

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1993

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ART ON THE EDGE



Hot shot: Emin Kadi employs the Westland Fire Station as a backdrop behind Grosse Pointe model Patricia Blake.

Modeling set his technique

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN

SPECIAL WRITER

After eight years of modeling all over the world from Milan to Paris and Madrid, Emin Kadila switched gears to view fashion photography from behind the lens.



The Westland photographer has come full circle to compose images with the model in mind.

"Most of the fashion shots are by product photographers that shoot fashion," said the Westland photographer.

"My work's a lot more caring about the model because I've been there myself. I was a model, so I'm a photographer for the model."

In the fashion world he's known simply as Emin, no last name necessary. As a model, his cosmopolitan look appeared in magazines from GQ to Rolling Stone. Hundreds of runways have worn his shoes.

Nearly three years ago bored with being just another pretty face treated like a piece of meat by photographers, Emin began to shoot and develop his own portfolio images. A portfolio or book as it's known in the trade is a necessity for models when hitting the bricks for work.

Upon seeing his work a top photographer in Milan by the name of Marco told Emin he had a good eye. From there the decision to focus on the other side of the camera was a snap away.

Returning to Chicago from Milan, Emin was unable to find work as a model since many of catalog houses like Sears Roebuck & Co. were closing their covers forever. In order to eat, he worked a variety of jobs including four days as a waiter. It was while booking other models that fate intervened with a damsel in distress.

"A young model came to me crying because she couldn't get photos for her book. We went out into the snow and shot them," said the photographer whose work has appeared in international magazines like African Cosmopolitan.

"Putting a book together to get the work is the hardest thing. I try to stay away from the model's weaknesses, a crooked nose, eyes that squint or bags under the eyes. I help them project their strengths. I try to make a woman look really beautiful. Men, I try to make them look interesting, intense." A concrete factory, airport, on top of old cars or even the Westland Fire Station, wherever a good shot can be found that's where you're likely to find Emin.

"I push myself to do something different every time. There are no rules. Because I'm self taught, I'm not worrying about the rules. I'm thinking total composition, the art of the whole frame and no boundaries," said Emin.

"I rip pictures, write on them. Who says a person's face has to be in the center of the frame?" Emin's European style of photography has set the fashion world on fire. "Drop-Dead Red," a fashion spread featured in Detroit Monthly last November, created an image for this young photographer that is red hot.

Harper's Bazaar recently has shown interest in Emin's work. Bazaar's assistant editor Mary Alice Stevenson who formerly was with Vogue wrote to say she found his new work to be strong, sexy and developed.

And to think he nearly became an architect.

See PHOTOGRAPHER, 8A

What to watch for in Street Scene next week:

- Christina Fuoco's interview with Fiction.
- John Monaghan's look at the alternative movie scene.
- Street Sense by Barbara Schiff.

Big Chief returns to funk roots

■ Recently signed by Capitol records, Detroit's Big Chief has more to celebrate than the release of its latest and most acclaimed album, "Mack Avenue Skull Game."

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO

STAFF WRITER

Big Chief is preparing for what is so far its most anticipated record release party. Although the band was recently wooed away from Seattle's Sub Pop records by Capitol records, the Detroit group is still having identity problems at home.

■ "We're from Detroit and we're influenced by Detroit bands like the MC5. A lot of bands are trying to play Detroit-style music."

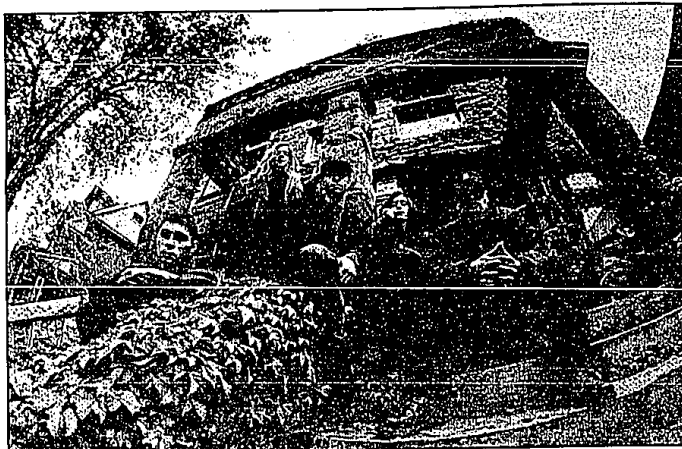
Mike Danner
drummer, Big Chief

When Big Chief practices in its rehearsal space - a self-storage garage - they get their share of odd glances and remarks.

"We get all these great quotes. This one guy called us a 'good rock 'n' roll band.' He told us to keep up the work. He doesn't even know anything about us," said drummer Mike Danner with a laugh in his Ypsilanti home.

This time around Big Chief is about retreating to a more funk-influenced sound for its latest album "Mack Avenue Skull Game" which is due in stores this week. It features guest musicians like the Was (Not Waz) horns and singers such as award-winning local rhythm and blues crooner Thelma Houston. Danner's mother plays the Hammond organ. The video for the first single, the groovy "One Born Every Minute" is awaiting approval from MTV.

"For us, our new record is more like the first... it's more like the stuff I listen to," said Danner with soul music playing in the background and hip-hop magazines piled throughout the room.



Lucky streak: Big Chief is celebrating the release of its latest album "Mack Avenue Skull Game" and its signing to Capitol records with a show at St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit on Saturday, Sept. 18. Big Chief is (from left) Phil Durr, Barry Henssler, Mark Dancy, Matt O'Brien and Mike Danner.

"The new Big Chief record represents us for '93."

However, Danner has some reservations.

"I hope this doesn't become another cult album like 'Paul's Boutique' was for the Beastie Boys," he said.

Initially, the band was going to turn to the king of funk himself - George Clinton and Funkadelic. However, Big Chief nixed the idea of an all-Funkadelic cover album in lieu of "Mack Avenue."

The album is the second and last one for Sub Pop records. Danner finds it more fitting that Big Chief's next album will be on Capitol records.

"I don't think we fall in with Sub Pop or alternative. I guess that's where we fit the best... Our influences are a little different. We're from Detroit and we're influenced by Detroit and Detroit bands like the MC5. A lot of bands are trying to

play Detroit-style music. We're more of like the real thing."

"Mack Avenue" is also a soundtrack to the grisly murder movie of the same name slated to be released early next year. In it, Danner plays a killer pimp named "Mack Avenue." The locally produced movie, which also stars the other members of Big Chief and CIMX-FM 89X DJ Caeri Bertrand, was originally on hold.

"The movie's secondary. We're a band first... We've been going 'round and 'round about the movie. We definitely want to do it now," Danner said.

In celebration of the release of the record, Big Chief will hold its record release party at St. Andrew's Hall on Saturday, Sept. 18. Big Chief - which also includes guitarist and artist Mark Dancy, guitarist Phil Durr, bassist Matt O'Brien, and vocalist Barry Henssler - plans to crowbar seven additional musicians and singers on the small St. Andrew's stage.

"We have three dress rehearsals planned for St. Andrew's Hall the week of the show."

Afterward, the group will begin a west coast tour with Sub Pop labelmates Six Finger Satellite. Big Chief plans to tour until early next year when it will open its own recording studio in Detroit called the "Black Room."

"We're going to fuse old analog recording techniques with a more hip-hop (sound)," Danner said.

Maybe then Big Chief will get the recognition it deserves in Detroit - good or bad.

"We're really appreciated by a lot of people, and hated by just as many."

Big Chief and special guests Grasshopper and Outrageous Cherry will play St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, on Saturday, Sept. 18. Tickets are \$10 in advance for the all-ages show. Doors open at 8 p.m. For more information, call 961-MELT.

Singer wants to keep his name quiet - here



No name: Livonia's Warren DeFever wants his band His Name Is Alive to be known overseas and throughout the United States, but not in his hometown.

BY KYLE GREEN

STAFF WRITER

As the 66 degree summer London weather lingered during mid-July, a slight heat wave hung over the Institute for Contemporary Arts Theater near Buckingham Palace.

The flame was generated from the sounds of indie label 4AD's weeklong 13th year anniversary celebration. With acts such as Pale Saints, Underground Lovers, The Breeders, Kristin Hersh and Livonia-based His Name Is Alive, English fans were treated to a roasting.

If His Name Is Alive's creator and Livonia resident Warren DeFever had a choice, he would keep it that way; national and international success, but anonymity in Detroit.

"When we are there, I like to fool around and we don't want it to conflict with the music," DeFever said.

Besides the fact that DeFever and bandmates Karen Oliver of Beloville, and Trey Many of Walld Lake, all "hate Detroit," DeFever also dislikes

talking to Detroit-area media. He said doing interviews with local publications would draw even more attention to his band.

"I think it's had already with people stopping by," said the 1987 Stevenson High School graduate.

"Fortunately I have not been there when they (fans) come... so they tell my parents. 'We are from New York and found your name in the phone book and decided to drop by. Tell Warren we said, 'Hi.'"

DeFever should be used to the attention by now, considering as a teenager he and his brother were members of the metal meets rockabilly band Elvis Hitter. Today with a more sensual sound, London was the last stop on his tour promoting his latest release, "Mouth By Mouth." The tour included several U.S. dates, however the show at St. Andrew's Hall this summer was canceled at the last minute.

Describing His Name Is Alive fans as "polite" regardless what side of the Atlantic they may be from, DeFever

feels his sound brings it out in people.

"You wouldn't think you could play this in a bar and get a good show," he said. "We couldn't play Detroit because (people) make so much noise because they are in a bar. They don't anywhere else."

DeFever is afraid that if His Name Is Alive is classified as a Detroit-area based band, they might get stuck in the stereotype that local bands go nowhere but home.

"... When we played Grand Rapids, people showed up in the middle of the show. When you are from the area, people are convinced that you aren't a real band," he said.

Back in Livonia, which was the title of his first release, DeFever is determined to move out of his parents' home but views His Name Is Alive will survive without immense changes.

"We are not that kind of band to make it flashy," he said. "I think the music is not appropriate to do so. It's calmer, prettier and not flashy."

IN CONCERT

Monday, Sept. 13

KUDD
With The Cranberries and Gilgo Aunts at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (Ditah pop) 961-MELT

MARY MCQUIRE AND MYX RISE
Four Green Fields, 3333 N. Woodward Ave. at 15 Mile Road, Royal Oak. (acoustic) 280-2902

AVANT-GARDE PUNK ROCK PARTY
Music from 1976-1982 at Nectarine Ballroom, Ann Arbor. 594-5533

Tuesday, Sept. 14

CHOCOLATE
With Today Is the Day and Gizzard at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (alternative rock) 961-MELT

Wednesday, Sept. 15

DRAMARAMA
With Slim Dunlap and the Jes Gru at Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. (alternative rock) 334-1999

Thursday, Sept. 16

ROYAL TRUX
With Breech and Couch at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (hard alternative rock) 961-MELT

HOLY COWS
Records a live album at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (alternative rock) 996-8555

ACID TEST
Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. (rock, funk, techno) 334-1999

JASON MCCAULEY BERRY
With Allan Love Pimp at 3-D, 1815 N. Main St., Royal Oak. 580-5544

Friday, Sept. 17

SWO/UM
With Billy Sunday at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. (reggae) 832-2355

RED NATURE
Lil's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. 875-6555

See IN CONCERT, 8A