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ART ON THE EDGE



Wildly flashy: Fantasy is the name of the game for Raphael when it comes to de-signing fashions from hair.

He fashions hot looks to spice nights

By Linda Ann Chomin Special Writer

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
SPICIAL WRITES

The medium is heir, the style, fantasy. Raphael deviewe buth of these artistic elements into fashion designs for the flamboyant.

In come of the manufacturally to him because he works with hair all day long. By day he styles hair in his shop, Raphael's of West Bloomfield. At right his fantasies take shape to dress daring, instituor conscious few West Bloomfield. At right his fantasies take shape to dress daring, instituor conscious few with fringed shoulder pade, voluminous sant creation-like drapings all crafted from hoir, these brash appey not-for-everyone fashions shout mischief. West any one of Raphael's designs, then just try to remain of Raphael's designs, then just try to remain of Raphael's designs, then take it further beyond what anyone else world," said the young designer in an invoice else world," said the young designer in an invoice else world," said the young designer in 1985.

"It's an unuseum piece, for someone to stop resulter, a museum piece, for someone to stop resulter."

Whit's hot on the fashion scene this fall?

What's hot on the fashion scene this fall?

traffic."
What's hot on the fashion scene this fail?
What's in vogue and up-to-the-minuto? Long skirts, short hair, whrant red lipstick? Well maybe, but for sure these dresses made from hair.
If you're looking for some thing a little different in a
weldling dress or simply don't
aunt to look like anyone else,
Raphael's hair wear will make
on a stand out in any crowd.
Using tanglo-free processed
lair, Raphael literally hands
the will shape the dresses into
woren and spiked designs.
He's very hush-hush however
allout where he purchases the
linit, saying shorn tresses from the clientele seen
in his shop don't meet length requirement necessary for the fantasy apparel.
Rophael's idea for the fantasy fashions evolved
rather naturally 12 years ago while creating fantay, hair designs for evening wear.
"I cut hair everyday. The fantasy is my hobby. I
was doing basket weave and jewelry to match the
hairdes. The hair moved down from there," Raphael said.
Producing his own line of hair and skin prod-

was along basket weave and jewelry to match the Initios. The halr moved down from there," Raphele said.

Producing his own line of hair and skin products provides Raphael with the binding to hold the dresses together.

Fashioned in sections, Raphael's apparel must be stored flat in boxes. Hanging them in a closet would cause the weave to loosen and separate. Raphael has drawn since he was a little boy. Back home in the Middle East, he began cutting hair at age 12, by 14 he had his own shop. Today when he sketches it's to design fashions with an cye to the future.

"Everytime I create something, I get excited about it. So I like to create something better and latter all the time."

The release date for Raphael's new perfume, "Giving," has been targeted to arrive just in time for holiday gift giving.

Raphael will donate \$5 from each purchase made to \$5. Mary Hospital in Livonia.

"I wanted something that smelled clean like giving," he said of the new scent.

Coincidentally, Raphael showed his fantasy fashions for the first time in public at a fund-miser in late October for St. Mary Hospital. Since then he's showed the apparel at a hair convention in Menuphis.

"Ho makes hair an art, the fantasy hair and

then he's anowed the appares at a nair convention in Meniphia.

"He makes hair an art, the fantasy hair and clothing," and Carol Cassie of Livonia who produced the "Hollywood Nights" event which raised \$70,000 for the hospital.

"They're fobulous, not within the format of everyday fashions. You know it's a fantasy."

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Street Scene next week:

■ Mark Gallo's report on The Charm Farm. ■ John Monaghan's look at the latest in alterna

tive movies.

Some good Street Sense from Barbara Schiff.

Concrete Blonde has its 'Moon'

■ Concrete Blonde decided to take its time with the recording of its new album "Mexican Moon." The result is a diverse sound but not one that they take on the road with them.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO

The last time Concrete Blonde was in town, lead singer Johnette Napolitane learned a hard lesson about the Detroit Pistons.

In introducing the Jimi Hendrix song "Costles in the Sand," Napolitane talked about a good-looking Piston she met named "Joey" while working out at The Palace of Auburn Hills gym. The audience responded by chanting "Duuuuumars." Napolitane, unfamiliar with the tradition, chided the audience for booing. audience for booing. Frustrated, she went into the

song.

A year later, she's happy to hear that Pistons' fans aren't as nasty to their own players as they are to oth-

that ristons take aren't as nest veher'own players as they are to others.

"I was frenked out; I couldn't figure out why they were booling him," a hourse Nopolitano said laughing hysterically. "That completely flipped me out. Thank god that whole mystery's solved."

It was good comic relief for Napolitano who at the time was laid up in a hoter toom suffering from a long bout with the flu. Although she was too ill to go to sound cheek, she's more than willing to talk about her new record "Mexican Moon" and her own remedies for a cold. "I had yesterday off ond! I did was lay around and eat soup. I just rest until I go on, take a shot of Teculia. The best remedy is alton for a cold." "I had, "she said without so much of a pause.

now," she said without so much of a natuse.

She may have been ill but it harely quieted her trademark powerful voice. During soundchecks her voice fills empty venues like Pine Knob Music Theatre. Critics and fans adors Napolitano for her loud yet sultry voice in songs like "Walking in London" and "doe," Sometimes her bandmates aren't too fond of it. "There's a down side; happen to have a naturally loud voice. It's bad if I'm oo close to someone in the hotel, they can hear me all the way down the hallway. Sometimes Jim (Mankey, guitarist) will say, 'I heard you talking on the phone last night.



couldn't sleep,* It's like Foghorn eghorn or samething," Napolitano

Legiorn or someting, Napolitans said.

This time around, Concrete Blonde is filling the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor to promote the self-produced Spanish-themed "Mexican Moon." The recording of the album, their first for Capitol Records, marks the first time Concrete Blonde took their time with the process. They chose cheaper studios to work in so they were able to record at a slower pace. Napolitano said the vigorous schedule of recording an album, touring, their recording the next album and touring, was

wearing on the hand.
"We felt like we deserved to take a little hit of time with this one," she

Concrete Blonde — which also in Concrete Blonde — which also in-cludes drummer Harry Rushakoff — widened its sound as well. Bas-sist/singer Napolitano picked up the guitar for a few songs and played piano on others. For "Mexican Moon" she didn't feel she had to limit herself to what she could do

live.
"When you're young, you want to capture that live feel of the band (on record). Now it's two different mediums. I didn't censor myself in that

way," she said, "We wanted to savor the process...we didn't chose from a certain palette of colors." As a result, Napolitano is happier with this album than she has been with others.

with this album than she has been with others.

"We pushed ourselves harder than anybody's pushed to before. We spent the better part of the year working on it and there's nothing I want to correct or change."

Concrete Blonde with special guests the Oblivious perform at the Michigan Theatre, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor on Wednesday, Nov. 10.

Tickets are \$17.50. For more information, call 668-8397 or 645-6666.

Native look: Jay Kay, lead singer of Jamiroquai, uses the American Incine man as a trademark. He brings his acid jazz sound and a nine-piece dustry on Wednesday, Nov. 10.

Monday, Nov. 8 Mary Black

Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington Street, Ann Arbor (Irish songwriter) 763-7KTS

Tuesday, Nov. 9
LOS LOBOS
The Majestic, 4140 Woodward, Detroit.
(CANCELLED)
833-9700

GATEMOUTH BROWN Sully's, 4756 Greenfield Road, Dearborn.

BREECH Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor (acoustic rock) 996-8555

SISTERS OF MERCY VIDEO APPRECIATION



Jamiroquai: Band that's no Wonder

Jason Kay, lead singer of the English acid jazz phenom Jamiroquel, has buttled endloss vocal comparisons to Stevie Wonder since the release of his debut album "Emergency on Planet Earth."

Although flattering, it's one that Kay disagrees with.

"That's an insult to the man; it's like saying two plus two equals five," Kay said.
The outspoken Kay wants it made clear that the comparisons didn't begin with him. It was the media.

"It's not like when I hear Stevie I sing it back to myself and say, 'God, I've got to get it closer.'"
Earlier this year, he found himself face-to-face with his Motown influences. In what Kay calls a bizarre contest, an English radio station chose a locky listener to fly to Detroit with Kay to visit the Motown Museum in April.

"It was wild, well, not that wild. We were on the 14th floor of the Westin, or wherever we were; we met up with George Clinton's keyboardist and he took us around." Key said. "We went to the Motown Museum and ate soul food. It was kind of good."

Good. but depressing. Kay now

good. So the depressing of the same recording techniques that his idola used:
"It was amazing to be in that little room with that little eight track. I'd rather go on that eight rack. I'd rather go on that eight sound fam.

According to the British and U.S. Press, Jamiroquai's sound is fine. His band's album "Emergency on Planet Earth" has been an unexpected hit in the United Kingdom. In the United

See JAMIROQUAL, 9A

IN CONCERT

FRANK ALLISON Rick's, 611 Church St, Ann Arbor. 996-2747

Wednesday, Nov. 10
CONCRETE BLONDE
With The Oblivious at Michigan Theatre,
603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, (alternative rock)
99-17175

VIOLENT FEMMES
Royal Oak Music Theatre, Royal Oak, (alter-

DAN HICKS
Suly's, 4756 Greenfield Road, Dearborn.
(blues)
846-1920
DIE AND THE CREATURES
With Peter Moss and The Fungle at Blind
Rg, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, Benenits Rainforest Action Movement. (rock)
996-8555

Thursday, Nov. 11

is in the round at The Palace of Auburn

With Green Apple Quick Step at The Blind Pg. 208-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (alter-native rock) 996-8555

JEHOVA WAITRESSES Alvin's, 5756 Coss, Detroit. (alternative rock) 832-2355

CHRIS DUARTE Sulty's, 4756 Greenfield Road, Dearborn. (blues) 846-1920

334-9494
CHRISTMAS FOR THE RIDS
The Robert Penn Band, the Steve Gombert Noll, Orange Lake Drive, U
ma, and Flight 407 play to benefit Pontia
area crivic agencies at the C Club, 29
Saginaw St., Pontiac, Hors d'ocurres ar

See CONCERTS. 10A