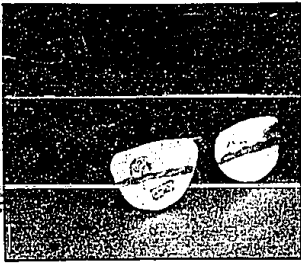


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STREET SEEN

Discoveries by Janice Tigar-Kramer 953-2047 mailbox # 1861



Lookin' at you

Arty shades by potter Arlene Schultz are strictly conversation pieces. The Farmington Hills artist, whose wares sell by the name Contemporary Clayworks, started making the whimsical ceramic glasses several years ago after admiring a friend's real novelty shades. She experimented for months before coming up with the shape of life-sized glasses, which have become her trademark. The latest batch is decorated with colorful beach and golf scenes (\$35). They can be seen at the Oakland University Meadowbrook Gallery Art Fair Saturday and Sunday, June 19-20. For information, call the artist at 653-8954.



Yard goods

These days, the "thirtysomething" crowd would rather till soil than jog around the block, says Mark Brewer of metro Detroit Nature Nook stores. Since we're hanging around the yard anyway, why not decorate it with stone statuary like these barnyard animals? The life-sized pig (\$59.99) and goose (\$34.99) are new offerings, but this spring you'll see a range of affable rabbits, dogs, lions, cherubs and gargoyles on more than a few lawns and porches. Adorning our surroundings with statuary is nothing new, but we haven't seen so many yard decorations since the 1930s, says Brewer, who believes the current trend is for nostalgia's sake.

LIVE REVIEW

By CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

INXS
St. Andrew's Hall, Detroit, on Thursday, May 13.

In the beginning of his band's two-hour sweaty show, INXS lead singer Michael Hutchence warned the fans about what they will need after the show:

"Lots of fluids and plenty of rest."
The Australian sextet should have warned the sound engineers to keep an eye on the equipment as well.

In its first club appearance since its early years, INXS blew the speakers while ripping through its set which included songs from its formative years ("Don't Change"), its "arena" years with "Suicide Blonde" and new material the group plans to record.

The seven songs from the as-if-yet-untilted new record returns to the INXS sound reminiscent of its 1983 album, "Shabooh, Shooah." During a pre-show interview and performance, Hutchence said that's the aim they had.

"It's a lot less complicated and stuff. . . I hate to say this because it's so cliché, but we're going back to our roots," he explained.

Returning to those days — with clubs and music — brought back good memories for Hutchence.

"I remember this place. I think I fell down those stairs," said Hutchence, laughing while pointing at St. Andrew's back stairs.

See INXS, 10A

Nightlife features new look at 3 sites

The Royal Oak Music Theatre, the Metropolitan Music Cafe and 3-D nightclub have taken on three distinct looks during their respective remodeling projects, leaving patrons some colorful choices.

By CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER



Royal Oak nightlife is taking on a new face as two of its popular spots — 3-D nightclub and the Royal Oak Music Theatre — have taken on a new look.

The Royal Oak Music Theatre is set to reopen Friday, offering its first weekend dance club nights titled "Fourth Street Asylum." It will also host concerts and private parties.

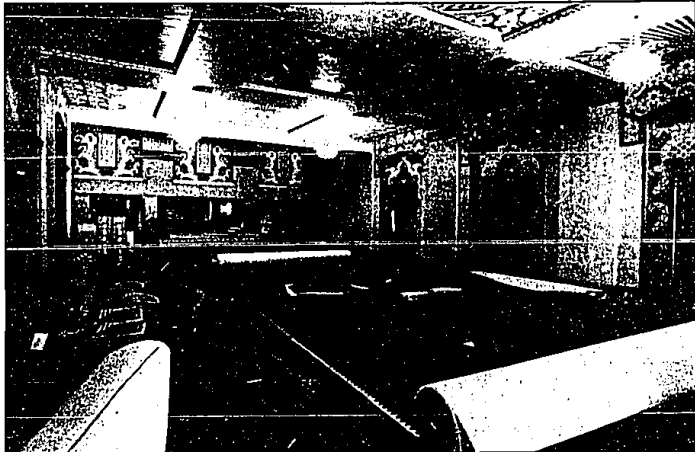
"With the new layout, we are flexible as to the types of programming we can accommodate. We can host a dance party, a dinner party, or offer concert events with reserved seating," said Bob Fox, president of Brass Music. The company owns the Royal Oak Music Theater and books shows into others like the Fox, Joe Louis Arena, Meadow Brook Music Festival.

The project began in May 1992 but has been planned for 10 years. Fox put the project on hold, however, to help Olympia Arena, Inc.'s Mike Hitch with the renovation of the Fox Theatre.

The Royal Oak theater's new look offers a sort of history lesson into the venue. The lobby is a recreation of the original, when the theater opened on May 6, 1928. The Ukrainian-style stencils were repainted over the wooden cabinets which will house works by rock 'n' roll artist Gary Grimshaw. The box office was recreated from its 1920s concept.

The project is a painstaking process in the interior," Fox said.

The theater itself has a modern look with aqua, black and burgundy carpet, and black, gray and charcoal art deco bars. The dance floor is two tiered with a "wall of lights," lasers, intelligence, and strobe lights overhead and floor level.



Makin' changes: The Royal Oak Music Theatre (above) restored the lobby to its original look. Meanwhile, 3-D club in Royal Oak recruited Waterford artist Chris Wirth (at left) to paint table tops.

Aside from dance nights, the Royal Oak Music Theatre will hold 10 concerts beginning with an appearance by concertina Ellen Degeneres on May 26. Other performers scheduled this summer are Jenny Jones, Ronnie Laws with Rachelle Farrell, Richard Jeni, The Stranglers, Louie Anderson and Dennis Wolfberg.

The theater is located at the corner of Fourth Street and Lafayette, six blocks east of Woodward Avenue and two blocks south of 11 Mile. In response to the theater's renovation, its neighbor, the Metropolitan Music Cafe is planning a little work itself.

"(We're going to) rearrange the memorabilia, some new paint . . . just rearrange things so it will look new again," said owner Nino Cutrano.

Cutrano said he is speaking with designers about the new layout. "(They'll) make some recommendations and we'll go for it from there," he said.

A few miles north of the Royal Oak Music Theatre and the Music Cafe, the alternative dance bar 3-D is finishing its remodeling job.

Once resembling a fraternity house basement, the club is now anchored by artworks by Waterford artist Christopher Wirth. He took the standard bar tables and painted the tops of them with watercolors.

Bar employees and club frequenters

also helped out by painting socially conscious phrases or by creating other designs on them. The back room is now cordoned off with beads and features movies on a wall.

This is Wirth's first club undertaking. He primarily films commercials and music videos with clients such as performers Jeffrey Dean Manlow and The Charm Farm, along with GM, Chrysler and Ford. Having his works displayed in a club is satisfying but sometimes disheartening to Wirth.

"People are always discovering something new. It's an ongoing process. . . I just wish the people who see saw it weren't slobbering drunk," Wirth said with a laugh.

Jes Gru tunes up celebration of life

By CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

Through the Jes Gru's live shows the band has set out to become what its name means: "A celebration of life that makes one want to dance."

"You'll see some bands and you'll see maybe one guy who someone's super focused on," keyboardist Mike Palazzolo said. "There's really a lot to watch (with the Jes Gru). There's five guys independently putting on the show."

The five guys, dressed in 1970s garb, cover the entire stage during the show running around while not missing a beat. Apparently, it's that type of energy which attracts their "Army of Red Ants," the A following which they've collected through local

and out-state college shows. During the school year the "Ants" sometimes drive hours to see the Jes Gru.

Now that most college students have returned to their area homes, the band has decided to release its debut CD "Mumbo Jumbo." The CD release party is Saturday, May 22, at Club X at the State Theatre in Detroit.

"One good thing is a lot of our fans are traveling from the college towns now to see us so when we have our release party they should all be back in the Detroit area," said singer Tom Bieniewicz.

"Mumbo Jumbo" was recorded at an independent studio in Southfield.

See JES GRU, 9A



Funky stylings: Members of Jes Gru include (standing, from left) keyboardist Mike Palazzolo and drummer Heath Moore of West Bloomfield, and (seated from left) guitarist Bryan Horvath, vocalist Tom Bieniewicz, and bassist Tom Nixon.

IN CONCERT

Monday, May 17

LEGENDARY PINK DOTZ
Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. (alternative rock)
954-1999

Tuesday, May 18

REBADOH
With Spectacle at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.
961-MELT

PREHENSILE MONKEY TAILED SKINN
With Horsery at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.
996-8555

LONESOME PO' BOY AND THE TRUE INTENTION
Atte Bar, 11607 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck. (blues)
365-4194

Wednesday, May 19

THE KIND
Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.
996-8555

SPECIAL FX
Maggie Bag, 22918 Woodward, Ferndale. (jazz/world music)
244-3630

SMOKIN' JOE ACOFF AND HIS BLUES BAND
Atte Bar, 11607 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck. (blues)
365-4194

Thursday, May 20

TR BAND
Grit's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw. (alternative

rock)
334-9292

NINKI JAMES WITH THE FLAME THROWERS
Avin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. (blues)
832-2355

BEK-A-MOUSE
With Java Dog at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (world beat)
996-8555

BLACK PLANET
With Spunking Boro at 3-D, 1815 N. Main St., Royal Oak. (alternative rock/funk/jazz)
589-3344

TRICK BLUE
Atte Bar, 11607 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck. (blues)
365-4194

CODE BLUE
Q Club, 29 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac. (blues)
354-7411

Friday, May 21

MODERN ROCK JAM FINALS
With the Jet Set, Hal, Jason McCaskey Berry and the winner from May 14 at the State Theatre, 2115 Woodward, Detroit. Winner gets \$2,000.
961-5450

RED O
With Vudu Hippies at Lil's 21, 2930 Jacob, Detroit.
See IN CONCERT, 10A