan State Fairground's Coliseum, Woodward Avenue and Eight Mile, Detroit.  
645-6666

10,000 MANIACS  
State Theatre, 2115 Woodward, Detroit.  
961-5450

P.J. HARVEY  
With David J at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.  
961-MELT

THE CRABBY JACKS  
Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.  
334-9292

BLACK PLANET  
With Claim to Fame at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit.  
832-2355

FRANK ALLISON  
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.  
996-2748

RON WOOD  
The Ritz, 17580 Frazz Road, Roseville.  
778-8150

MATT WATROBA AND MICHAEL BARRETT  
The Ark, 637 1/2 Main, Ann Arbor.  
761-1451

PAUL VORNHAGEN QUARTET  
Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor.  
662-8310

DANZIO  
Happo's, 14238 Harper, Detroit.  
824-1700

GUGS BEDDOW BLUES REVIEW  
Q Club, 29 S. Saginaw, Pontiac.  
334-7411

KIM WILSON'S BLUES EXPLOSION  
Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, Dearborn.  
846-1920

DAD BLASTED  
With Wig at Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.  
996-8555

SECOND SELF  
With Dadoy Stutch and Bermuda Mohawk at Paychecks, 2932 Canfield, Hamtramck.  
874-0254

RESTROOM POETS  
With Vamoose Marble Eye at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit.  
831-8070

WOOD PAUL  
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.  
485-5050

Sunday, Nov. 29

BENNY & THE JETS  
Office Bar, Telegraph Road, north of Five Mile.  
730-1627

Monday, Nov. 30

PARADISE VALLEY JAZZ JAM  
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit.  
832-2355



Regrouped: Members of the back-to-basics Vudu Hippies include bassist Chris Newberg, vocalist Renee Paquette, drummer Brad Schrage and guitarist Graham Cousins.

## Vudu Hippies: Back to basics



What do you do if your highly anticipated New York showcase draws and audience of seven? If you're the Vudu Hippies, you head home to get leaner and meaner, so to speak, and get back to the basics that made your music click in the local clubs in the first place.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

There they sat in a Manhattan McDonald's at 2 in the morning.

Five frightened, disillusioned musicians left to decide their fate after it was seemingly sealed following a highly anticipated showcase went bust at the venerable New York club CBGB's when only seven people turned up.

"And three of them we were related to," said bassist Chris Newberg, 22, who is from Birmingham.

The Vudu Hippies were a frayed lot that June night, having come full circle from the chubbiness and enthusiasm that marked their highly touted arrival on the local scene three years ago. Reality arrived and it wasn't a cheeseburger.

Amid the discarded Big Mac containers, Newberg said the band decided to get back to basics. That meant the painful process of letting go of one of its guitarists, putting together a fresh collection of new songs and going into the studio.

The result is "Happy Medium," an 11-song testament to the resiliency forged from weathering a few crises and the musical maturation of an ambitious group of artists. This is easily discernible in the robust guitar pop stylings in songs such as "Edge of the World" or "To God."

The Vudu Hippies' more seductive num-

bers, though, speak to uncertainty. Those may come in the pensive "Slow Bass" or the emotionally striven "2 Sisters," which chronicles the disintegration between split personalities. The brooding number is written in the first and the third person.

"It symbolizes the record," said Newberg, who is one of the band's primary songwriters. "There's a lot of emotion and a lot of misrepresentation in it."

Such rancor wasn't present when the Vudu Hippies started fresh out of high school (Birmingham Brother Rice and Marian). Rather the enthusiasm of vocalist Renee Paquette, 21, drummer Brad Schrage, 21, and Newberg could barely be contained.

The Vudu Hippies promptly released a cassette, "Smarties," which draws grimaces today from band members. They also ingratiated themselves at a host of clubs in Ann Arbor and Detroit with their thoughtful and engaging performances.

The realities of the music business seeped in. A host of guitarists had already come and went as they initially performed as a five-piece band.

When guitarist Graham Cousins, 23, joined the group earlier this year, things finally looked settled. Then came the showcase in New York in June, which was preceded by a grueling 18-hour bus ride and a frightful stop in Cleveland.

With the debacle at CBGB's also came the realization one of the guitarists would have to go. The odd man out was Schrage's brother Rick.

"Up until that day, it was the hardest thing I've ever had to do," said Schrage about telling his brother. "He took it well, though."

Such experiences have made the Vudu Hippies wiser. They've grown in other ways.

Paquette's voice has always been the dynamic in the band and capable of kicking up a vocal dust storm reminiscent of ex-Lone Justice singer Maria McKee. Such emotional wailing, though, is now tempered by self-assuredness.

"I knew my limits now where before I didn't," said Paquette, who is from Southfield. "I would try to overdo it before. . . I thought having a small range was bad, but it's not."

The Vudu Hippies' range on stage is confident, largely devoid of posing and clichéd theatrics. A recent show at Rick's Cafe saw the band in riveting form.

"Happy Medium," which will be released in January, has the same attributes.

"It's a transitional record," Newberg said. "It was a transitional time for the band. . . which gives it a full range of emotion and diversity on the album."

Having grown up, one wonders where there's left to go? Replied Newberg, "I think where we're going is deeper into ourselves."

Vudu Hippies perform on Thursday, Dec. 3, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. The show is a benefit for Mott Children's Hospital. For information, call 996-2747.

### At Industry



City wise: Singer-songwriter atanas will perform songs from his current release, "Conscience of the City," at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 27, at Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. Tickets are \$5 at Industry or all TicketMaster outlets.

### DRY — PJ Harvey

At a time when high-tech gimmickry has extended its grip to most forms of alternative music and "rockers" whose ideas were entombed a generation ago are hailed every time they churn out a top seller, PJ Harvey's "Dry" is a welcome change.

The fittingly titled debut by the Dorset-based trio offers a sharp, undorned sound led by the strong vocals and sure guitar of the band's eponymous founder.

The group, which formed in July of last year, claims a wide range of influences that include early Rolling Stones, Elmore James and Captain Beethorn.

"Dry" opens with "Oh My Lover," a slow, mournful, bass-driven plea to a paramour.

With "Dress," the danceable third cut, Harvey shows off her muscular vocal style in a celebration of sensuality. The group, Ste-

phen Vaughan leading the way on bans, shows a similar athleticism on "Sheela-Na-Gig."

The pace slows a bit for the ironic "Plants and Rags," on which an acoustic guitar and a cello are prominent. The song, written by Harvey and Robert Ellis, tells of a broad imagination that helps ease a limited material life.

Ellis, who plays drums and harmonium and adds vocal backing, also shares writing credits with Harvey on "Joe." An able group of studio musicians assisted the trio for the album.

— Matt Jachman

"Dry" is available on the Indigo label. PJ Harvey will appear Saturday, Nov. 28, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. David J. opens. Tickets are \$7.50 in advance. For information, call 961-MELT.



### REVIEWS