

## STREET SCENE

## Everclear surfs into uncharted musical waters



CHRISTINA FUCCO

Fans of Everclear may be a little surprised when they flip the band's latest album "So Much for the Afterglow" into the CD player.

Kicking off with a Beach Boys-style introduction, "So Much for the Afterglow" surfs into the uncharted waters of organs, banjos, toy pianos, a three-piece horn section, keyboards, cellos, violins and slide guitars.

"If we made the same record, I think people would be bored with it," singer/guitarist Art Alexakis said of Everclear's 1995 platinum-selling album "Sparkle and Fade."

"It's a lot more grown up, I think. We worked really hard to better define the sound of Everclear and at the same time make it a departure from 'Sparkle and Fade.'"

"One Hit Wonder" features horn arrangements by Alexakis. The Wallflowers' Rami Jaffe plays vox organ on "Normal Like You" and "I Will Buy You a New Life," while the Wild Colonial's Violinist Paul Canteloni performs "Amphetamine" and "Like a California King" making for a richer, fuller sound than found on "Sparkle and Fade."

One of the stand-outs on the album is the hard-driving instru-

**'If we made the same record, I think people would be bored with it.'**

**Art Alexakis**  
singer/guitarist

mental "El Distorto de Melodico."

Literally, "So Much for the Afterglow" is darker than "Sparkle and Fade" taking on painful relationships, drug addictions, a "poor boy who makes good," and death.

"They're grittier. I kind of went into the closet on this one. I think even though people think the lyrics are darker, I think they all have a lot of hope to them. That's because my characters never really give up, which I think is depressing," said Alexakis during a recent phone conversation from Seattle, Wash., where he was preparing for an in-store performance.

Two common threads run throughout "So Much for the Afterglow."

Some of the songs, such as "I Will Buy You a New Life," deal with the aftermath of achieving a platinum record. "I hate those people who love to tell you money is the root of all that kills. They have never had the joy of a welfare Christmas."

The quirky "One Hit Wonder"

takes the listener beyond the standard meaning of the phrase.

"I think a lot of people are one-hit wonders in relationships. They're good at starting them and not good at finishing them. Men are guilty at that a lot more than women. But I think it goes both ways."

The most stunning songs take on the problematic relationships he's had with his parents. "Father of Mine" confronts his estranged father whom he said never paid child support.

"Father of mine/Tell me where have you been/You know I just closed my eyes/My whole world disappeared. Father of mine/Take me back to the day/When I was still your golden boy/Back before you went away."

The banjo-driven "Why I Don't Believe in God" is an essay about his relationship with his mother. "I was just eight years old/Heard big words with a horrible sound/Why'd they have to call my school/Tell me my mother had a nervous breakdown."

Alexakis' autobiographical lyrics have had a profound impact on his fans, he explained.

"I talk to a lot of kids and a lot of them have a lot of issues at home," Alexakis said during a recent interview with actress Janene Garofalo. "I get letters that say 'Art, you've got to help me - my dad's raping my sister' and things like that. I see a therapist because I'm still so (messed) up. And I go to my therapist and my therapist says you

can't be a father to all these kids. You've got to learn to distance yourself from them."

Sprinkled throughout the album are references to people who take anti-depressants. "Normal Like You" includes the line "Since you went away/the Prozac doesn't do it for me anymore/You ought to take your medication everyday/Be a good dog/Live life in a wonderful way."

In "Amphetamine," a slam-dance-friendly song about a recovering drug addict, Alexakis sings "Six months clean/Living sober and right/The doctors tell her/Everything will be all right/Yeah you just take your pill/And everything will be all right."

The thirty something singer, happily married with a young daughter, has been clean since he was 21. In writing songs, he takes from his life and the people around him.

"Everywhere you look there's someone who's on an anti-depressant," Alexakis said. "I've been on them several times. I have a chemical imbalance because of all the drugs I've done, unfortunately. It's a bizarre way to live a life."

Everclear with special guests Our Lady Peace, and Letters to Cleo perform Thursday, Nov. 6, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets are \$16 in advance for the all-ages show. Doors open at 8 p.m. For more information, call (313) 961-MELT.



Coming to town: Everclear - from left, Craig Montoya, Greg Eklund, and Art Alexakis.

## Backstage Pass takes a look at Albee's '3 Tall Women'

## BACKSTAGE PASS



ANN DELISI

Boo! I am all about Halloween! For tonight's Backstage Pass program on Detroit Public Television, I actually wanted to dress up as the imaginary bunny Harvey, but the producers said they had to "save me from myself." Fine. I hope they leave every door tomorrow night saying, "I got a rock."

Tonight's show has no tricks, a lot of treats and even a little rock. To start off, I thought I'd ask out intrepid theater correspondent Gary Anderson, artistic director of Playhouse Theatre, for his take on Edward Albee's Pulitzer Prize-winning play,

"Three Tall Women." First off, who are these women in fluts?

"The three actresses in the show all play the same woman at different stages of her life. At the succeeding stages, she's called A, B and C. But only about half the play is delivered in monologue. In fact, in the second act, A, B and C interact."

"One silent male is on stage for the entire play. The women often refer to him, or even address him at times. He's often the impetus for what she says. But he never says anything. The idea of this silent male, who is the woman's son, supposedly was loosely based on Albee's relationship with his mother. He was estranged from his mother, who gave him up at the age of 15. Placing him on stage without any communication symbolizes their lack of dialogue."

OK, but why *three* women?

"Albee is a tall man, and his mother was tall. Which is another clue that this play is autobiographical."

"This production will bring out the comedy in the play, and the dynamics of human, female sexuality, which will make it different from the original New York production. The show started off Broadway, then moved to Broadway and was more literal - the audience was engaged more in listening to the words. This staging will try to engage you at a more sensual level. Geoffrey Sherman is directing. Last year he won 'Best Director' from the Detroit Free Press Theater Excellence Awards for his production of 'Arcadia' by Tom Stoppard. In that production, he similarly brought out a great deal of the passion of the characters in a play that was very literary."

"Three tall women" explores the growth development of a woman in a fashion that probably hasn't been done on stage before. Unfortunately, most plays are written about men for men. Well that stinks. When will it change? As soon as we get more women writing plays. That's my solution." Good answer.

Speaking of great women writers, we'll also get a field report from our own Nkenge Zola on WDET on the Nov. 1 Day of the Dead celebration at Detroit's Casa de Unidad. "Dia de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead, originated in Mexico. It's a ritual holiday of remembrance for the dead, blending many traditions, including Indeo and Catholic traditions. In Mexico, the rituals differ from region to region. And in Detroit, it seems to be more removed from the private, indoor

folk celebrations, to a more communal art aspect, because around 1987 a lot of these offends, or altars, were set up in art centers."

"The first group to set up an offenda in the city of Detroit was the Casa de Unidad in 1989. And they invite an artist each year to do one. There's even been one at the DIA in the Diego Rivera court." Casa de Unidad in South-west Detroit's non-profit, community-based Latino cultural arts organization. They host exhibits featuring various artists throughout the year. This year's offenda will be built by artist Hector Perez Tapia.

Zola reports that Detroit's tradition is more and more firmly established. "You'll recognize some familiar traditions. You'll always see the skeletons and the sugar skulls. Usually flowers,

sweets and breads are part of the physical structure of the offenda. The idea is that the antepasados, or the spirits of the deceased, will partake of the food spiritually, and that the remaining food will be consumed physically by the living participants."

Rounding out the show, we'll welcome one of Detroit's most celebrated jazz musicians, pianist Bow Bonnier, into the Detroit Public Television studio to perform. Ms. Bonnier has gigged with all the real jazz cats as they've come through town since the '50s. She's absolutely the real deal, and we'll be hearing music off of her new CD, "Love Notes." Our other music guest is Jai, who describes himself as "a mod for the hip hop generation." That's all tonight at 9:30 on Detroit Public Television, Channel 56.

## Award-winning comic coming

A. Whitney Brown, an Emmy award-winning comedy writer, set known for being a featured performer on NBC's "Saturday Night Live" from 1986-1991 will be appearing at Mainstreet Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty, downtown Ann Arbor, Nov. 6-8.

Tickets are \$9 for the 8:30 p.m. Thursday performance; \$12 for 8

and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday performances, call (313) 996-9060.

Brown is now a featured performer on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show," with Craig Kilborn seen 7 and 11 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Brown, a notorious political and social satirist, offers a hilarious perspective on current events.

**RICHARD GERE**

**RED CORNER**

STARTS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31ST

AMC ABBEY 8	AMC AMERICAN PARK	AMC BEL AIR 10
AMC EASTLAND	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC SOUTHWEST CITY
AMC STERLING CTR.	AMC LINCOLN PARK	AMC RIVERVIEW
AMC NOVOTOWN	SHOWCASE AVALON	SHOWCASE PONTIAC
SHOWCASE MICHIGAN	SHOWCASE WILSHIRE	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MI.
STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR SOUTHWEST	STAR WINCHESTER 8
WHITTE FAIRLANE	WHITTE WEST RIVER	FORD WYOMING

NO PASSEOS OR COUPONS ACCEPTED

**"THE MOST INVIGORATING, DEEPLY ENTERTAINING AMERICAN MOVIE THIS YEAR SO FAR!"**

★★★★★

"Boogie Nights" is a startling film! The most exciting about 'Boogie Nights' is the ease with which writer-director Anderson, spins out this complex web. A true storyteller, he is a filmmaker definitely worth watching. -LARRY KATZ, LOS ANGELES TIMES

"Boogie Nights" is 'Goodfellas' meets 'Pulp Fiction.' -MICHAEL O'NEILL, TIME

"Boogie Nights" is a chunk of movie dynamite! -PAUL BRUCE, HOLLYWOOD NEWS

"Boogie Nights" is a sprawling masterpiece of a movie! -THEATRE, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"Everything about 'Boogie Nights' is unexpected! Paul Thomas Anderson sees a lot of good stories in this particular naked city, and he wants to tell them, with enormous style!" -JAMES BRADY, THE NEW YORK TIMES

"Two thumbs up!" -LARRY KATZ, LOS ANGELES TIMES

**BOOGIE NIGHTS**

CAST: MICHAEL DOUGLAS, JULIANNE MOORE, RENE PEREZ, BOB OPELOUSE, JONAS FOLLY, WILLIAM H. MARY, MARY MCGRAW, OF ORAM

**NOW SHOWING**

STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MI.	STAR SOUTHWEST	SHOWCASE WESTLAND
STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MI.	STAR SOUTHWEST	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MI.

**STARTS FRIDAY, OCT. 31**

AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC STERLING CTR.	AMC EASTLAND
AMC NOVOTOWN	SHOWCASE AVALON	AMC CANTON
SHOWCASE PONTIAC	SHOWCASE WILSHIRE	SHOWCASE DIABLO
STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MI.	STAR SOUTHWEST	STAR JOHN R AT 14 MI.
STAR ROCHESTER HILLS	STAR TAYLOR	WHITTE WEST RIVER

NO PASSEOS OR COUPONS ACCEPTED

**THE HUNTER IS TRACKING THE KILLER. BUT THE KILLER IS SETTING THE TRAP.**

**DENNIS QUAYD** **DANNY GLOVER**

**SWITCHBACK**

PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND BUSHNELL ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT A PACIFIC WESTERN PRODUCTION A JED STUART FILM "SWITCHBACK" STARRING DENNIS QUAYD AND DANNY GLOVER. SPECIAL APPEARANCES BY LEE REMICK, JEFF BRIDGES, AND LEO GARRATT. CASTING BY JIM STANTON. COSTUME DESIGNER: JIM STANTON. MUSIC BY JIM STANTON. EDITOR: JIM STANTON. PRODUCTION DESIGNER: JIM STANTON. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: JIM STANTON, JIM STANTON, JIM STANTON. PRODUCED BY JIM STANTON. WRITTEN BY JIM STANTON. DIRECTED BY JIM STANTON.

**STARTS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31**

AMC ABBEY 8	AMC CANTON	QUO VADIS
SHOWCASE AVALON	SHOWCASE PONTIAC	SHOWCASE WILSHIRE
STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MI.	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS
STAR SOUTHWEST	STAR TAYLOR	WHITTE FAIRLANE
WHITTE WEST RIVER	FORD WYOMING	NO PASSEOS OR COUPONS ACCEPTED