

Island Songwriters Showcase Newsletter

May-June '99

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MARCI GELLER ON THE MOVE

by Shari Diamond

CD RELEASE AND A WORLDWIDE TOUR TO BOOT! The Long Island and college radio favorite singer-songwriter is performing an exclusive concert on June 12th in celebration of her latest CD, **HERE ON THE EDGE** from **Sonic Underground Productions**. Marci is looking forward to performing cuts from her newest CD at her CD Release Concert. The show will take place at The Triad, an intimate Upper West Side theatre, where you can sit, drink, eat, and kick back with friends. This exclusive concert will be Marci's send-off U.S. performance. On the heels of the CD Release, Marci will be joining **Ritchie Blackmore**, of **Deep Purple** fame, on his worldwide **Blackmore's Night "Under A Violet Moon" tour**.

The Triad Theatre is located at 158 W. 72nd Street, above the Dark Star Lounge. The performance starts at 10:30pm. Tickets are \$10 at the door with a \$10 food and/or drink minimum. For more information, call Sonic Underground Productions (516) 689-7992.

Sonny Meadows has released a CD of the American Inquisition: Tales of the Navy Blue Dress !!!

Rich Stein's CD *Hands On* was reviewed favorably by Isaac Guzman of Newsday on 5/20/1999.

ISS SHOWCASE

May 17, 1999

New York Avenue, Huntington, New York

First part by Shari Diamond

I must admit - walking in to a bar when it's still light out is kind of a cool feeling. Summer rules! We had an excellent turnout tonight with lots of great music. Everyone was in the groove.

We started the evening with the song "Puppy" by **Steve Leiberman**. A sweet innocent title with a not-so-innocent sound. Whoa! I tawt a hird a putty tat! The speakers grind when Steve plays. Then he played "Ian Anderson", a tribute song to the legendary rock group Jethro Tull. It had a neat funky beat. Wake up time!

Andrew Kirschner up on stage next with that damned electric guitar of his (just kidding!) performing, *Everything But The Rose Bud*", an upbeat fun song. "Out Of The Blue Sky" followed. Both songs had great imagery and just good-time melodies. I really enjoyed his set.

Next was **Mike Clark** jumping up on stage performing a song debuted at a previous ISS workshop titled "*Start It Up*", an up tempo song with a driving groove. He then performed "*Shooting Stars*". Two different styles of songs but both serve Mike well. He's a pleasure to listen to.

Keeping the pace going, **Erik Herz** introduced a new song on steel guitar titled "*In This Town*". He's kind of like James Taylor - on speed! Ha! Switching guitars, but not momentum, he played "*Just The Same*" a song where the mind ponders why is it all just the same - as in "same difference"? I was just curious. I think he's one of our most introspective members.

Having played at New York Avenue just the night before, **Sonny Meadows** got on stage and noted that most of the cast from his blues/soap opera "American Inquisition" were in the audience and had **Mark Loeble** join him. Sonny also mentioned about his performance contribution in the Kosovo festival held around the world on May 15th, and played a song written for the event titled, "*Drums Of War*". A slow haunting song that captures the absolute bleakness of the tragedies of war. Then he changed gears and time frames to the not-so-distant past of the Clinton/Lewinsky fiasco and invited the cast on stage. **Michelle Albano**, acting as Linda Tripp, sang "*You Can Depend On Me*" from the opera. What a voice! Then they sang a "*Between The Lines Of History*", a recently added song available on the CD (a must get). The American Inquisition is a great moment in music history!

That was a hard act to follow but all welcomed **Silent Bear**. He performed "*The Red Colorado Night*" and "*The High Priest*". The lyrics of his second song were written by his friend **Roman Marocco** but the melody was definitely Silent Bear's. I am always amazed that people can collaborate together in such a way to form a well-written melodic song. I was also taken back by his speaking voice, which is so mild and soft yet his music is so provocative and strong.

Husband and wife team, **Dee and Mark Loeble** of **Vitamin D** took the stage with **Sonny Meadows** now accompanying. They performed "*Make A Little Love*" and got us all singings along. Sex and rock & roll are always a good combo. They followed with another of Mark's songs "*Bleeping World*", a tune about mixing electronics, music and alcohol. Hey, it works for me! Dee did a song she wrote called "*You And Me*", inspired from a lunch time walk. She then played another tune of hers "*5 Years Ago And A Day*", a song about running away but she admitted she never did. The dynamic duo is a lot of to listen to.

The Tone took the stage very ready to play and performed love songs "*Annie*" and "*Drift Away*" accompanied by his harmonica. Both songs were sensual and spiritual and totally captivated the listeners. He has grown so much in performance ability and continues to blossom. A wonderful set.

Our very talented **Martha Trachtenberg**, winner of the most writer's choice awards and deservedly so, performed a song she wrote to provoke a friend to write back called "*RSVP*". And the song did the trick. A brand spanking new song followed which she started writing on Mother's Day eve titled "*I Wish I Were An Angel*". She has a gift that enables her to write songs that truly express the sentiment of an emotion. The place was absolutely quiet - her songs and performance just plain mesmerized

everyone. **Sonny Speed** said it so well when he stated afterwards, "There is always something wonderful coming out of Martha".

Great music continued on the illustrious New York Avenue stage with **Tim Lannen**, one of the members of the American Inquisition. He performed an untitled instrumental in the key of E, though he wasn't sure which E, and it really doesn't matter when it's good. Then, while searching knee-deep pockets for a pick, and having some fun while doing it, he performed "*Cope*", a song written for the Suffolk County Police Department! I hope they are honored.

Continuing with members from the cast, **Michelle Albano** took the stage with her keyboard leaving her Linda Tripp mode far behind. She stated she never really played at an ISS event but just watched. Well, I for one and I can speak for many others, am glad she played. She is very talented. She sang "*If I Never See You Again*" and "*If I Had The Words*", both solid and soulful songs. She has a great voice that compliments her piano accompaniment. A bright future lies ahead for Michelle.

I'm off the hook thanks to the second part by Phil DeStefano

Stuart Markus up next with "Loaded Questions", a song about answering loaded questions from a girlfriend/lover. He borrowed words from Martha and Dan Fogelberg - he joked it was "The Berg Song". It had a nice groove and hook. Next he played "Leah Wore A Vail", a current relationship related back to a bible story. Kept my interest.

New to the ISS open mike scene, **Bob Isaacs** performed "Good Night Mamma, Looks Like I'm Home Again". His second song was an old song he began working on again titled "Small Colorado Town". It had a nice easy feeling. The song was about life with another, in the country, time spent alone. A great set.

Mike Mattel got on stage and performed a song after spending time in a bar one evening titled, "Who Still Pays". A true story of a conversation with a Vietnam Veteran. He followed with "Kern River", a traditional folk song about losing his love in a tragic river accident. Deep heavy stuff.

It's getting late in the evening but the music is still wide-awake. **Michele Monté** performed "Always Use Two Hands", a song about someone winning her heart/missed the first time/should use two hands. Her second song, "Thank You Angel" was about someone who almost had been beat, but her angel saved her - no giving up here. Michele's hooks keep getting better and better.

Jeff Curtis, our last performer, played "Springtime" and "The Time Was Right". His instrumental melodies have a very open sound and the mood created fits the title well. His sliding of chords fingering into position on the second song was a nice touch. He ended with a slide. A good choice I thought, and a great way to end an evening.

Come down on July 19th and bathe yourself in wonderful original music

BORDERS RECAP

Border's Books 6-3-99, Syosset, NY

Bill Ryan is doing a great job hosting ISS night at Borders. We heard a lot of great music from many terrific ISS members: **Phil DeStefano, Andrew Kirschner, James Yarsky, Bill Ryan, Martha Trachtenberg, Shari Diamond, Mike Clark** and **Mike Mattel**. There was a lot of audience participation and positive reaction from the crowd. It was just a good night. Come down, listen, play, drink some latte and have fun!

SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND

WESTBURY

6-18-99

Borders - Westbury

This event hosted by the very talented **Rich Stein!** The "*Acoustic Madness*" night will include performances from **Jim Dexter, Jeff Curtis, Mark Yodice**, as well as host **Rich Stein**, and will make for one fabulous treat for the ears and soul. Be sure to be there!

Director's Blurb

ISS workshops have become increasingly popular and we want to ensure that all members get enough time for comments. If you want your song heard but you're not looking for critique, please save the debut for the showcase. If you want feedback, **please remember to bring 25 copies of the lyric sheet.**

ISS Staff

Ø *Director*: Sonny Speed

Ø *Press Secretary*: Bob Catrano

Ø *Newsletter Writing Staff*: Gerry Dantone, Bill "Scoop" Ryan, Walter Sargent, Michael Clark, Sonny Meadows, Mike Mattel, Martha Trachtenberg, Vince Crici, Rich Stein, Andrew Kirschner and James Yarsky

Ø *Website Coordinator*: Bill "Scoop" Ryan

Ø *Newsletter Editor/Publisher*: Shari Diamond (my CD is at the printer!!)