



Atlanta Music Guide

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"if you know what's good for you" ...
a regular look
by kevin madigan

07/31/03

The Atlantis Music Conference is upon us. Our friend Lu Frew has been keeping track of who all these bands are, and is doing a somewhat more thorough job than the rest of us at the Guide. She sent us this missive with her own personal recommendations, for your pleasure and enlightenment:

Thursday, July 31st

9pm

- Gordon Vaughn Charlie & Barney's Downtown, International Blvd. between Peachtree Center and Peachtree St. Former lead singer of Cool For August (who toured with matchbox 20) sets out on his own. The track, You Want It All was produced by Noel Golden (also produced The Exies a hot new band on Virgin Records) and is on the just-released A&R Network compilation CD. Gordon got the 1st track on the CD and the photo insert. Big things to come for Gordon. Rock/Alternative.
- Smile Empty Soul Masquerade on North Ave., Poncey-Highlands area. Awesome new band recently signed to Lava Records. You probably have heard their catchy track, Bottom of A Bottle on 99X .and I bet you loved it. If you' d like to see a talented band before you have to pay \$30 a ticket, see Smile Empty Soul now. Rock/Alternative. www.smileemptysoul.com

11pm (2 choices)

- Left Front Tire 10 High on Highland Ave. in Virginia Highlands. The single, Bring You Down was on the American Pie 2 soundtrack and got a lot of airplay in the Southeast. Their new CD, 42 Ways To Lose A Friend, came out in mid-July to very good reviews. The new CD features the track, Cheaters and if this song doesn't become the theme song of the cheesy syndicated reality show (of the same name), there is something wrong in the world. Rock in the same vein as Lit and Good Charlotte. www.leftfronttire.com
- Trapt The Masquerade on North Ave., Poncey-Highlands area. Want to see a band you hear all the time on 99X (the song Headstrong)? Then catch Trapt. Rock. www.trapt.com

12am

- Over October Charlie & Barney's Downtown. In their previous incarnation (The Bay County Poets), the band opened for major acts like Better Than Ezra and Sponge. Over October (or O2) is fresh off their spot at the 99X Unplugged in the Park. Rock/Alternative. www.overoctober.com

1am

- Elliot James and the Snakes 10 High, on Highland Ave. in Virginia Highlands. Still want more rock & roll? The Snakes feature JJ (formerly of Butch Walker's band, The Marvelous 3 and The Pleasantdales), and the lusty-voiced Lauren Betty has returned. Rock.

Friday, August 1st

(Let's just call this your #umbers'night .5 Star Iris and Three5Human, or Asphalt Blaster at 9 Lives Saloon.)

11pm

- Five Star Iris Smith's Olde Bar (Piedmont & Monroe, midtown) Finalist in the 1-800-Call-ATT Battle of the Bands in June for the track, Day In The Sun. Additionally, the song, World Needs Now, will be included on a compilation distributed by the Alternative Weekly Network. Working with Ed Roland of Collective Soul. Upcoming EP late summer/early fall 2003. Rock/Alternative www.fivestaris.com
- 2nd choice would be to see Glen Phillips, former lead singer of Toad The Wet Sprocket at the Red Light Café, Amsterdam & Monroe in Midtown. A great voice and a great singer/songwriter. Alternative/Organic. www.glenphillips.com

12am

- Three5Human Smith's Olde Bar, at Piedmont and Monroe in Midtown. You won't be disappointed if you stay at Smith's for Three5Human. Lenny Kravitz loves this band and you will too! Atlanta has its quota of rappers, but these black artists are rockers! Lead singer, Trina Meade, has a dynamic voice. Guitarist Tomi Martin has played with Madonna, Mick Jagger, Michael Jackson and OutKast. Their track, Black Rock Queen will have visions of Tina Turner dancing in your head, while the organic tune Jenny features Emily Sailers of the Indigo Girls. Rock .with some soul! www.three5human.com

12am

- Asphalt Blaster 9 Lives Saloon in the heart of Little 5 Points. You can't go wrong with this rock band featuring Johnny Colt (formerly of The Black Crowes). www.asphaltblaster.com

Saturday, August 2nd

(Your kick-ass rock and roll night)

9pm

- Endochine 10 High (Virginia-Highlands). This versatile band from Austin, TX has opened for the likes of The Red Hot Chili Peppers, Lenny Kravitz, Snoop Dog, Pete Yorn, Michelle Branch, Jewel, Fastball, Adema, Eric Johnson, and even Pink! Endochine will be playing the Austin City Limits Festival in September (R.E.M., Ben Harper, Jack Johnson, Liz Phair, et al). Additionally, they have recently inked a sponsorship deal with Anheuser-Busch, as part of the Budweiser True Live Music program. The band performed at the 2003 SXSW Music Conference and the Red Bull Flugtag (45,000 people) this spring. Endochine is getting attention from many major labels, so expect several A&R Reps to be at this show. I HIGHLY recommend seeing this band, too. CD is due out September 2003, featuring the track, Secret this tune will make you say, Wow!'Rock/Alternative. www.endochine.com

11pm (2 choices)

- The Mooney Suzuki The Masquerade on North Ave. in Poncey-Highlands. If Good Charlotte can open for skateboard extraordinaire Tony Hawk's Huck Jam tour, then it shouldn't be odd that The Mooney Suzuki opened a tour for Saturday Night Live newsman Jimmy Fallon, last fall. For a musical comparison, TMS is a wonderful morph of The Ramones and The White Stripes. The band is also featured in the August 2003 issue of GQ magazine and joins the Lollapalooza festival right after the Atlantis Music Conference. Rock/Alternative. www.themooneysuzuki.com
- Athenaeum Vinyl, 16th & W. Peachtree in Midtown. Remember their late 90's song, What I Didn't Know (circa late 90's)? And you liked it!?! Then, go see Athenaeum for more good rock tunes. Rock/Alternative. www.athenaeum.net

12am (2 choices)

- Union Drag 10 High on Highland Ave. in Virginia Highlands. Former lead singer of The Yard leads a new band with songs that will hook you in. Rock/Alternative. www.union_drag.tripod.com
- Defriender Hard Rock Café, International & Peachtree, downtown. In the 1-½ years since the band's formation, Defriender has really gelled. If you're lucky, you'll be treated to the multi-media show, featuring visually mesmerizing entertainment in addition to great lyrics and music. Production on their current EP is award-worthy. Rock. www.defriender.com

Get your 3-day wristbands at www.atlantismusic.com for \$25. 99X Freeloaders get \$10 off. Where else can you get 3 nights of great music for 15 bucks?!?

Until next time...