

STREET SCENE

Dishwalla arrives with painful memories and new hit



CHRISTINA FUOCO

Dishwalla's return visit to St. Andrew's Hall/The Shelter in Detroit on Saturday, May 25, is bound to bring up some sad memories. The last time the quartet played there, Sunday, Sept. 23, 1995, it was opening for Blind Melon, about a month before lead singer Shannon Hoon died of a drug overdose. "We were with him until two or three days before his death," bassist Scot Alexander said. "He did seem pretty OK. He was really trying to keep it clean, it seemed like. The tour manager and everybody on the road made sure there were no drugs or alcohol backstage. They wanted to keep it away from him as much as possible. I guess he got back into it when they got back to New Orleans, where they did their record." On a happier note, Dishwalla is enjoying success with the single "Counting Blue Cars" off its nine-month-old album "Pet Your Friends" (A&M). The lush, infectious pop song looks at authority from a child's point of view with the lyrics: "Tell me all your thoughts on God/cause I'd really like to meet her/Ask her who we really are/Tell me all your thoughts on God/cause I'm on my way to see Her." "I wouldn't even say that the song is particularly about religion... it's just a song about questioning authority," Alexander said. The Santa Barbara, Calif., quartet - which also includes vocalist/keyboardist J.R. Richards, guitarist Rodney Browning, and drummer George Pendergast - came into the public eye when it recorded a track for the Carpenters tribute album. "That was no gimmick," Richards said recently. "I'm a big Carpenters fan. We read in the LA Times that they were doing it, so we got a tape to the executive producer Matt Wallace, and he liked what we did. People might think it's weird that I would do a Carpenters song, but that's the cool thing about this band. We can do whatever we want."

Opening for Dishwalla at The Shelter on Saturday, May 25, is Thermadore, featuring former members of Mary's Danish, and Super Drag. For more information, call (313) 961-MELT. Misc: Rhino Records is releasing "Beverly Hills 90210: Songs From The Peach Pit" Aug. 20 at retail stores and through RhinoDirect at (800) 432-0020. The soundtrack includes classic '60s and '70s R&B, pop, and rock oldies like "The Beat Goes On," "Mony Mony," "Pick Up The Pieces," and "What You Won't Do For Love."

If you have any questions or comments for Christina Fuoco, you can write to her care of The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or via e-mail at cfuoco@aol.com, or you can leave her a message at (313) 953-2047 ext. 2100.

Guitarist/vocalist Steve Vai admits he gets nervous about his performances. This Friday's show at the State Theatre in Detroit has him especially wound up. The concert, in celebration of radio station WDZR's (Z-Rock, 102.7 FM) fourth anniversary, will be cybercast live on the World Wide Web. "I'm thrilled about it and I'm nervous about it. When I perform live sometimes I get so excited that my fingers have a tendency to spaz out in certain moments. As a result of that, my live mechanical performance has a tendency to be very manic. It can sound really on or it can sound really off," said Vai via telephone from his California rehearsal space. "I usually take great care in the quality control of my live material, but I don't have that opportunity when it's being broadcast live over the internet." The audio portion will be broadcast in real time while the photo images will have a 2-3 minute delay on Vai's home page, <http://www.vai.com>. It is the first concert in Michigan to be cybercast on the web, according to WDZR's operations manager Joe Bevilacqua. "As far as I know this is the first concert broadcast through the web from Detroit. It's really in touch with the future and 'DZR's listeners, which are 18-34-year-old men." Net surfers accessing the page will have a backstage pass to the anniversary concert. WDZR mid-day personality Steve Block will host live interactive pre-concert interviews with Vai. "Basically what we're planning on doing is bringing the necessary equipment (to the show) and plugging up directly to the soundboard," said Mark Weinstein, president of Elastic Imagination in Atlanta, Ga., which is producing the event. Vai is making a special trip to Detroit for the show. The Grammy Award-winner is in the studio recording his follow-up to "Alison Lava Secreta" tentatively called "Ultra Zone." In between his own projects, he has worked as a guitarist with Frank Zappa, Alcatraz, Public Image Limited, David Lee Roth, Alice Cooper, Bad 4 Good, White Snake and Ozzy Osbourne among others. "This is gonna be a blast," Weinstein said. "Unfortunately Steve doesn't perform a lot of shows. This is a treat." Steve Vai, Clutch and Kicking Harold perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 24, at the State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster. For more information, call (313) 961-8481 or (810) 645-8668.

Vai plays State and cyberspace

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO STAFF WRITER

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Advertisement for 'THE SPORTS AUTHORITY' featuring various in-line skates. The ad includes a large banner at the top: 'THE SPORTS AUTHORITY' and 'YOUR IN-LINE SKATE AUTHORITY!'. Below this, there are several product listings with images of skates and their prices. A 'Protective Combo' is also advertised for \$24.98. At the bottom, there is a 'PRICE GUARANTEE' section and a list of store locations: WATERFORD, MADISON HEIGHTS, LIVONIA, CLINTON TOWNSHIP, UTICA, DEARBORN, and TAYLOR.

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