

SCREEN SCENE

Surf-rocking The Volcanos work hard to set the mood

BY CHRISTINA PUOCO
STAFF WRITER
christina@ecce.com

The instrumental surf/rock band The Volcanos is all about setting a mood.

The opening track of "Finish Line Fever," The Volcanos' second album for Bellingham, Wash.-based Estrus Records, is a tension-building, hot red number appropriately called "Finish Line Fever."

"Doheny Dawa" is a beach-combing, watch-the-sunset song. "San Andreas Fault" is bumpy and bumpy just like an earthquake. The beat goes on through-

out the 14-song album released in November 1998.

"We just try to set a mood with music. That's the challenging part - getting the mood across to people. It's a bit more challenging than just playing music," said Chris Flanagan, guitarist. "Finish Line Fever" was recorded at the Tempermill studio in Ferndale with producers Dave Feeny, a Livonia native, and Jim Diamond. The album was recorded live throughout 1998.

"We don't work like a band who is working for a big label. We go in and record three songs from start to finish. We go in and

just run through the song until we get one that we like. It gives it more of an accurate representation of what we are live," said Flanagan, a Troy native who now lives in Oak Park.

Working with Diamond and Feeny was a relaxing effort. "Jim's a nice guy, a professional engineer," Diamond, he said, has the ability to pinpoint a song's awkward moments and feel comfortable enough to discuss ways of improving it.

Originally, the Volcanos - guitarist/songwriter Rick Mills of Ferndale, drummer Bill Bowen of

gale of Hamtramck, formerly of Birmingham - wanted to make "Finish Line Fever" in the same vein as classic surf albums. They were hoping to alternate between instrumental and vocal tunes.

"But we didn't have enough songs with vocals," he said with a laugh.

He and Fragnale have written songs with vocals, however, to perform live.

"We use those songs live to break up the set. We will probably put some on the next record. Most of the songs that made it on the album were too good. We didn't want to leave any off," he said.

Now that swing and ska have had their 15 minutes of fame, Flanagan hopes that instrumental surf music will be next. He added that someday the clean, melodic riffs of surf will be considered a true form of American music.

"We just need someone to spearhead it. It's already gotten some notoriety, like with Dick Dale, although he's getting more and more off the track," he said. "Look at swing and now big it is now. Brian Setzer was already a well-known person. (His involvement in swing) brings it to another level."

"We need someone in pop to fuse it with whatever they're doing. Chris Isaak did somewhat with the guitar in 'San Francisco Days.' Maybe Quentin Tarantino can do another soundtrack. He gave it the original lift. He gave Dick Dale another career."

The Volcanos perform Friday, Feb. 12, at the Magic Bag, 2205 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Doors open at 8 p.m. for the 18 and older show. Cover charge is \$5. For more information, call (248) 541-3030 or visit <http://www.themagicbag.com>. Estrus Records can be reached at P.O. Box 2125, Bellingham, Wash., 98227.

Here's a vote for the power of the arts

BACKSTAGE PASS



ANN DELISI

As I prepare this column on a computer that permits me to access information from around the world, edit me as I write and corrects my spelling and grammar, it's tempting to give technology much of the credit (or blame) for how America has unfolded in the 20th century.

But here's a vote for the arts as a major factor in shaping our nation and the way we live. After all, technology may have allowed us to walk on the moon, but few of us would be motivated to buy a condo there.

The arts have demonstrated a unique ability to change the way people feel, and inspire them to change the things that aren't working. Specifically, the art of photography has produced images that not only chronicle the times, but charge the emotions whenever we see them. Not having lived through it, would we really feel the same about the Great Depression without the works of New Deal photographers like Dorothea Lange and Walker Evans? More recently, how did disturbing images from Vietnam and the Civil Rights Movement strengthen our resolve to achieve peace and racial equality?

"It was those Depression-era photos that launched the creative journey of Gordon Parks, whose multi-media contributions are being exhibited at the Detroit Institute of Arts, and celebrated in the next edition of Backstage Pass on Detroit Public Television. Parks credits the photos he witnessed in 1937 of dust bowl refugees caught in their confusion and poverty with his discovery of the power of film in

addressing social issues. His personal struggles with indigence and bigotry transformed his work as an artist, revealed in the DIA's 'Half Past Autumn: The Art of Gordon Parks.'

As impressive as the unforgettable images of his early photo-

graphic achievements, is his enthusiasm and skill for bringing his vision to other media. In 1969, Parks became the first African American to direct a major studio film with "The Learning Tree." He has also made several documentaries for

public television.

The Detroit Dance Collective will perform in the studios of Channel 56 in a Backstage Pass edition, airing Sunday, Feb. 14, and repeated Thursday, Feb. 18, at 6:30 p.m. and Friday at midnight on Detroit Public Television.

"THIS IS THE CAN'T MISS, SUREFIRE, BEST DATE MOVIE!"

KEVIN COSTNER ROBIN WRIGHT PENN AND PAUL NEWMAN GIVE SUPERB, MEMORABLE PERFORMANCES"

KEVIN COSTNER ROBIN WRIGHT PENN



MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

From The New York Times Bestseller

STARTS TOMORROW AT THESE THEATRES	AMC ABBEY	AMC ABBEY	AMC ABBEY
AMC AMERICAN WEST	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC LIVONIA 20	
AMC SOUTHWEST	AMC STERLING CTR.	AMC SOUTHWEST	
BIRMINGHAM 5	GCC CANTON CINEMA	BEACON EAST	
MJR SOUTHWEST 20	SHOWCASE WEST	GCC NOVI TOWN CTR.	
SHOWCASE PONTIAC	SHOWCASE WEST	SHOWCASE WESTLAND	
STAR GRANT AT 13 MIL	STAR LINCOLN PARK	STAR ROCHESTER	
STAR COMMERCIAL TWP 14	STAR COMMERCIAL TWP 14	STAR WEST RIVER	

BRENDAN FRASER ALICIA SILVERSTONE

"the first must-see comedy of the year!"

"irresistible fun!"

"this sweet romance is the perfect date movie!"

"funny and charming!"

"an absolute hoot!"



CHRISTOPHER WALKER SALLY SPENCER DATE FOLLY

WITH THEA MONROE AND JAMES VAN DER BEEK
THEA MONROE AND JAMES VAN DER BEEK
THEA MONROE AND JAMES VAN DER BEEK
THEA MONROE AND JAMES VAN DER BEEK
THEA MONROE AND JAMES VAN DER BEEK
THEA MONROE AND JAMES VAN DER BEEK
THEA MONROE AND JAMES VAN DER BEEK
THEA MONROE AND JAMES VAN DER BEEK
THEA MONROE AND JAMES VAN DER BEEK
THEA MONROE AND JAMES VAN DER BEEK

STARTS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

AMC ABBEY 8	AMC AMERICAN WEST	AMC BEL AIR 10
AMC EASTLAND 10	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC LIVONIA 20
AMC SOUTHWEST CITY	AMC STERLING CTR. 10	CANTON CINEMAS
AMR SOUTHWEST 20	SHOWCASE WEST	SHOWCASE DEARBORN
SHOWCASE PONTIAC	SHOWCASE WEST	SHOWCASE WESTLAND
STAR GRANT AT 13 MIL	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS	STAR SOUTHWEST
STAR COMMERCIAL TWP 14	STAR 12 OAKS	STAR WEST RIVER

www.blastmovie.com

"THE BEST AND MOST ORIGINAL MOVIE OF THE YEAR."

From Today's NEW YORK TIMES

RUSHMORE

ALL'S FAIR WHEN WE ARE WAR.

Jason Schwartzman Matt Williams Paul Giamatti

STARTS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

AMC AMERICAN WEST	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC LIVONIA 20
AMC SOUTHWEST	AMC STERLING CTR.	AMC SOUTHWEST
AMR SOUTHWEST 20	SHOWCASE WEST	SHOWCASE WESTLAND
STAR GRANT AT 13 MIL	STAR LINCOLN PARK	STAR ROCHESTER
STAR COMMERCIAL TWP 14	STAR COMMERCIAL TWP 14	STAR WEST RIVER

"OUTTA THIS WORLD!"

From Broadcasting, AMERICAN URBAN RADIO NETWORK

MY FAVORITE MARTIAN

Jeff Daniels Christopher Lloyd

Disney's

STARTS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

AMC AMERICAN WEST	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC LIVONIA 20
AMC SOUTHWEST	AMC STERLING CTR.	AMC SOUTHWEST
AMR SOUTHWEST 20	SHOWCASE WEST	SHOWCASE WESTLAND
STAR GRANT AT 13 MIL	STAR LINCOLN PARK	STAR ROCHESTER
STAR COMMERCIAL TWP 14	STAR COMMERCIAL TWP 14	STAR WEST RIVER

1999 HAS ITS FIRST BREATHLESSLY EXCITING 10-TON DYNAMITE HIT!

"PAYBACK" ENTERTAINED ME ROYALLY!"

"A FIRST-CLASS THRILLER WITH SEXY SURPRISES. MEL GIBSON HAS NEVER BEEN BETTER!"

"PAYBACK" IS QUITE FUNNY IN ITS FERVENT AND FULL OF EXPERT PERFORMANCES."

"TAUT, TOUGH AND MEAN, 'PAYBACK' IS TERRIFIC!"

MEL GIBSON PAYBACK

PARAMOUNT PICTURES PRESENTS AN LEAN PRODUCTION MEL GIBSON "PAYBACK" GREGG KIRBY MARIA RIEDE JONATHAN PARKMAN THE KINGS BOARDMAN STEVEN MCKEITHEN AND RICHARD STUART STARRING MEL GIBSON AND TERRY HAYES

STARTS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

AMC AMERICAN WEST	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC LIVONIA 20
AMC SOUTHWEST	AMC STERLING CTR.	AMC SOUTHWEST
AMR SOUTHWEST 20	SHOWCASE WEST	SHOWCASE WESTLAND
STAR GRANT AT 13 MIL	STAR LINCOLN PARK	STAR ROCHESTER
STAR COMMERCIAL TWP 14	STAR COMMERCIAL TWP 14	STAR WEST RIVER