Blowtop's music spun from friendship



ucky few because I'm still friends with Miss Angie Burnett, who I first met in Mrs. Kevern'-first

A. CASOLA Mrs. Kovern's first grade class at Rochester Hills' Brewster Elementary School. Many years later, we can still call each other up and talk endlessly about our lives. We became close friends in journalism class, actually.

became closs triends in journalism class, actually.

If there's anyone out there who can relate, I know Patrick Shanley and John Jacobs are among them. As founding members of the

ple can you name from your first grade class? I'm one of a lucky few

Detroit-based band Blowtop, Shanley and Jacobs met in first grade at Bishop Gallagher School in Harper Woods. But their friendship emerged in high school due to a common tie – music. As students, they were involved in high school theater and played in the pit band. After school Shanley and Jacobs hung out and played music. That's how it was.

In a way things haven't changed, Jacobs, who was influenced by his father's music like Louis Prima and Frank Sinatro, admitted: I was always fend of the cluder stuff." In high school, he and Shanley discovered they shared a love for the blues, The Beatles and Led Zeppelin, while their classmates rocked out to Van Halen and Journey. "We were listening to stuff no one clas was," said Shan-

Icy.

That mutual taste in music led to a career. It started out when shanley brought a bunch of musicians to Detroit's Cadiuez Cafe for an open mike night dubbed 'The Hootenany,' When he found himself in neod of a guitarist, he seized the opportunity' to bring alrache into the band. From that collaboration, two old friends began writing new material. The Island was the result of their first songwriting collaboration.

Just as true friends can finish each other's sentences, Shanley and Jacobs complete each other's musical ideas.

"We always keep it very level-headed," said Shanley. We want to do this to have fun."

"It's not just to have fun," clarified his cohort. "We take it serious-field his cohort. "We always keep it very level-headed," said Shanley. "We want to do this to have fun."

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Patrick Shanley and John Jacobs collaborate in music that's hard to define but sure to please.

This is just the beginning for lower, It's not about striving for uccess as much as it is pursuing a nareer both musicians are passion to about. And Blowtop isn't about Cafe, (313) 882-8560. Blowtop. It's not about striving for success as much as it is pursuing a career both musicians are passion career both musicians are passion-ate about. And Blowtop isn't about image, or multi-media-hyped per-formances. If you love music for music's sake, without the splashy costumes, smoke and mirrors, give this disc a spin. Find it at Harmony House, Tower Records, Car City

about popular music for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers: She can be reached

Mary Timony uncovers musical netherworld with 'Mountains'

scasola@oc.homecomm.net
Mary Timony speaks with a
hushed sweatness that shows
almost no signs of someone who
was raised on a strict diet of
Washington D.C.'s thriving punk
scene. At home now in Boston,
Timony was preparing to go out
on the road in support of Mount
cinis, her solo debut on Matador
Records.
Known as the voice of Helium

tains, here solo debut on Matador Records.

Known as the voice of Hellum since ahe replaced Mary Lou Lord in 1992, Timory took a step aldeways with friend and drum mer Christian Files to make a musical landscape that atreckness into the depths of the imagination with its subtle tones on murky guitar, wispy vocals and moody plano. Tracks like The Bell, Tiger Rising, and Valley of One Thousand Perfumes possess a pervasive and quite personal quality best achieved on a visionary solo effort such as Monntains. It is something I've wanted to

do for awhile," said Timony. "I wanted the next time I recorded to be kind of mellow, low-key, not a big production. I didn't want to make something like Helium."
Timony moved further into the depths of prog-rock with this album, drawing on the surrealistic levels achieved by Helium on 1997s The Magic City. But Timony was first drawn to music through early inspiration from her brother, Pat. "He used to write songs and I would beg him to be able to sing songs he wrote, 'cause I loved them."

From home, to the punk scene surrounding her hometown and the instruments of preference—namely guitar and keyboards—Timony has made her mark in bands like the short-lived, girlpunk group Autoclave, The Spella and alt-rock supergroup Mind Science of the Mind.

But Timony uses words like 'bare' and "sparse' to describe the nesthetic of this collection with its 16 shiny new songs. She

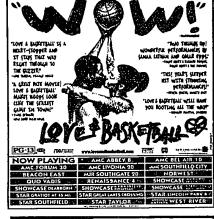
said the album, released in March, comes from a "slightly different" place than her work with Helium. It's a little sadder, a little more raw.

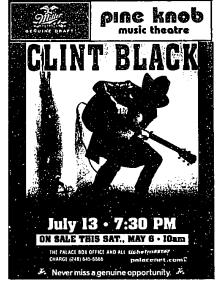
Mountains was written over the past few years and recorded last summer at a Chinatown lot in Boston. I'wanted to focus on getting a good performance," said Timony, To get that relaxed atmosphere, she called on friend and musical cohort, Christins Files.

"She lives in this really cool lot with tuge ceilings," said Timony of the space. Songs like The Hour of the shows have been really rother than the provisation." While audiences might not graver b created in a hallway of that very building. Five different

See Mary Timony and Christi-na Files, 9 p.m. Friday, May 5, Magic Stick, Detroit. Tickets \$8, call (248) 645-6666.







and officerunes run issional thrather hubbars. MEADOW BROOK THEATRE prize-winning, poignant and personal APRIL 19 THROUGH MAY 14 BY BETH HENLEY In this Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy, three Mississippi sisters reunite to be with their dying grandfather, Lenny, Meg and Babe are very different women, but they share powerful hands Together they come to and their enduring love for one another tr's a wooderful mixture of both comedy and drama. MBT RATING - PQ MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR PRE-TEENS.

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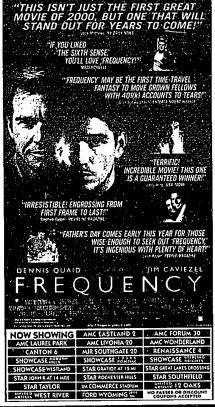
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