

JILL SOBULE IS TICKLED PINK OVER GLAAD AWARD

On March 10, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) presented Lava/Atlantic artist Jill Sobule with an award for Outstanding Song for her hit "I Kissed a Girl" at the organization's seventh annual Media Awards in Los Angeles. The GLAAD awards honor individuals, projects, and companies in the media and entertainment industries for their balanced and accurate representations of lesbians and gay men. David Schwimmer of *Friends* presented Sobule with the award. Other Media Award winners include Boy George's *Cheapness and Beauty* for Outstanding Album, *All My Children* for Outstanding Daytime Television, and *The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love* for Outstanding Independent Film.

STEREO TYPE tracked Sobule down in Nashville, where she's writing songs for her next album, to get her comments on being anointed as a GLAAD media darling: "Damn," she said, in her endearingly aw-shucks way, "I'm more proud about winning this award than any of the other awards I've gotten. I feel like I've done my duty, and I'm GLAAD!"



Francis Dunnery Takes Melissa Etheridge for Ride in his *Tall Blonde Helicopter*

Melissa Etheridge named Francis Dunnery's *Tall Blonde Helicopter* as one of her ten favorite albums of 1995 in a recent issue of *Rolling Stone* magazine. Melissa's other favorites of '95 include Joan Osborne's *Relish*, Natalie Merchant's *Tigerlily*, Bjork's *Post*, and (*What's the Story*) *Morning Glory* by Oasis. When asked how he feels to be among such esteemed



Francis Dunnery

company, Dunnery had this to say: "I'm extremely flattered. I know Melissa's a very sensitive individual, and I'm glad she connects with what I'm singing about." *Billboard* magazine says that *Tall Blonde Helicopter* is a

"mastery of various pop/rock forms, from hook-laden tunes that measure up to Nick Lowe's best material, to confessionals and ironic portraits."

COMING ATTRACTION

I SHOT ANDY WARHOL

Look for the May release of the film *I Shot Andy Warhol*, the true story of radical lesbian feminist Valerie Solanas, who tried to kill the Pop Art king in 1968. Solanas was the leader of a one-woman revolutionary group called the Society for Cutting Up Men (SCUM). In the film, she writes a play called "Up Your Ass" and hounds Warhol to produce it. Repeatedly rebuffed by the artist and his Factory hangers-on, Solanas becomes paranoid that Andy has "too much control" over her life and decides to kill him. The film debuted at the Sundance Film Festival last January and garnered glowing reviews. *Daily Variety* raved about Lili Taylor's "stupendous lead performance" as Solanas, and noted Stephen Dorff's "spooky turn" as aspiring transsexual Candy Darling. Jared Harris "catches the blank, hard-to-read Warhol beautifully," the trade paper said.

TAG/Atlantic will release the *I Shot Andy Warhol* soundtrack on April 23. The track listing includes "Demons" by Yo La Tengo (who play the Velvet Underground in the film); a cover of "Love is All Around" by R.E.M.; a cover of the Buffalo Springfield tune "Burned" by Wilco; Luna's version of Donovan's "Season of the Witch"; and the original version "Do You Believe in Magic" by the Lovin' Spoonful. The score is by former Velvet Underground member John Cale.



Lili Taylor as Valerie Solanas



SEXY MF

Michael Feinstein Opens Up

As you know from the last **STEREO TYPE** newsletter, Michael Feinstein has a new album out called *Nice Work if You Can Get It: Songs by the Gershwins*, which includes six songs that have never been recorded before. Feinstein will be making in-store appearances at A Different Light bookstore in New York on April 21 and at Lambda Rising in Washington, DC during Memorial Day Weekend. New Yorkers can also catch Feinstein crooning a couple of tunes at the National Gay and Lesbian Business Expo on April 28 at the Manhattan Coliseum. Here, Feinstein talks to **STEREO TYPE** about the effect that being gay has had on his career.

STEREOTYPE: I don't know how personal you want this interview to be.

Michael Feinstein: I have nothing to hide. [laughs]

ST: Okay. Here we go then. How has being gay affected what you do artistically?

MF: Hmmm. That's a good question. I've never thought about that. There are so many gay cabaret performers—almost all of them are gay, whether they admit it or not. And certainly, when I came onto the scene, a lot of people acknowledged my "sensitivity," that I was a man who was not afraid to sing sensitive lyrics and present a vulnerability in my work. And I think that has added to my success, and certainly being gay relates to being able to project that vulnerability that I feel.

ST: Do you ever change the pronouns in the songs you sing so that they more accurately reflect your sexuality?

MF: I just went on this Atlantis [a gay travel service] vacation. They gave me this great vacation for two people, all expenses paid, in exchange for singing for half an hour. And I sang "Someone to Watch Over Me" with the lyrics "I hope that *he* turns out to be someone to watch over me." And I did that because all the people there wanted to hear that, and I felt comfortable doing it. Normally, I don't do it that way because the majority of the people like to hear it the other way, and usually I don't like to fool with the lyrics.

ST: Okay, last question: how's your love life?

MF: [laughs] Well, my love life is—what's the word I want to use? What I want to say is that it's progressing on a level that has me very happy, because I've finally gotten to a point where I'm better able to integrate the spiritual aspect of love with the physical aspects.

ST: Amen to that. We'd better talk off the record from here on in.

MF: Yeah, are you turning off the tape recorder?

ST: Yeah. See ya.

7 Year Bitch is Back

On March 12, 7 Year Bitch released their Atlantic debut, *Gato Negro*, an album of exhilaratingly raw, full-speed-ahead rock and roll. 7 Year Bitch is Valerie Agnew (drums), Elizabeth Davis (bass), Roisin Dunne (guitar), and Selene Vigil (vocals). In addition to her work with the band, Valerie is the co-founder of Home Alive, an anti-violence collective created following the 1993 rape and murder of Mia Zapata, former lead singer of the Gits and a close friend of Valerie's. Ac-



cording to the organization's statement of purpose, Home Alive "is a collective of performance and visual artists (and other freaks) hellbent on fighting violent criminals, rapists, muggers, murderers, gay/lesbian bashers, racists, and any other fucking violators." The organization has staged several

benefits in its home base of Seattle to raise money to establish self defense classes for women. Epic has recently released *Home Alive--The Art of Self Defense*, a benefit album compiled by Agnew and Gretta Harley featuring Soundgarden, Nirvana and Joan Jett.

The Groove Line

The news on the latest dance hits from the Atlantic Group

BEL CANTO'S "RUMOUR" HAS IT

The Norwegian group known as Bel Canto have just released their fourth album *Magic Box*, featuring the song "Rumour," which is fast becoming a major club hit. The CD5 of "Rumour" contains an additional 4 mixes of the song. "The Masters of Work boys ("Little" Louie Vega and Kenny "Dope" Gonzalez) supply the incredibly understated, yet totally fierce restructurings,"

wrote DJ Michael Paoletta in New York's *Next* magazine. Paoletta, who also writes about dance music for *Billboard*, says he's "partial to the M.A.W. 12" Mix and Tribe in Dub version" which makes "great use of band member Anneli M.Drecker's fluttery voice, a vocal instrument that sweetly allows the hook-laden chorus to be forever embedded in your brain."



CLIMB ABOARD QUAD CITY DJ'S "TRAIN"

The Quad City DJ's pride themselves on being the hottest conductors of dance-party music today. Their latest fuel-burning track is called "C'Mon 'N Ride It (The Train)," which *Billboard* magazine calls a "booty jam" with "an



infectious chorus" that's good for both a "chuckle and a wiggle." The Quad City DJ's are Nathaniel "C.C. Lemonhead" Orange and Johnny "Jayski" McGowan, the duo who co-wrote and co-produced the triple platinum single "Whoop There It Is." They also co-produced and co-wrote the monster hit "Tootsee Roll" for the rap group 69 Boyz.

Enter our Quad City DJ's contest on Page 4!



Congratulations to the winner of our Bette Midler Valentine's Day Contest!

Richard Moreau of Mattapan, MA wrote the winning Valentine's poem to Bette Midler (at right), which was chosen by The Divine Miss M herself (note Bette's stamp of approval at the bottom of the poem) →

*Filled with life, Full of sound & Angels whisper your name when they are in town
Rockers, Dreamers love you so
Bow your head as the petals flow.
ON the wind / in ribbons / A kiss I send
To you the one and only!*

This is my favorite - but I really like you from all 73.

Divine Miss M

M + love you + love you + love you

THERE'S MUSIC IN THE AIR, AND RANDY CRAWFORD'S EVERYWHERE

Revered jazz and R&B vocal stylist Randy Crawford has already raided urban airwaves with her version of George Benson's "Give Me the Night." Now, club DJ's have gotten hold of the 12" remix of the song and are spinning the hell out of it. The song is on Randy's new Bluemoon/Atlantic album *Naked and True*, which also includes her soulful versions of Prince's "Purple Rain," Simply Red's "Holding Back the Years," and Patrice Rushen's "Forget Me Nots." Here, Crawford talks about who she thinks her fans really are.

STEREOTYPE: Your new album *Naked and True* is so fine.

Randy Crawford: Thank you. I'm really proud of this project.

ST: Now, someone told me you have a lot of gay fans.

RC: I don't know who my fans are, quite frankly, except that they're people—people who love music. Whoever listens and likes my music, I don't think it matters what you are. You like it, you buy it, and you enjoy it. I have friends that are gay, and I have friends that are straight. I think music is sort of like food—it's just something that everybody has to have. But I don't like to place emphasis on sexual preferences.

ST: Did you ever sing in gay clubs?

RC: Yes. When I first moved to Los Angeles, about 23 years ago, some of the first jobs I had were in gay clubs. But I have to be very honest with you—for me, it was a difficult thing to see all of those beautiful men embracing each other when I wanted a man so badly myself. But I made some wonderful friends during that time.

ST: The remix of "Give Me the Night" is getting some play in gay clubs.

RC: I know. Are they going to start having Randy Crawford look-alike contests like they do for Judy Garland?

ST: [laughs] Yeah, that's the next step—drag queens dressed up like Randy Crawford.

RC: That's fine, but the fake Randys better not be better than the real Randy.

ST: No chance of that.



COMING SOON!

SINNERMAN

the major label debut from....

EXTRA FANCY

BALLS-TO-THE-WALL-LIBERATING-SHOW-STOPPING
PANSEXUAL-CAROL-CHANNING-INTENSE-BUMP-N-GRIND
RAWK-AND-ROLL





ALL THE VERY GAY PLACES

Fred Hersch Meets Billy Strayhorn

"I used to visit all the very gay places, those come what may places," goes the first line of the classic Billy Strayhorn song "Lush Life." Nonesuch Records has recently released a new album by pianist Fred Hersch called *Passion Flower: Fred Hersch Plays Billy Strayhorn*. Produced, arranged, and orchestrated by Hersch, the CD is a tribute to the great jazz composer/lyricist, who is familiar to jazz aficionados as Duke Ellington's creative alter ego. Stephen Holden of *The New York Times* calls *Passion Flower* a "voluptuous collection of music," adding that Hersch's performances of "Day Dream" and "Lush Life" "exude an exotic hothouse aroma."



Fred Hersch

The openly gay Hersch has twice been nominated for a Grammy, and has released 13 albums as a leader and participated on more than 70 other recordings as a soloist, arranger or producer. Hersch has also used his musical expertise to help raise money to fight AIDS. He produced *Last Night When We Were Young: The Ballad Album*, a CD benefiting Classical Action: Performing Arts Against AIDS, and featuring performances by over a dozen major jazz artists, including George Shearing, Bobby Watson, Phil Woods, and Toots Thielemans. Hersch was also the music composer for four one-hour television programs about AIDS called *Positive Living With HIV*, which will air on PBS later this year.

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Miss DeeDee's Corner

All right, you blues babies. Have I got a soundtrack for you! It's called *Heaven's Prisoners*, and it's on Code Blue/Atlantic Records. It's a virtual who's-who of the blues world, with songs by B.B. King, Buddy Guy, the infamous Stevie Ray Vaughan and Miss Aretha Franklin. And there's a fine band called The Hoax on there too.

The movie is a New Line Cinema release and hits theaters May 3. It stars the handsome future husband of Miss Dee Dee, Mr. Alec Baldwin, as well as Eric Roberts, Mary Stuart Masterson, Teri Hatcher and Kelly Lynch. I personally haven't seen the movie yet, but if it's anything like the soundtrack, watch out!!!!!!!

So, you girls listen to your older sister, and go buy this CD and watch how quick you become a blues baby just like me! Bye-bye for now!

Enjoy! x x x o o o



CONTEST

Climb aboard the Quad City DJ's "Train" and Win CD's!

The Quad City DJ's new club hit "C'mon 'N Ride It (The Train)" certainly isn't the first song with the word "train" in it, now is it?

The first person to send us a list of five songs with the word "train" in the title will win ten of the Atlantic Group's hottest CD's. Five runners-up will win a CD5 of "C'mon and Ride It (The Train)," plus a special Quad City DJ's train whistle.

Send entries, along with your name, address and phone number to:

Quad City DJ's Contest
75 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10019
ATTN: MWR

AND REMEMBER TO ALWAYS Whistle While You Work It !!!!