



Michelle Shocked has drawn critical praise for her latest album on PolyGram, "Short, Sharp, Shocked."

## She's not shocked by success

By Larry O'Connor  
staff writer

Michelle Shocked lists herself as a squatter, a feminist, a Texan, a picker/poet, a jailbird, an Army brat and a runaway.

There's more, but you get the idea. To those in the music industry, Shocked is a singer/songwriter who has shot up to prominence in meteoric proportion. Her latest album, "Short, Sharp, Shocked," is receiving raves from critics and waves from college radio.

But excuse Ms. Shocked, if she is just blasé about the whole thing.

"It's almost difficult not to sound pretentious," said Shocked, during a telephone interview from Atlanta, Ga., "but I'm not impressed by it all... I'm really just fortunate to be surrounded by so many good people."

Shocked surrounds herself with many contemporary issues, such as racism, the environment and housing. She's performed benefit concerts and is involved in such organizations as Shelter, WOMAD and YGND.

Sometimes she has gone beyond getting involved. A picture on her latest album shows her being re-

strained rather physically by a police officer during a demonstration in San Francisco, Calif., in 1984.

THE PHOTO is a rather frightening one. Shocked is being grabbed by the throat and is screaming. The police officer has a slight look of bemusement.

Shocked resisted the proceedings by putting a well-placed foot in the general vicinity of one officer's groin area.

"It was really a taken gesture on my part," said Shocked, dismissing the importance of her rebellious act. "You don't realize what is happening when they're herding you off like a pack of animals. Here you were raised to believe in the basic right of freedom of speech and here you are being charged with conspiracy for exercising it!"

She discusses the incident like most people talk about getting a ticket for jay walking. Trauma and upheaval have been Shocked's two best friends for most of her life.

Shocked grew up in a Mormon fundamentalist home in Austin, Texas. She ran away to be with her peace-loving, hippie father, where she began to become politicized.

Shocked took on a Jack Kerouac existence, traveling and participating in various political activities. She was arrested in Dallas and was a rape victim in Italy.

SHE WAS living in the hills of Santa Cruz, N.M., when she was placed into a mental institution in 1983 by her mother. She stayed there until "the insurance money ran out."

"That's where the 'Short, Sharp, Shocked,' came from," she said. "Here I had been living away from home on my own as an adult... and she still had this enormous amount of power in which she could put me in a mental institution."

Shocked has been at odds with anyone resembling Big Brother since.

Her musical background takes even more jagged proportions. Since she grew up in a Mormon home, there was no record player. Her Texas roots can be found in her roadhouse blues acoustic sound.

Her first album, "Texas Campfire Songs," was somewhat of a fluke. A fan had recorded one of her performances at a folk festival in Texas. With her permission, he pressed the event into vinyl where it shot up the

independent charts.

Polygram took note and signed Shocked. "Short, Sharp, Shocked" is her first album on the label. On stage, she's politically vocal, but provides no answers. She's not sure she has them.

"I'm touring with Billy Bragg right now. He's very defined politically," she said. "You ask him what he is and he'll tell you he's socialist. Ask me, the answer is vague and quite useless honestly."

SHOCKED is more busy trying to establish her roots, not trying to make grand political statements. She hopes others take an interest.

"I'm putting my hand of faith in establishing some roots," she said. "Then maybe I can step back and look at what other people have done with it. Maybe I'll be inspired by that."

"But what if that doesn't happen? Oh, well."

Michelle Shocked will perform with Billy Bragg and Manic Street Preachers at the Power Center, 121 Fletcher, Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$14.50. For more information, call 99-MUSIC.

## IN CONCERT

### BILLY BRAGG

Billy Bragg will perform with special guests, Michelle Shocked and Manic Street Preachers at the Power Center, 121 Fletcher, Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$14.50. For more information, call 99-MUSIC.

### ROD STEWART

Rod Stewart will perform at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18, at The Palace of Auburn Hills, 3777 Lapeer Road, Auburn Hills. Tickets are \$18.50. To charge tickets by phone, call 423-6666.

### THE CALL

The Call, with Harry Dean Stanton, will perform on Wednesday, Oct. 19, at Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. For more information, call 961-MELT.

### STATIC ALPHABET

Static Alphabet will perform, with special guests, True Blue Hearts, on Thursday, Oct. 20, at Paycheck's Lounge, 2932 Caniff, Hamtramck. For more information, call 872-8934.

### GUESS

Guess will perform on Friday, Oct. 21, at Lili's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. For more information, call 875-5555.

### PSYCHIK TV

Psychik TV will perform on Friday, Oct. 21, at Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. For more information, call 961-MELT.

### GIL SCOTT-HERON

The Ellipse Jazz Series will present Gil Scott-Heron at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21, at Mendelson Theater, 911 N. University, near Fletcher, Ann Arbor. For more information, call 763-0046.

### SEE DICK RUN

See Dick Run will perform with special guests, Victims of Circumstance, on Friday, Oct. 21, at Paycheck's Lounge, 2932 Caniff, Hamtramck. For more information, call 872-8934.

### ANTI-FASHION

Anti-Fashion will perform with Static Alphabet on Saturday, Oct. 22, at Union Street, 4145 Woodward, south of Warren Road, Detroit. For more information, call 831-3965.

### BOOTSEY X

Bootsey X and the Lovemasters will perform on Saturday, Oct. 22, at Lili's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. For more information, call 875-5555.

### SKINNY PUPPY

Skinny Puppy will perform on Saturday, Oct. 22, at Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. For more information, call 961-MELT.

### JIMMY PAGE

Jimmy Page will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, at the Joe Louis Arena in Detroit. Tickets are \$18.50. For more information, call 557-6000.

## SINGLES

The following are the top record hits and leading popular compact disks as they appear in next week's issue of Billboard magazine. Copyright 1988, Billboard Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission.

1. "Red Red Wine," UB40.
2. "Love Blows," Def Leppard.
3. "Groovy Kind of Love," Phil Collins.
4. "Don't Be Cruel," Cheap Trick.
5. "What's On Your Mind," Information Society.
6. "Don't Worry, Be Happy," Bobby McFerrin.
7. "Don't You Know What the Night Can Do," Steve Winwood.
8. "Don't Be Cruel," Bobby Brown.
9. "Wild Wild West," The Escape Club.
10. "I Hate Myself for Loving You," Joan Jett and the Blackhearts.

## CLASSICAL

Here are the top 10 classical selections on Dick Wallace's midday program on WQRS-FM.

1. "Italian Symphony," Mendelssohn.
2. "La Gazza Ladrà Overture," Rossini.
3. "Symphony No. 40," Mozart.
4. "The Lark Ascending," Ralph Vaughan-Williams.
5. "Karelia Suite," Sibelius.
6. "Rodeo," Copland.
7. "Four Seasons," Vivaldi.
8. "Water Music Suite," Handel.
9. "Academic Overture," Brahms.
10. "Symphony No. 9m," Dvorak.

## COUNTRY

Here are the top 10 songs receiving airplay on WCKX-AM 1130, a country station in Detroit.

1. "Honky Tonk Moon," Randy Travis.
2. "Do You Love Me" Just Say Yes," Highway 101.
3. "Gonna Take a Lot of River," Oak Ridge Boys.
4. "The Gift," The McCarters.
5. "Am I Crazy," The Statler Brothers.
6. "Saturday Night Special," Conway Twitty.
7. "Strong Enough to Bend," Tanya Tucker.
8. "That's What Your Love Does to Me," Van Halen.
9. "I'm Gonna Love Her on the Radio," Charley Pride.
10. "Desperately," Don Williams.

## REVIEWS



### TALK IS CHEAP

— Keith Richards

guitarist? It's curious that when the subject of great guitarists is raised, Clapton and Van Halen are almost always mentioned before Richards.

But rock guitar is more than just fast single-note work. Some will tell you the "Satisfaction" riff is more rocking, more moving than anything Van Halen ever wrote.

And those chord figures, which drive "Brown Sugar" like a stick-shift Chevy picking up speed, are one of the most lasting, memorable sounds of rock and roll—and will be remembered longer than many a hot solo.

Richards once said, "When you walk into a guitar store, you don't ask for a rhythm or lead guitar. You get a guitar and you play a guitar."

In other words, it takes more than a fast hand to make a joyful rock'n'roll noise.

"Talk Is Cheap," his first-ever solo album, is distinguished by such joyful noises—chunky, clean and catchy guitar grooves—and solid,

and joyful Richards vocals.

Highlights include "Take It So Hard," a funky, mid-tempo rocker with Richards answered by a chorus bellowing "Yes-ah!"

In "Struggle," he again opens by setting a mid-tempo rock groove, then adds a twisting vocal line as a low-note guitar snakes in the background.

"Make No Mistake" deviates from the general mid-tempo grooves which dominate the album. It's a melodic ballad, with breathy singing from Richards on the verses, and Sarah Dash answering on the choruses. Richards stretches out on his singing here, and his some great notes. And so do the Memphis Horns, which back the number.

"You Don't Move Me," is the song they keep quoting in the rock press, because it's supposed to lambast Jagger. But melodically, it's cast in a minor key and is more and then slashing. "Locked Away" has an elegant chorus, backed by a country-fied twitty.

It might be said that "Talk Is Cheap" has two flaws. For one, all the songs generally have the same instrumentation. A song or two backed just by acoustic guitars would have been nice. Also, no one song seems destined to join the Stones' very best numbers.

Still, the album is a joy, with its clean, stripped-down rock and roll sounds and plenty of soulful Keith Richards vocals.

— Kevin Brown



### RATTLE AND HUM

— U2

You've read the books. You've watched the movie. Well, here's the soundtrack to the movie.

The difference between a regular movie soundtrack and this one is that "Rattle and Hum" (Island), a double album, has the added bonus of some new U2 songs.

The phenomenon which U2 has become, the 1980s equivalent to the Beatles, has put the band in the predicament of how to satisfy their fans and keep some kind of credibility and honesty in their music.

The release of "Rattle and Hum" is an attempt to show the band live while retaining a measure of intimacy not allowed by their stadium shows.

For a band like U2 to maintain some credibility while they become a mega-industry must be difficult. Personally, I think their overwhelming success has caused them to lose control of what is going on around them, i.e. choice of live venues, U2

merchandise and overall U2 hype.

But I do believe that the band members themselves are still in control of what brought them attention in the first place: Their music.

"Rattle and Hum" is a good indication of how U2 is attempting to progress while keeping fans happy. I think a lot of U2 fans have the intelligence to accept when the band makes some changes to their "hit" songs. For example, here they have a gospel choir join them on "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For."

They have discovered the song format of songwriting, as opposed to the music soundtrack type. If you have heard the new single, "Daddy, You'll Know What I Mean," The song has very little Edge-as-a-guitar-hero parts, and is more akin to a straightforward Boddy Holly rock'n'roll song.

The live cuts on the LP still feature Bono as preacher/politician for

is not dismissing any possibilities.

"You could write a thesis about it," Goobar said.

Right now, Goobar and the Peas are busy writing new material for their debut show. They mix a baritone, rootsy sound with contemporary themes.

For instance "In the City" touches on urban life from a Wyoming perspective.

"Taxi cabs, neon light and Broadway shows/Muggers steal yer wallet, punch you right in the nose/Forget the rats, trashy streets and heavy pollution/If you want to be cultured, man, I got a solution... live in the city."

Not exactly Springsteen, but who's complaining? Goobar and the Peas certainly are not. They're in this for fun, and it certainly shows in their music.

ORIGINALS comprise nearly 75 percent of their music. The other 25 percent is devoted to some classic covers like Eddie Money's "Shaken and Not Stirred" and Bachman-Turner Overdrive's "Ain't Seen Nothing Yet." Throw in a few tunes from Johnny Brumette and Williams and you get the picture.

Their brand of music went over well with college chums at MSU. Whether the Motor City music mavens pounce on it remains to be seen. Neither Goobar or the Peas sound too worried.

"It could be a disaster," Goobar said. "I think anyone who is into heavy metal or a skinhead would enjoy us."

Goobar and the Peas will perform on Thursday, Oct. 27, at Paycheck's Lounge, 2932 Caniff, Hamtramck. For more information, call 872-8934.



Scott Susalla (left), Mike Miller, Dan (Goobar) Miller, Bob Lopicola and Tom Hendrickson make up Goobar and the Peas.

*'You don't hear of any bands coming from Wyoming. We like to think we're from there even though we're not.'*

—Tom Hendrickson  
lead guitarist  
Goobar and the Peas

the common man. Some of his walling can be annoying. He seems to be aware that his bellow/scream, as a "Pride (In the Name of Love)," makes him sound passionate where as his understated vocals, as on a new song "Heartland," are more effective.

Actually "Heartland" is the only new song which is reminiscent of previous U2 albums, in this case "October."

They do a few cover songs, a wail version of the Beatles' "Let It Be," a rousing version of Bob Dylan's "All Along the Watchtower," and B.B. King's "When Love Comes to Town," on which King himself does most of the vocals and a beautiful guitar solo.

It is good to see that they are as just settling back and releasing "War Part II." They're still clashing themselves and thereby their music.

Surly, the only question left is: Will they finally get off the Irish national debt and rename the country United and its capital Boytown?

— Cormac Wright