

STREET SCENE

For Small Craft Sighting hearing is believing



STEPHANIE A. CASOLA

Small Craft Sighting don't really aspire for fame or fortune in the rock world — the band hopes to reach beyond all that.

"We want to be the first band to play on Mars, if that's possible," quips bassist and frontman Joe Kirkland of Farmington. "We don't want to be signed to a record label, we want to sign to NASA."

The Wayne County-based modern rock trio that also includes drummer Courtney Cahill and guitarist Chris Nagarah, both Livonia residents, obviously share a sci-fi sense of humor about what they do. Make no mistake, the band takes its music seriously. Surrounding a large wooden table at Dick O'Dow's in downtown Birmingham, bandmembers set their sights on the future.

Schoolyard chums

Small Craft Sighting has a long history, despite the fact that the bandmates are all in their early 20s. They met in grade school and have been friends ever since. "We've known each other all our lives," said Cahill. And he means it. He and Nagarah were actually born one day apart at Southfield's Providence Hospital. Instant friends, they met Kirkland while attending second grade at Our Lady of Sorrows School in Farmington.

The friendship wove its way into a shared interest in music by the time the boys entered junior high school. They first performed on stage at a talent



Waiting for his ship: Small Craft Sighting's Joe Kirkland is the voice and words behind this Wayne County-based band.

show in February 1990. A decade later, Small Craft Sighting is writing and performing personal songs with an edgy feel. "They come from the heart," said Kirkland, who writes mostly about relationships. The music plays in stark contrast with crunching guitars and fearless drumming. Naming influences such as Smashing Pumpkins and The Who, bandmembers understand how their tight friendship plays into the music.

"We feel really fortunate to have found each other so young," said Kirkland. "We had a long time to earn our stripes."

Playing bars before they were legally old enough to get in the door and headlining shows at St. Andrews Hall by age 18, the band has experience surpassing many of their local counterparts. But Small Craft Sighting is just

breaking into the Detroit scene. Since both Cahill and Nagarah attended Western Michigan University and Kirkland attended Loyola University in Chicago, the band spent the past several years making a name for itself along the western side of the state. "It's been quite a trip," reflected Kirkland, who is now attending law school at University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

Tim Pak of Woodshed Studio in Oak Park engineered the band's latest CD and said their history shows in the music. "There's a vibe they pick up off each other," he said. "A band like that, you know they had a plan. They're true believers."

The Web to success

Small Craft Sighting (whose moniker comes from a Tennessee Williams play) has gone from

humble beginnings to electronic — sort of. The modern rock trio recently entered an unsigned band competition on the Internet. Of thousands of entries on garageband.com, their single 93 has advanced into the top 75. This final "virtual battle" will elicit for the winner a \$250,000 recording contract. Two such contracts have already been granted. Small Craft Sighting is the first Michigan band to make it to the finals on this internationally known site.

The music is ranked based on reviews made by music fans who are listening to songs without knowing what artist or genre it will be. Kirkland was most impressed by the system, which he calls credible and completely based on trust. He remembered when the band's song was first uploaded, he would check on it occasionally. "Our song would be 4,713 and I'd think 'We're up a spot,'" he recalled. Now included in the prestigious "Final Countdown," bandmembers are thrilled to have a shot at the contract. The song was at number 35 on the chart at press time.

For Small Craft Sighting, a chance to work with industry icons such as The Beatles' famed producer George Martin or former Talking Heads member Jerry Harrison would become a reality when the winner is chosen next week. Harrison helped found the site in 1999.

While hearing the band on the Internet or on CD offers a taste of the melodies that make Small Craft Sighting so appealing, it is very much live band. Cahill describes what sets the band apart: "When I go to a concert, it's hard to get into a band when you don't know the words. Our hooks are so good, by the second

chorus you're singing along with the band."

Nagarah said the band likes to have fun with its audience, engaging them in the show the whole time. "There's no barrier between the crowd and the

band," he said.

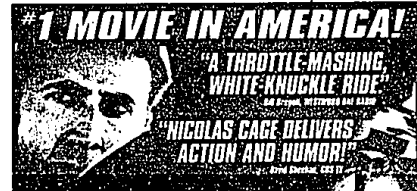
See *Small Craft Sighting* for yourself, with guests *The Recital*, Saturday, July 1, at Jacoby's, Detroit. (313) 962-7007. Check out www.smallcraftsighting.com

YOUR MISSION: SEE IT AGAIN!

GOOD MORNING AMERICA, *Joe Raposo*
"PUT YOUR MIND ON CRUISE CONTROL AND FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELTS!"



AMC BEL AIR 10	AMC EASTLAND 5	AMC FORUM 30
AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC LIVONIA 20	AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY
AMC WONDERLAND	BIRMINGHAM 8	CANTON 6
MJR SOUTHGATE 20	NORWEST	NOVI TOWN CENTER 8
RENAISSANCE 4	SHOWCASE 4	SHOWCASE DIARBORN
SHOWCASE 3	SHOWCASE 11	SHOWCASE WESTLAND
STAR FAIRLANE	STAR GRANT AT 15 MILE	STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING
STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS
STAR SOUTHFIELD	STAR TAYLOR	UA COMMERCE STADIUM
WEST RIVER	FORD WYOMING	NO PASSES OR COUPONS ACCEPTED



1 MOVIE IN AMERICA!
"A THROTTLE-MASHING WHITE-KNUCKLE RIDE!"
"NICOLAS CAGE DELIVERS ACTION AND HUMOR!"
www.goin60seconds.com

AMC BEL AIR 10	AMC FORUM 30	AMC LAUREL PARK 8
AMC EASTLAND 2	AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	AMC WONDERLAND
AMC LIVONIA 20	CANTON 6	MJR SOUTHGATE 20
NOVI TOWN CENTER 8	SHOWCASE 4	SHOWCASE DIARBORN
SHOWCASE 3	SHOWCASE 11	SHOWCASE WESTLAND
STAR FAIRLANE	STAR GRANT AT 15 MILE	STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING
STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS
STAR SOUTHFIELD	STAR TAYLOR	UA COMMERCE STADIUM
WEST RIVER	FORD WYOMING	NO PASSES OR COUPONS ACCEPTED

Indigo Girls return with Summer Shed Tour

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
scasola@oe.homecomm.net

After 20 years of performing together, Emily Saliers and Amy Ray — best known as the folk-rock duo the Indigo Girls — prove their still going strong. They've come a long way since the early days of recording in Ray's basement.

In September 1999, the Girls released *Come On Now Social* to rave reviews. Saliers called Thursday, June 8, from Washington, D.C., to talk about their upcoming area show.

Observer & Eccentric: Hi Emily, how is the tour going?

Emily Saliers: "It's going great; we just started the first few shows."

O&E: What's new about the Summer Shed Tour?

ES: "There's a backdrop based on a Monet, that's different. On the Summer Shed Tour, a lot of our fans will get a chance to see a new band playing with us. We've added a few more songs to the roster. As always, we'll play earlier songs, we'll mix it up."

O&E: "What are some earlier songs that still make the Indigo Girls set list?"

ES: "Closer to Fine. We play *Galicia* every night."

O&E: Tell me about the new album. How long did it take to

record?

ES: "It took about five months total. (We went) to London and jammed with (producer-drummer) John Reynolds, who we met on Lilith Fair. Thank God for Sinead O'Connor (who introduced the girls to him). We had a lot of great guests on it, Sheryl Crow and Joan Osborne."

O&E: How does the album differ from your previous work?

ES: "I personally think it has a broader scope. It has a lot more rock songs, punk songs, pop songs and ballads. It's a good mix of organic and produced. A lot of samples were used, but not in a heavy-handed way."

O&E: What have you learned

about one another through this 20-year history of making music together?

ES: "I've learned we temper each other often. We're very different people, different in a positive way. Musically, it's great. It's like having two musical lives."

O&E: Is there anything you'd like to add?

ES: "I'm looking forward to coming back to Pine Knob. I remember getting really good crowds (there). It's sort of that home away from home."

Welcome the Indigo Girls with guests Kelly Hogan and the Pine Valley Cosmonauts, 7 p.m. Saturday, June 17, Pine Knob Music Theatre, Independence Township. \$15-\$27.50, Call (248) 645-6666.

"A MAGICAL, MUSICAL, ANIMATED MASTERPIECE!"
David Sheehan, CBS-TV

"YOU WON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES OR EARS. THE NEW 'FANTASIA 2000' IS ARGUABLY THE GREATEST DISNEY FILM EVER."
Los Angeles, 10/1/99 CBS RADIO

"TWO THUMBS UP!"
Roger Ebert and Harry Knowles, ROGER EBERT & THE AVOCES

FANTASIA 2000
FEATURING SEVEN NEW SEQUENCES PLUS "THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE"

LIMITED 4-WEEK ENGAGEMENT
JUNE 16 JULY 13 ONLY AT A THEATRE NEAR YOU

STARTS FRIDAY, JUNE 16

AMC FORUM 30	AMC LIVONIA 20	MJR SOUTHGATE 20
SHOWCASE 4	SHOWCASE 11	SHOWCASE DIARBORN
STAR FAIRLANE	STAR GRANT AT 15 MILE	STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING
STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS
STAR SOUTHFIELD	STAR TAYLOR	UA COMMERCE STADIUM
WEST RIVER	FORD WYOMING	NO PASSES OR COUPONS ACCEPTED

STILL THE MAN

SAMUEL L. JACKSON
SHAFT

www.shaft-themovie.com

STARTS FRIDAY, JUNE 16

AMC EASTLAND 2	AMC FORUM 30	AMC BEL AIR 10
AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	AMC WONDERLAND	AMC LIVONIA 20
MJR SOUTHGATE 20	NORWEST	NOVI TOWN CENTER 8
QUO VADIS	RENAISSANCE 4	SHOWCASE 4
SHOWCASE DIARBORN	SHOWCASE PONTIAC	SHOWCASE WESTLAND
STAR FAIRLANE	STAR GRANT AT 15 MILE	STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING
STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS
STAR SOUTHFIELD	STAR TAYLOR	UA COMMERCE STADIUM
WEST RIVER	FORD WYOMING	NO PASSES OR COUPONS ACCEPTED

"TITAN" IS OUT OF THIS WORLD. A DAZZLING SCI-FI ADVENTURE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.

"UNLIKE ANYTHING YOU'VE EVER SEEN IN AN ANIMATED MOVIE."

"THIS IS THE ONE 'STAR WARS' FANS HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR. VISUALLY SPECTACULAR... A TERRIFIC STORY. 'TITAN A.E.' IS AN A-1 SUMMER MOVIE."

afterearth.com

Join the Wildest Ride of the Summer - Titan A.E. And Get the Limited Edition 17" X 11" AVEN Collector Card Only in Titan A.E. Theaters!

STARTS FRIDAY!

BEL AIR 10	EASTLAND 2	FORUM 30
LAUREL PARK	LIVONIA 20	SOUTHFIELD CITY
SOUTHGATE 20	NOVI TOWN CTR 8	CANTON 6
GREAT LAKES CROSSING	FAIRLANE	GRANT 15 MILE
TAYLOR	ROCHESTER	SOUTHFIELD 14 MILE
WEST RIVER	COMMERCE STADIUM 14	FORD WYOMING