



CHRISTINE MARTUCCI

The Avant Garde Fest—Live!/ The Saint/Feb. 12

The annual Avant Garde Fest at The Saint this year was an interesting mix of off the beaten path talent and featured three of the area's most original performance artists. Emceed by Mike Black, Avant Garde Fest kicked off to a decent weather-scoffing crowd on this Tuesday night.

Up first and hosting the night, synth guru Mike Black, a well known friend and writer who splits his time between contributing to *The Aquarian* with photography and articles as well as teaching, playing and

recording his own unique music, took the stage to kick off the show.

Manning his bank of synthesizers, Black looked very much like something out of a Rick Wakeman *Close To The Edge* time warp as he launched into his interpretation of the Apollo mission entitled "Fear Not Apollo 11," mixing sonic sound effects with sequenced movements and great swells of keyboard mayhem. His complex "Study In Five Eight," an instrumental that Rick Barry told me he couldn't figure out no matter how hard he banged away at the piano had us both standing in the back scratching our heads

trying to figure out how he nailed those off time signatures.

We had no idea how to even turn that stuff on, let alone make any music with it. Black has it down to a science. Other highlights performed from his latest CD *Go/No-Go* were *The Escape From New York* vibe on the "Go/No-Go Instrumental," complete with trance-like drum machines and warm, fuzzy analog groans, and "Improv Also Spake Tharathustra," a strange odyssey that takes you straight down the rabbit hole and into the Tony Banks Genesis dimension.

Also onboard and up next was another Shoreworld favorite that pushes the improv envelope to the blitzkrieg level, Lunar Richey and crew performed a well-balanced cross mix of their material to the satisfaction of this attentive audience. Closing out this well-rounded night was yet another eyebrow raising surprise with Colie Brice's New Age Blues Experience, featuring a truckload of area gangstas such as Jay Walker (bass), the illustrious Geena (guitar and vocals) as well as talented newcomers Jamie Johnson (drums), Meghan Brothers (guitar), and Matthew Nochiamo (keys and baritone sax). With an air of '60s psychedelia and a solid backbeat via Jamie and Jay, The New Age Blues Experience tore off into its own immediate evolution with the intensity of a motorcycle jumping over buses. There's something inherently exciting about watching impromptu playing—part fascination of witnessing a potential car crash, and part curiosity of how they're gonna "stop this crazy thing." With Geena holding down most of the lead vocals, Colie Brice held his group together like an orchestrator, yelling out chord changes ala Bob Stinson as the wild ride continued. It doesn't get any better than that for the avant garde fan. For further information on any of these performers, please go to their websites at: gonogomusic.com, myspace.com/lunarensemble and coliebrice.com

Reverbed mandolin accompaniments stacked behind

electric guitars accompanied John "Lunar" Richey as he got his thinking man's groove way out there for the crowd at hand. Playing several compositions off of the newest project, *Offbeat*, on Muworks Records, Richey and crew performed a well-balanced cross mix of their material to the satisfaction of this attentive audience.

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Martucci, John Powers, Aster Pheonyx and Nasty Ned. The compilation is in production now and scheduled for a spring release.

American Showplace Music is the joining of efforts between American Roots Live with Nasty Ned and Showplace Studios in Dover, NJ. The newly formed record company will operate under an entirely new business paradigm designed for the 21st Century.

New music by great artists will be made easily available and very affordable for the music fan. For more information on American Showplace Music e-mail Nasty Ned at nastyned@att.net or go to nastyned.com

Chris Batten And The Woods—Fearless

That's Fearless TV, folks. Yep. Chris Batten And The Woods are opening doors and turning heads with their upward blast of successes. The band taped an in-studio performance for the nationally syndicated Fearless TV last week. In the meantime, their booking opportunities have flourished, with upcoming appearances at New York's Bitter End on Feb. 29 and Boston's Lizard Lounge on April 5. This is a band that has a plan.

The reason Chris Batten And The Woods are newsworthy is that after releasing their stellar new EP *If We Never Stop Moving* in November, they've been true to that motto. Chris Batten And The Woods are not about following trends; they are about delivering soul laden performances coupled with timeless songwriting to audiences everywhere. The only feeling you won't experience at this band's show is disappointment!

If We Never Stop Moving is a no nonsense rock and roll sampler with accompanying video documentary (that's a surprise) in the spirit of Elvis

Costello, Van Morrison and Tom Petty. There's no pretense here as the guys crank out these five well honed and down home rock-n-roll gems, making it clear that their brand of rock and roll demands that the audience "roll down the window and put the car in drive." Contact the band directly at andthewoods.com

Bump And Grindhouse Invades Asbury Lanes—March 8

Okay, now we're talking my kind of entertainment, peoples! Those interesting girls over at The Lanes are always coming up with the most confounded entertainment this side of Big Tuna, Texas, and they ain't stopping anytime soon. This show will feature some bona fide beauties doing their thing and keeping us hitting the bar for more Makers Mark revitalization. Burlesque. It's sin-sational and it's coming on Saturday, March 8.

Who can resist Creamy Stevens, the poor, poor child of Washington State butchers? Or Nasty Canasta, the product of a brief tryst between Sid Vicious and Carol Burnett? And what about smoking hot Brooklyn doll Weirdee girl, whose motto is "Always carry a flagon of whiskey in case of snakebite and furthermore always carry a small snake."

Folks, I think I'm in love. Top it off with killer merch from trashpalace.com (they have the new Ubangis CD, people) and an appearance from New York City's own Ninth House who (sayeth our own Docktor John) possess the ability to combine the heaviest pitch black goth tradition with rockabilly Americana and ya have yourselves an out of control party that'll definitely have you and your friends passing out on someone's grungy couch till noon the next day fo' sho. For further info please throw on a robe and stumble on over to asburylanes.com

loud notes

by Jen Kajzer



KINGDOM OF SORROW

PHOTO BY JEREMY SAFFER

Hate Eternal just released their new album *Fury And Flames*. Started in 1997 by Erik Rutan of Morbid Angel and Ripping Corpse fame, the band became one of the most talked about extreme metal bands on the scene due to the band's ability to create exceptional albums, their massive touring schedule and live shows. This is the band's first release in three years since *I, Monarch*. Erik had quite a few bumps in the road in the last five years. First he chipped vertebrae in his neck in a van accident. He also had a lot of band members backing out of tours last minute, and then came the untimely passing of bassist Jared Anderson in October 2006. But Erik never let this slow him down. His new lineup consists of Alex Webster (**Cannibal Corpse**) to play bass, new drummer Jade Simonetto and second guitarist Shaune Kelley, with whom Rutan grew up and together recorded the first Ripping Corpse album. Hate Eternal will play at The New England Metal and Hardcore Festival on April 26.

He Is Legend have parted ways with their guitarist Mitch Marlow who exited the band to join the recently reunited **Filter**. Marlow is been replaced by Worth Weaver of South Carolina's **Friends For Hire**. He Is Legend are working on new material and hope to enter the recording studio later this year.

UPCOMING SHOWS: Coming to the Blender Theater @ Gramercy on Friday will be **Darkest Hour**, **The Red Chord** and **Cephalic Carnage**. Tickets cost \$15.75 adv/\$17 dos. On Saturday, **Earth Crisis** will reunite with **Terror**, **Shai Hulud**, **Sworn Enemy** and others. Tickets cost \$21 adv/\$24 dos. On Sunday, **Kingdom Of Sorrow** will play the Knitting Factory.

Jen Kajzer is an on-air DJ on Sirius Satellite Radio's Heavy Metal Channel "Hard Attack/27" and can be heard every Wednesday, 6 a.m.-12 noon and every Sunday, 6 p.m.-12 midnight.



LUNAR EXPRESS

PHOTO BY MIKE BLACK