

THE WEEKEND



Marisa Tomei (left to right), Alan Arkin (front), Eli Marienthal, Natasha Lyonne and David Krumholtz star in "Slums of Beverly Hills," opening today at metro Detroit movie theaters.

SATURDAY



Spend the day or evening strolling around Greenfield Village, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. The Articles perform Jamaican Jazz Isha music 6-8 p.m. Concert free with Village admission, \$12.50 adults, \$11.50 senior citizens ages 62 and older, \$7.50 children ages 5-12, and children ages 4 and younger, free. After 4 p.m., \$10 adults, \$5 kids ages 5-12. Call (313) 271-1620 for information.

SUNDAY



See what farm life is like, and witness the birth of pigs, sheep and cows, at the Miracle of Life Animal Birthing Exhibit at the Michigan State Fair. The fair continues 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. through Monday, Sept. 7, 1120 W. State Fair (Woodward Avenue at Eight Mile Road), Detroit. Admission \$9 adults, \$2 children ages 11 and younger. Free for children ages 12 and younger. Parking is \$5, call (313) 369-8250 for more information.



Duncan Sheik makes a return visit to Planetfest on Sunday, Aug. 30, at Pine Knob Music Theatre, 1-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township. Check out the schedule and ticket information inside, and the related story.

LOCAL MUSICIANS LOOK FORWARD TO



BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Being a jazz musician in Detroit can be a frustrating experience. Redford pianist Gary Schunk says the term "full-time" musician is an oxymoron.

"It's never full time unless you've got a teaching position somewhere," he said.

But each year the Ford Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival provides an opportunity for local jazz artists to perform before jazz loving audiences, share experiences (and a few licks) with fellow musicians and remind the jazz world that Detroit is still a hot center for the music.

This year more than 40 Detroit and Michigan artists will join such national headliners as Diane Schuur, Ruth Brown, Houston Person and Etta Jones, Michael Brecker, the hot young acid jazz group Liquid Soul from Chicago and Detroit's own Regina Carter and Rodney Whitaker.

Kathy Kosins

Birmingham singer/songwriter Kathy Kosins said bar gigs are fine for self gratification and honing your skills, but a place like Montreux attracts the real music lovers.

"When I play a large venue, I know they have all come to hear the music," she said. "That's where I think I feel the most gratification, they are really focused on what we're doing. They're out there for the music, and I'm on cloud 9."

Kosins performs with a trio featuring Paul Keller on bass, Rick Ross on piano and Gerald Cleaver on drums 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4, on the Hudson's Live Stage.

Kosins, who performs Tuesday nights at Duet near Orchestra Hall in Detroit and once a month at Edi-

son's in Birmingham, often plays out of the Detroit area at jazz festivals in Chicago and New York. Her 1996 CD, "All in a Dream's Work," on Schoolkids Records, featured mostly original compositions by the former Was (Not Was) vocalist and rhythm and blues songwriter who decided to switch to jazz. The album is a fine showcase of her full, expressive voice and musicality. She even does some scatting on Miles Davis' "Four." She also surrounds herself with equally good musicians.

"I got older, my tastes changed," she said. "I sang in Was (Not Was) for 10 years. I was always in an R&B group. I was often the only white person in an all black group. I still love that music, the Isley Brothers, Sly and the Family Stone, even the Stevie Ray Vaughan music. As I got older, I figured I would never be signed as an R&B singer."

Kosins said bandleader Johnny Trudell got her interested in singing and writing jazz.

"I do a great number of standards, but I try to drag up obscure standards, songs that others aren't doing and haven't been done to death," she said.

She said her Montreux program will be a mixture of originals and standards.

"It's not fair to do all originals. So I do some for the audience and some for myself," she said.

As a songwriter, Kosins usually collaborates with others, especially on arrangements. She has written several songs with April Lang, niece of famous jazz singer Dave Lambert of Hendricks, Lambert and Ross. She has also written with Ross and Keller.

"I write from two places. A place of humor, a lot of double entendres. In



STEVE BROWN

Local entertainer: Kathy Kosins will be performing on the Hudson's Live Stage, 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4 at the Ford Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival.

"I Can't Change You," which for a jazz song was as close to a hit as you can get, it was played all over. It's about not being able to change your spouse. ... There's a lot of depth to it but also an element of humor," she said.

"The other side of me is very dark, introspective, melancholic. ... I can be in a great mood and write something dark and melancholic."

Kosins said since her CD she has created another 25 to 30 songs she is eager to record when she can arrange a new recording contract.

Gary Schunk

Schunk/Starr/Dryden have been performing together since 1977. Schunk on piano, Jack Dryden from Royal Oak on bass and Tom

Plasma see LOCALS, E2

Liquid Soul all about having fun

"Is it the rhythm, is that what it's all about?"

"You ain't got no rhythm, you ain't got no time. You ain't got no time, you ain't got nothing."

Sampling from *Liquid Soul's* "Make Some Noise."

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

They call it Acid Jazz — a high energy combination of pop, hip-hop, rap and a little salsa for spice.

But for Mars Williams, leader of Chicago's hot Liquid Soul group, it's all about having fun and creating fun for the audience.

Liquid Soul will be bringing its new and unusual approach to jazz to the Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival 9:45 p.m. Monday, Sept. 7.

"Liquid Soul marks a new phase for the festival," according to Festival Director Jim Dulco. "The addition of acid jazz brings a new form of jazz to our audience and a new audience to the festival. Their funky sound will definitely have the Hudson's Live Jazz Stage dancing on Monday night at the festival."

Dancing has become the new byword in jazz for young listeners. Funky, hip-hop influenced groups like Liquid Soul and an explosion of neo-swing groups have gotten people back on the dance floor.

"I think people want to have fun again," said Williams, in a phone call from Chicago. "Jazz got real snobby. Not that jazz isn't serious. I play serious jazz, but I still have fun with it. ... People want to participate in the music. They can participate by dancing and people want to have a good time."

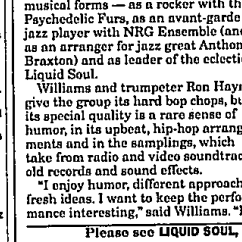
Liquid Soul is definitely a good time. Their two CDs on Ark21 Records, "Liquid Soul" and the new "Make Some Noise," display a rich combination of hard driving, funky jazz, punctuated with hip-hop percussion; tongue-in-cheek vocal samplings; light-hearted, but pointed rapping; some salsa and latin rhythms; and even some straight ahead rhythm and blues vocals.

The 10-member group has been making a big noise in hometown Chicago where it plays regularly at the Elbo Room. Williams is a talented, driving saxophonist who has dabbled in many musical forms — as a rocker with the Psychedelic Furs, as an avant-garde jazz player with NRG Ensemble (and as an arranger for jazz great Anthony Braxton) and as leader of the eclectic Liquid Soul.

Williams and trumpeter Ron Haynes give the group its hard pop chops, but its special quality is a rare sense of humor, in its uptight, hip-hop arrangements and in the samplings, which take from radio and video soundtracks, old records and sound effects.

"I enjoy humor, different approaches, fresh ideas. I want to keep the performance interesting," said Williams. "But

Plasma see LIQUID SOUL, E2



Funky sound: Liquid Soul will be bringing its new and unusual approach to jazz to the Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival.

Ford Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival

Hart Plaza, Detroit

For more information: Call (313) 963-7622, or visit the web site at www.montreuxdetroitjazz.com

Thursday, Sept. 3

6 p.m. Picnic on the Plaza w/ The Sun Messengers and Diane Shur

Friday, Sept. 4

Ford/Air Touch Cellular Stage

Noon Calvin Brooks & Audrey Northington

3 p.m. Malvin McCray and the Jazz Vanguard

4:45 p.m. Alto Reed & The Edge

6:30 p.m. Regina Carter & Lyman Woodard

9 p.m. "The Motor City All Star Celebration" with various acts

OTE Energy Stage

Noon Tom Saunders' Detroit All Stars

2 p.m. Taslimah Ray Trio

3:30 p.m. Roy Kamefally and the Red Hot Peppers

5 p.m. Franz Kameny w/Hugh Leal's Motown Classic Jazz Band

6:30 p.m. Pam Wise Latin Jazz All Stars w/Adela Datto

8 p.m. Francisco Mora

9:45 p.m. Ray Barretto and the New World Spirit

Hudson's Live Jazz Stage

Noon Rosalind High School Jazz Ensemble

1:15 p.m. Chesaning Union Jazz

2:45 p.m. Jackson Middle School at Parkside

4 p.m. Divine Child High School Jazz Ensemble

5:15 p.m. Aquinas College Afternoon Jazz Ensemble

6:45 p.m. Northview High School Jazz Ensemble

8 p.m. Kathy Kosins & Trio

9:45 p.m. Shawn "Thunder" Wallace Sextet

Pepal Jam Academy

1 p.m. Jazz clinic with Paul Keller

2:45 p.m. Harold McKinney's Jazz for a New Generation

5 p.m. Jazz clinic with Wendell Harrison

6:30 p.m. Student Jam session

9 and 10:15 p.m. Edgar Leony's Orchestra Tradition Latina

Kawasaki Riverfront Cafe

6 and 7:30 p.m. University of Michigan - Flint Jazz Combo

9 and 10:30 p.m. Pistol Allen Quartet

Saturday, Sept. 5

Ford/Air Touch Cellular Stage

Noon Central Michigan University Percussion Ensemble

1:30 p.m. United States Air Force Night Flight Jazz Ensemble

3 p.m. Regina Carter Electric Quartet

4:45 p.m. Whitey Margulies Quintet

6:15 p.m. Dennis Rowland & New Breed Bebop Society w/Teddy Harris

8 p.m. Rodney Whitaker Sextet w/Chicago Pete

9:30 p.m. Ruth Brown

OTE Energy Stage

Noon Boogie Woogie Bash w/ Bob Sealey, Mr. B and Phillippe LeClerc

2:45 p.m. Theronia Davis & Oo Papa Da

4 p.m. Magnificent Seven w/Garfield

5:45 p.m. Astel Project

7:45 p.m. Johnnie Bassett & the Blues Insurgents

9:30 p.m. Eric Person & MetaFour

Hudson's Live Jazz Stage

Noon Michigan All State Jazz Combo

1:15 p.m. IAJE Reading Band

2:45 p.m. Michigan All State Big Band

4 p.m. Sterling Heights High School Jazz Band

5:15 p.m. University of Michigan - Flint Jazz Ensemble

6:45 p.m. Monroe High School Jazz Band

8 p.m. Don Lewis & Friends w/ David Liberman and Rick Margulies

Pepal Jam Academy

1 p.m. Jazz clinic with Rick Ross

2:45 p.m. Harold McKinney's Jazz for a New Generation

3:45 p.m. Meet the Artist: Dennis Rowland

5 p.m. Jazz clinic with Bart Pilot

6:30 p.m. Student Jam session

9 and 10:15 p.m. Roger Tucker and 3/4 Step

Kawasaki Riverfront Cafe

1:45 p.m. Northview High School Jazz

Combo

5:15 and 7 p.m. Wayne State University Sextet

9 and 10:30 p.m. Tom Brown Quartet

Sunday, Sept. 6

Ford/Air Touch Cellular Stage

Noon James Tatum Trio Plus

2 p.m. The Brad Mehldau Trio

4 p.m. David Liebman, Michael Brecker & the University of Michigan Jazz Ensemble

6:45 p.m. Straight Ahead

7:45 p.m. George Benson Quartet

9:30 p.m. Louis Hayes Quintet w/Curtis Fuller

OTE Energy Stage

12:15 p.m. Myron Wahls Trio

1:45 p.m. Northwoods Improvisers

3:15 p.m. Creative Arts Collective Ensemble

5:15 p.m. Scott Cutshall Quartet w/David Ulfman

7 p.m. Ernest Dawkins New Horizons Ensemble

9 p.m. The Sun Ra All Star Project

Hudson's Live Jazz Stage

Noon Cass Jazz

1:15 p.m. IAJE's Sisters in Jazz

2:45 p.m. Hastings High School Jazz Band

4 p.m. East Kentwood High School Jazz Band

5:15 p.m. Henry Ford Big Band

6:45 p.m. Heritage High School Jazz One

8 p.m. Boss Bonnier Quartet

9:45 p.m. Schuck/Starr/Dryden

Pepal Jam Academy

1 p.m. Jazz clinic with Ellen Rowe

2:45 p.m. Harold McKinney's Jazz for a New Generation

3:45 p.m. Meet the Artist: Louis Hayes & Curtis Fuller

5 p.m. Jazz clinic with Andrew Speight

6:30 p.m. Student Jam session

9 and 10:15 p.m. Superfect

Kawasaki Riverfront Cafe

1:15 and 2:45 p.m. Northview High School Jazz Combo

4:45 and 6:30 p.m. Oberlin Jazz Septet

Plasma see SCHEDULE, E2

POPULAR MUSIC

Atomic Fireballs join in tribute to Frank Sinatra

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO

STAFF WRITER

The forever-smiling John Bunkley is one happy guy.

He's playing from a New York recording studio where he and members of his jump blues band, The Atomic Fireballs, are doing pre-production for their cover of "Luck Be a Lady" for "Swinging with the Chairman," a Frank Sinatra tribute album due out in October.

The New York trip includes a few other little meetings here and there. There are discussions about The Atomic Fireballs' video for that song, and who's going to produce its first

album for Lava/Atlantic Records.

"There are a lot of producers who are interested in us. All of them are really very attentive to us," Bunkley said. When asked about some of the benefits, he responded in his raspy voice, "lots of dinners. Tonight I'm going to hang out and have dinner with Steve Lillywhite. He's a pretty nice guy. I've talked to him a lot on the phone."

In saying that, Bunkley just glosses over Lillywhite's name as if he's just another producer. He has produced or worked on nearly every influential alternative album ranging from XTC's 1979 single "Making Plans for

Please see ATOMIC, E2



Jump blues band: The Atomic Fireballs, vocalist/guitarist John Bunkley (foreground), trumpeter James Boslek, guitarist Duke Kingins, drummer Geoff Kiny, pianist Randall Sly, trombonist Tony Buccell, upright bassist Shaun Scoggins, and tenor saxophone player Eric Schaba.

Upcoming performances

The jump blues eight-piece band The Atomic Fireballs has three high profile gigs in the area within the next month.

The band will headline an all-guns show on Friday, Aug. 28, at Gunter's, 605 E. Huron St., in Pontiac. Tickets are \$10 in advance. Doors open at 8 p.m. For more information, call (248) 333-2322 or visit <http://www.061meit.com>.

The Atomic Fireballs performs as part of the Ann Arbor Blues and Jazz Festival on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Gallup Park in Ann Arbor. For more information about the festival, call Ticketmaster at (248) 645-6666, visit <http://a2bluesjazzfest.org>. Look for story in the Sept. 3 Entertainment section of the Observer & Eccentric.

The band, along with the roots rock band Slater Hazel, will provide the entertainment at The

Partners Ball at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, at Art Van Furniture's renovated showroom at 6500 14 Mile Road, Warren. The ball, hosted by The Partners Group of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute and Art Van, benefits the institute supporting the Suzanne Karmanos Norton Cancer Research Fund and the Karmanos Cancer Institute's Bone Marrow Transplant Program.

Tickets are \$50 for the 9 p.m. afterglow, dessert, cocktails, and swing dancing to the Atomic Fireballs, \$125 for "friends" status of 7 p.m. cocktails, trailing supper by Matt Penne's Unique restaurant Corp., silent auction and both performances, and \$250 for "benefactor" status for the entire evening beginning at 6 p.m. For more information, call (800) KARMANOS, ext. 0700.