

## STREET SCENE

## If it's vintage anything, singer Jason Falkner wants it



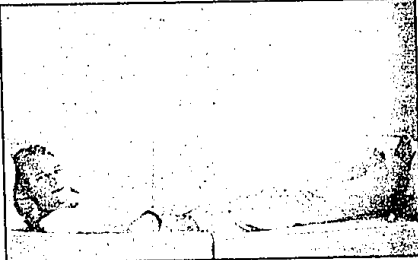
CHRISTINA FUOCO

"It's basically the Andy Griffith cop car. It's the same car, the same year but without the lights. I'm trying to get the lights," he said with a laugh.

"I just always liked old stuff. I have old clothes. I think I'm just like a freak," Falkner explained. "I think I have an issue, especially where clothing and gear is concerned, with trying to keep up with the Joneses. It seems like such a task. I'd rather just create my own niche using old stuff and new stuff. That goes with my recordings as well."

Falkner's recordings—his 1998 solo debut "Jason Falkner Presents Author Unknown" and his sophomore effort "Can You Still Feel?"—are far from "retro," a term that he despises.

"I understand that there's certain things about my music and the sound of my music that's retro. But I don't think that the writing is retro at all. You hear



Returning: Jason Falkner is returning to the Detroit area Friday, April 16, to perform songs off his new album, "Can You Still Feel?"

some bands and they sound like they want to sound like the Beatles. I don't think you could really say that about me. If you really listened to my music."

"Can You Still Feel?" which opens with Falkner whispering "Take a chance on me," is rich and warm. Falkner's inviting, dramatic vocals are wrapped around strings, vintage keyboards, police sirens, and simple yet-textured pop melodies. "My

Lucky Day" couples hand-claps with space-age keyboards, while "Revolution" is soft and dreamy. The first single is "Eloquence," a soaring pop song that has hit potential. In lieu of a video, Falkner has filmed a 30-second commercial for the song and the album.

Falkner sang and played all the instruments on "Can You Still Feel?" but he recruited Nigel Godrich, who was at the

helm of Radiohead's "OK, Computer," to produce and engineer.

"I wanted to bring in a co-producer really to have a springboard. I knew that he was a great engineer that was kind of the main reason I wanted him to work on this record. Then I wanted him to co-produce so he would have more invested in the project, mentally and emotionally, than just being an engineer."

The duo worked on the album in New Orleans, which was more inspirational than it was influential to Falkner.

"There's not a lot of blues on my record," he said with a laugh. "I'd say there's a lot of soul, but not so much Cajun music. I just like the vibe down there. It's such a beautiful city. The colors, the city lights deteriorate and bleach and let things look old and good and almost like Mediterranean or something."

Where I live in L.A., everything gets a paint job every year. There's nothing historical standing out really. That's the nature of the city."

Jason Falkner opens for Mercury Rev on Friday, April 16, at the Mill Street Entry below Clutch Cargo, 66 E. Huron.

Doors open at 8 p.m. for the all-ages show. Tickets are \$9.50 in advance. Call (248) 333-2362 or visit [www.961melt.com](http://www.961melt.com) for more information.

## American influences

Neil Halstead was at the core of the guitar-heavy, English shoegazer band Slowdive. But although the group was successful, Halstead had a secret passion for acoustic guitar-based music with strong songs.

"We just got bored really. Slowdive, well we did three records and we were in the band for six years. We just reached a point where we didn't think we'd be able to do anything that we hadn't already done within the confines of the band. It just kind of fell apart," Halstead explained.

As a result, he as well as ex-Slowdivers bassist/vocalist Rachel Goswell and drummer Ian McCutcheon and new recruit guitarist Simon Rowe formed Mojave 3 in 1995.

While Mojave 3's first album, "As Me Tomorrows," was basically demos, the band's latest release "Out of Time" was recorded on and off in Cornwall, England.

"We tended to have lots of breaks. We'd do a week of recording and then we wouldn't do anything for awhile. We never really planned to do it that way. It's just the way it worked out. It ended up being quite relaxing, which is kind of nice."

Mojave 3 reflects Halstead's taste in American music. "We like Wilco and Palace. I really like it out here."

Mojave 3 performs with Gomez on Sunday, April 18, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Doors open at 7 p.m. for the all-ages show. Tickets are \$8.50 in advance. Call (313) 961-

MELT or visit [www.961melt.com](http://www.961melt.com) for more information.

## Foreign territory

Teen singer Jessica Simpson is making her Detroit debut this weekend. Although her album "Sweet Kisses" isn't due out on Columbia until June, one of her songs "Did You Ever Love Somebody" is featured on "Songs From Dawson's Creek," which hits stores April 20.

"It's so exciting. That's my favorite show. When I found out that I made it on the soundtrack, I started crying," Simpson said via her dad's cell phone.

She describes her music as a blend of pop and R&B or "like an earlier Mariah (Carey) thing. I really love to do big, big ballads like Whitney and Celine."

Simpson said it has been a challenge to perform in front of audiences who have never heard her music, but she's been sure. She opens for B\*Witched and 98 Degrees at the State Theatre on April 17. The show is sold out.

"It's kind of hard to get out there when they don't know who I am but once I get out there, I totally try to pump them up for 98 Degrees. I try to make myself look like I'm one of them. We have fun together."

Christina Fuoco is the pop music reporter for The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. If you have a question or comment for her, you can leave her a message at (734) 953-2047, mailbox No. 2130.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, April 16

## "GOD SAID 'HAI'"

Warm and funny comedy about a string of days that were so bad that they were funny, and so numerous that they became a year. Welcome to the world of Julia Sweeney.

## "BOODIE, LOVER"

Scheming brothers battle each other as each convives to inherit a \$4 million insurance policy. Stars Patricia Arquette, Don Johnson.

## "REDEYES KIDNEY"

Drama set in the 1960s about a woman who takes off for Morocco with her two young daughters in an attempt to find the peace and happiness that have eluded her. Stars Kate Winslet. Said English.

## "LIFE"

Pisces comedy about two friends serving life sentences and their attempts to break out over the course of 60 years. Stars Eddie Murphy.

Scheduled to open Friday, April 23

## "LOST AND FOUND"

Comedy about finding your true love at any price, even if it involves a little dog named after the way. Stars David Spade.

## "PUSHING TONY"

Story of two air traffic controllers whose intense rivalry and penchant for one-upmanship threatens to unravel their careers, marriages and the planes in their airspace. Stars John Cusack, Billy Bob Thornton.

## "AMONG GIANTS"

A moving and whimsical romance that takes place one hundred feet in the air as a group of electrical tower painters cope with a fearless woman in their midst.

## "EXISTENCE"

A computer game programmer develops the ultimate escape: a parallel universe called existenz. It tops into your deepest emotions and unleashes your wildest urges. It's the first genuine threat to reality and someone wants it stored at all costs. Stars Jennifer Jason Leigh.

## "METROLAND"

Exclusively at the Main Art. Story about two friends and the compromises each one makes for love and marriage. Stars Christian Bale, Lee Ross, Emily Watson.

**"A NEAR-PERFECT COMEDY!"**  
BY THE TIME IT WAS OVER I WAS READY TO SEE IT AGAIN!  
— Dave Karger, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**"A TREAT! DELIGHTFUL!"**  
EXCELLENT THE ATTITUDES OF ROBERT ALTMAN'S WONDER YEARS IN THE 1970'S.  
— David Karger, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**"A SMALL MIRACLE!"**  
GLENN CLOSE GIVES HER FUNNIEST PERFORMANCE EVER!  
— David Karger, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**"A GEM! TO BE TREASURED!"**  
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**"THE FIRST GREAT DATE MOVIE OF THE YEAR."**  
— Dave Karger, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**"Drew Barrymore is back in this spring's 'The Wedding Singer'."**  
— Dave Karger, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**NEVER BEEN KISSED**  
— Dave Karger, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**NOW SHOWING AT THESE THEATRES:**

AMERICAN WEST	EASTLAND 5	LIVONIA 20	STERLING CTR.
WONDERLAND	BIRMINGHAM 8	NOVI TOWN CTR. 8	AUBURN HILLS
PROGRESS 6-12	STERLING HTS.	WESTLAND	GRATOT
GREAT LAKES CROSSING	JOHN R. 14	ROCHESTER	WEST RIVER
STAR SOUTHFIELD 11	TAYLOR	STAR SOUTHFIELD 14	STAR SOUTHFIELD 14

**"100% PURE FUN!"**  
— Dave Karger, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**"AN EROTIC THRILLER, SPIKED WITH NASTY EVIL SCENARIOS AND MURDEROUS DEEDS. DON JOHNSON IS TERRIFIC."**  
— Dave Karger, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**"A GLOSSY, SEXY, TWISTY COMIC THRILLER!"**  
— Dave Karger, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**"A SLICK THRILLER!"**  
— Dave Karger, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**"I WON'T TELL WHO DUNNIT LET YOUR JAW DROP LIKE THE REST OF US!"**  
— Dave Karger, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**GOODBYE, LOVER**  
— Dave Karger, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**NOW SHOWING AT THESE THEATRES:**

AMERICAN WEST	STARTS TOMORROW	AMC LIVONIA 20
AMC SOUTHFIELD	AMC STERLING CTR.	CANTON 6
NOVI TOWN CTR. 8	MIR SOUTHGATE 20	QUO VADIS
SHOWCASE	SHOWCASE	SHOWCASE
STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING	STAR JOHN R. 14	STAR ROCHESTER
STAR SOUTHFIELD 14	STAR COMMERCE TWP. 14	STAR WEST RIVER

**STEVE MARTIN-GOLDIE HAWN**

**THE OUT-OF-TOWNERS**  
www.outoftowners.com

**"A GLAMOROUS ROMANTIC COMEDY-ADVENTURE!"**  
— Dave Karger, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**NOW SHOWING**

AMC AMERICAN WEST	AMC EASTLAND 5	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC LIVONIA 20
AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	AMC STERLING CTR.	CANTON CINEMAS	
MIR SOUTHGATE 20	SHOWCASE	SHOWCASE	SHOWCASE
SHOWCASE	SHOWCASE	STAR GRATOT AT 15 MILE	
STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING	STAR JOHN R. 14	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	
STAR ROCHESTER HILLS	STAR SOUTHFIELD	STAR COMMERCE TWP. 14	
STAR 12 OAKS	STAR WEST RIVER		

**ROLLING STONE: "HILARIOUS! DO NOT PASS GO!"**  
— Dave Karger, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY: "THIS IS IT!"**  
— Dave Karger, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**NOW PLAYING**

UNITED ARTISTS	SHOWCASE CINEMAS	AMC	MIR
12 OAKS	BEAVERCREEK 1-8	LIVONIA 20	SOUTHGATE 20
14 OAKS	11345-1419	734284-1909	734284-1909
14 OAKS	11345-1419	734284-1909	734284-1909
14 OAKS	11345-1419	734284-1909	734284-1909