

STREET SCENE

MUSIC NOTES



CHRISTINA FUOCO

Disco dancer Deney Terrio back in action

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO

Like most twentysomethings, when I was 13 my big Saturday night consisted of two hours of quality television — "Dance Fever," "Solid Gold," and "The Love Boat." I'd shake my booty all over the house — much to my father's dismay — trying to be like a "Solid Gold" dancer or a member of Motion.

Now, 14 years later, I spend my weekends doing much more worthwhile things like dancing at clubs. But, hey, even the best of us could use some dance tips.

So when Deney Terrio, the one who choreographed John Travolta's dance scenes in "Saturday Night Fever," told me that if I came up to Industry in Pontiac to see him this Friday or Saturday I'd "have to dance with him," there was no turning that down.

"I can teach any woman to dance," Terrio said via telephone from his Florida home. That he will at Industry on Friday when he and his dance partners Motion will teach patrons how to dance. After a "Latin Romantic" number, Terrio will judge a dance contest to "see how they do."

"Saturdays we do, like, 1,600 people during the course of the evening. We started opening an hour earlier so people have more time to boogie," said Maureen McCurdy of Industry. "Flashback Friday" brings in about 700-800 people.

As part of the Friday night celebration, Terrio will do a 10-minute dance number and then he and his dance partners Motion will teach patrons how to dance. After a "Latin Romantic" number, Terrio will judge a dance contest to "see how they do."

On Saturday, he will meet with patrons as part of a promotion with Q95, which broadcasts live from Industry weekly.

Besides Terrio's role in "Saturday Night Fever," he is best known for his days on "Dance Fever," a dance contest show which aired 1979-1985.

"What people loved about it was they could watch it before they went out. They could check out the latest fashions," Terrio said.

Viewed by more than 17 million people per week, "Dance Fever" was the third-longest-running show in syndication airing in 170 domestic markets and 70 foreign countries. When the disco craze started dying out, Terrio felt the pressure.

He moved out of Los Angeles "when people were putting 'disco sucks' on my parents' mailbox and burning records in the front lawn."

He "retired for awhile" but with the resurgence of '70s culture through movies ("The Brady Bunch"), TV, and music, Terrio has been able to rekindle his love affair with dancing.

He came out of retirement to host a '70s show in New York with DJ Al Banderio of the city's WFLA-FM, who hosts "Saturday Night at the 70s" show from 7 p.m. to midnight every week.

"There was a huge response so I started putting the show together again. With acts sampling disco music in rap songs and with remakes of some of the old songs, I thought I was having some kind of flashback. It just became popular."

Unlike other '70s stars who publicly announce that they'd like to forget their past, Terrio said he isn't ashamed to be known as "the host of 'Dance Fever.'"

"The thing about it is they're all lying. Don't let them fool you. You are what you are. Sure I would love to have a new TV show but those times are gone. Look at John Travolta. When he got out of his element like in 'Urban Cowboy,' nothing. Luckily he came back of course with 'Pulp Fiction' and now 'Get Shorty.'"

"People want to hear about those times. That's when you were the great. Only one percent of the people in this business make it. I made it and I'm proud of it."

Industry is at 15 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac. Cover charge is \$5. Only those 21 and older are admitted. For more information, call (810) 334-1099.



Celebrating: Former "Dance Fever" host Deney Terrio and Motion will help Industry nightclub in Pontiac celebrate the first anniversary of its disco nights.

Sponge savors incredible year

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO

The last year has been pretty incredible for Detroit rockers Sponge. A gold record, features on MTV, a tour with Live, a headlining trek around the United States and guitarist Mike Cross' ability to perform the perfect hair flip are just some of the band's highlights since it released its debut "Rotting Pinata" (Work/Columbia) in August 1994.

Now that the work promoting "Rotting Pinata" is winding down, guitarist Joey Mazzola reflected on the last year when his band stopped at The Palace of Auburn Hills on Saturday to open for Candlebox.

"It's funny. You could ask each one of the five members of this band individually what our perception was over the last year and every one of us will have a different experience," Mazzola said backstage before his band's one-hour set.

While the European tour was a highlight for Mazzola, the most surprising aspect of their fame was "probably just the fact that we've been able to tour for a whole year without killing each other, and I think we've remained damn good friends after a pretty grueling year of touring."

The incessant touring has paid off. "Rotting Pinata" can be found somewhere in the "uncharted regions" between gold (500,000 copies sold) and platinum (1 million). Mazzola would have preferred to see swifter sales of the album, however.

"I think what we've accomplished over the years is definitely something to be proud of," he explained.

"But then again it's funny because you see bands like the Presidents of the United States. The album's been out three months and it's gold already. It's hard when you judge it by examples like that. Or Alanis Morissette — she's sold millions already. We've been around a lot longer. I don't want to sound like I'm complaining but it's funny when you judge it against that."

Regardless, "Rotting Pinata" has laid the groundwork for a second album which the band will begin working on in January. Mazzola, who expects that the band will once again record at The Loft in Saline, said the band has been thinking about the second album since they wrapped up "Rotting Pinata."

"We're all very anxious to get done touring and start on the next album. We started writing songs for the new record the day after we stopped recording 'Rotting Pinata.' We've been writing songs all along throughout the year whenever we had a chance, which could be anywhere. It could be in the tour bus. It could be in the hotel room or in the laundry room — wherever we have a spare moment and a guitar handy."

The next album will be a departure from "Rotting Pinata," Mazzola said.

"I think when we were recording 'Rotting Pinata,' we were still searching for our true selves. On this next album, I don't think it's gonna sound like 'Rotting Pinata' but I don't think it's going to stray so far that you're not going to recognize the Sponge sound. It will probably be a little bit more experimental, possibly."

Sponge gave fans at The Palace a sneak peek into the new record by previewing the hypnotic slow groove of "Sodium," by far one of the most seductive Sponge songs yet. "Sodium" is sure to follow the success of the singles "Plowed," "Molly" and "Rainin'."

Spongephiles who don't want to wait until later next year for new material can find the band on four recent releases.

Next month Sponge will appear on "Saturday Morning," a compilation of theme songs from Saturday morning cartoons performed by modern rock acts like The Ramones. Sponge contributed a cover of the "Speedy" theme song.



Winding down: When Sponge's tour with Candlebox ends in mid-December, the band is planning on taking some time off before beginning work on its next album. Detroit-based Sponge is, clockwise from left, drummer Charlie Grover, guitarist Mike Cross, bassist Tim Cross, guitarist Joey Mazzola, and singer Vinnie.

Longtime fans of John Lennon and the Beatles, Sponge jumped on the chance to be a part of "Working Class Hero," a John Lennon tribute album which also features Mary Chapin Carpenter, Todd the Wet Sprocket and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. After practicing a few Lennon songs, Sponge chose to record "Isolation."

"I've always been a Beatles fan and especially I remember when we were approached to do that, Vinnie asked me if I had any Lennon and I brought him my favorite album — his first solo album 'The Plastic Ono Band.' ... We worked up a couple songs off that one and 'Isolation' turned out to be the best sounding."

MTV viewers probably saw Sponge perform the song "Seventeen" from the soundtrack to the movie "Mallrats" at the release party for the movie starring Shannen Doherty. Finally, Sponge appears on a collector's item purple vinyl single of the

previously unreleased song "Big Girl" on which Mazzola's 13-year-old multi-pig-tailed daughter Roselyn sings lead. "Big Girl" which Roselyn performed at The Palace on Saturday, is backed with a cover of the Velvet Underground's "Femme Fatale."

Despite success, Sponge members have found that there's no place like home. "I've already moved away once and that was in the 80s. I moved to Los Angeles for five years. I learned a little lesson. You don't really need to go to those major music centers like Los Angeles, New York, Atlanta or Nashville. If you have a great band you could easily get signed anywhere," he said.

"There's no reason for me to leave, this is where my family is from. It's home and you can never change that. I think I get my fill of discovering new cities, new places and new people when I'm touring. When I'm done touring, I'm happy to be home."

Jethro Tull's Ian Anderson keeps learning

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO

Twenty years after forming Jethro Tull, singer/flautist Ian Anderson thought it was time to make an improvement.

Anderson decided to take three months off to learn how to play the flute.

"Well, about 2 1/4 years ago, I was struck by the fresh challenge of trying to play the flute a little more correctly — in the accepted style," Anderson said via telephone from a tour stop in The Netherlands.

"I was self taught ... and it showed seriously whenever I tried to play anything that was a little less frenetic."

Revisiting his playing ability "forced me to consider my own weaknesses as a player and to try to build upon the few strengths that I had in order to extend the range."

Once limited to "spiky harmonies and incorrect fingering," Anderson now has "a whole new instrument to play with, in the sense that there's much more available to me musically."

His solo instrumental album "Dinivinites: Twelve Dances With God" released earlier this year is the first evidence of Anderson's improved playing. The album was a No. 1 classical record and spawned a successful solo tour by Anderson.

Further proof is found in Anderson and Jethro Tull's "Roots To Branches," the band's first album in four years. "Roots To Branches" features more flute playing than any of the band's other albums. Anderson also calls "Roots To Branches" one of the Jethro Tull's most diverse and revealing collection of songs. Throughout the album, the members' renewed excitement is captured from the person-



Jethro Tull: Back row from left, Jonathan Noyce, Doane Perry, and Andrew Giddings; front row from left, Ian Anderson and Martin Barre — plays the Fox Theatre in Detroit on Saturday, Nov. 18.

al "At Last Forever" to the Middle Eastern tonalities suggested in "Haze and Precious Chain," to the tonal texture and intricate rhythms of "Valley."

Jethro Tull will showcase its new material on Saturday, Nov. 18, when the group plays the Fox Theatre in Detroit. The two-part show also features older songs.

"At the moment, we're playing an hour and five minutes of predominantly new material. We take a break and then we play predominantly a range of old material from the '60s '70s albums. Obviously we can't play something from every album. We play a smattering of stuff from here and there," Anderson said.

Playing in Detroit has always proved interesting to Anderson. "We've been to Detroit a few times.

We used to play Cobo Hall, and the Grande Ballroom at the end of the 60s, and the hippie era. They must have had us confused with hippies."

Ian Anderson on modern rock scene

Jethro Tull's Ian Anderson has seen plenty of musical trends come and go during the past 27 years. Don't get him started on the current state of music unless you have a lot of time to kill. Here's an abridged version of what Anderson had to say about the scene, which includes his favorites Soundgarden and Pearl Jam.

"I find them one of the more interesting bands (in recent American rock history) as opposed to, and with apologies to, Bon Jovi. I'll listen to anything apart from the anthemic sort of rather composed rock of which

people like Foreigner in their day exemplified. They were the very slick professional sort of Andre Agassi of rock 'n' roll. They look right and make all the right moves. There's something about it that doesn't seem for real. It's too shiny, busy, I never liked Nirvana very much, either, just because the guy's dead isn't going to make me say I like the band."

Bands like Soundgarden and Pearl Jam, he said, "seem to suggest that rock 'n' roll is at it's best in North America."

Jethro Tull performs at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, at the Fox Theatre, 2111 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets are \$25 for the all-ages show. For more information, call (313) 396-7600 or (810) 645-6660.