

Radium is ready to make audiences 'shake it'

The want ads have been very good to Tabatha Predovich.

It was an advertisement that eventually lured her from her hometown, Minneapolis, Minn., to Brighton, England to pursue music. And it was a "singer-wanted" ad that later linked her to three Detroit area musicians to form a combination now known as Radium.

Radiating

While her story in modern music history may sound familiar, Tabatha Predovich is anything but ordinary. The Ferndale resident lends the voice and emotion that drives Radium. She joined me at a Royal Oak coffee shop to talk about life, music, and green tea.

With her vibrant bubbly-gummed locks tied into a stiff braid, and a warm smile across her face, the statuesque singer purred: "They were looking for a singer, and I was a vocalist," she said of Radium's beginnings last August. "We worked on a bunch of songs right away."

Radium's first gig was playing Woodward Avenue Brewery in Ferndale on Halloween last year. The show was followed by other appearances at area haunts like

Griff's Grill in Pontiac and The Sheller in Detroit. If the band gets its way, Radium will soon reverberate through the corridors of Saint Andrews Hall, Blind Pig and Detroit's Motor Lounge.

Spacey rock

Radium's is described by the band's lyricist as a "kind of spacey rock." "Most of my songs are about old betrayals," said Tabatha. "It's good therapy. I don't know what I would be able to do if I couldn't write." Radium's musical influences include Love and Rockets, Stone Roses and Bauhaus — showing an overwhelmingly British thread. Tabatha's personal favorites — which can be detected in her own style — are Kate Bush, Siouxsie and the Banshees, and Cure. She attributes her strong voice to the Opera training she received at age 17 in Minneapolis.

Though still tied to a musical project in England, Tabatha's focus is now fully on Radium, which includes Oliver on guitar, Bill Zech on bass and newest edition, John Drietas on drums. "We really want to go all out and I'm ready," she said.

She's been sending out CD's. Radium's demo "Burn" was recorded last Spring.

Strength

The band's plans were put on hold when Tabatha learned she

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Tabatha Predovich
Radium

needed a kidney transplant. Of the experience she said: "It makes you a stronger person. It makes you appreciate good health." Now recovered, she's concentrating on getting the music out — even if it means burning the CD's, putting them together and distributing them by hand. She dedicates the music to her father.

Tabatha clearly draws strength from the music in her life.

As the only female member of Radium, Tabatha said the band is emerging at an appropriate time in modern music. "Right now is the time for women rock singers."

As for songwriting, she works mostly with the band's guitarist, Oliver.

"Oliver comes up with guitar ideas and makes a tape," said Tabatha. "I'll take it home and write words, lyrics, emotional stuff. I try to structure it out."

Oliver, a Warren resident and native of Germany, remembered auditioning Tabatha. "She started singing and it was there," he said. "We should be proud because white rappers used to be laughed at, like Vanilla Ice. They're pretty valued now...A lot

presence and ability to write good songs cinched her position in the band, as far as he was concerned.

No comparison

Oliver said he'd like the band to stay away from comparisons to bands like Garbage or Joy Drop: "A lot of (local) bands latch onto what is popular." He hopes Radium adopts a separate identity, like some of his favorite bands successfully acquired. "A lot of my favorite bands, you know them from a mile away. You can tell Robert Smith — you can't reproduce that kind of Depression."

As a songwriter, he writes his best music when severely sleep-deprived. "I keep my acoustic next to my bed." When something pops in his head, he can flick the light switch and get to work. Oliver said he prefers writing music to lyrics because music "doesn't necessarily have to make sense."

Without rapping

While Oliver agreed the music spotlight is finally shining on Detroit, he wasn't too sure that the attention gained by local boys like Kid Rock and Eminem would open doors for other genres. "I don't know if a band can make it here without rapping," he said. "We should be proud because white rappers used to be laughed at, like Vanilla Ice. They're pretty valued now...A lot



See Radium play: (left to right) Tabatha Predovich, Oliver and Bill Zech are Radium.

of good bands don't get noticed." He mentioned a few of his local favorites: Atomic Numbers, Deathgirl.com, Queen Bee. "I just want to do my thing and see if people dig it."

Radium will be doing its thing to celebrate Halloween at a live show complete with classic horror flicks. "It's a big costume party," said Tabatha. "It will be a pretty dramatic show, kinda spooky and scary. Expect to be entertained."

See Radium this month. The band opens for Give, 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29, Lili's 21, 2930

Jacob, three blocks south of Holbrook in Hamtramck. \$5 cover. 21 and over. Call (313) 875-6555. Or grab a costume and head out before 10 p.m. Saturday Oct. 30 to the Woodward Avenue Brewery, 22646 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. This free is 21 and over. Call (248) 546-3696 for more information.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about popular music for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (734) 953-2130 or e-mail at scasola@ec.homecomm.net. To send a fax, dial (734) 591-7279.

CD REVIEW

High 'Flying' for this folk artist

"Flying" - Lisa Hunter

One Man Clapping Records
It must say something about Lisa Hunter's album "Flying" that, when listening to it at the same time as Lucinda Williams' undisputed masterpiece "Car Wheels on a Gravel Road," it's Hunter's tunes I'm humming at the office.

The immediate comparison is not without merit: both singers have rich, expressive voices and draw on blues, folk, country and rock. But while the Louisiana-born Williams reaches to the very depths of the weary world for inspiration, Hunter toys with love's subtle tension and amiable soul-searching.

The second release for this Ann Arbor resident, "Flying" delivers a dozen songs of warm introspection.

The title track offers a folk-rock response to this wistful musing: You're stuck in a cabin in a snowstorm with someone you've had a crush on for a really long time.

On "Faith," Hunter's voice caresses with melodic joy as she and her backup vocalists harmonize the mantra, "Have a little faith in me/if you give it some time, you will find it's easier to let your mind run free/if you have a little faith in me."

"Water Under the Bridge," a country-rock song about "my two grandmothers and maybe me someday" offers the album's most contemplative lyrics.

In a production style favored by Alanis Morissette, Hunter's voice and acoustic guitar are out-in-front and in command. But that doesn't mask the tight group of musicians that form her backup.

Hunter embarked on a career in singing/songwriting just three years ago, and already has plans to release a live album of performances recorded at the Gypsy Cafe and The Ark in Ann Arbor.

"Flying" is certainly a crisp and thoughtful essay by this emerging artist.

— ALICE REZIN

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STAR WILSON	STAR WILSON	STAR WILSON

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SHOWCASE ATLANTA	SHOWCASE ATLANTA	SHOWCASE ATLANTA
STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE
STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS	STAR SOUTHFIELD
STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR

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STARTS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22

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AMC LIVONIA 20	AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	AMC WONDERLAND
BIRMINGHAM 8	MJR SOUTHGATE 20	RENAISSANCE 4
SHOWCASE ATLANTA	SHOWCASE ATLANTA	SHOWCASE ATLANTA
STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE
STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS	STAR SOUTHFIELD
STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR