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Bitch and the Exciting Conclusion



Valentine's, Thursday

Get ready for a totally bitchin' time, when Bitch, formerly of Bitch and Animal, brings her feverish stage presence, her array of unusual instruments, and her new girlfriend Daniela Sea to Valentine's tonight (Thursday). You can expect to see eclectic outfits and brightly colored dreadlocks, and you can expect to hear politically charged lyrics at the foreground of unique notes from a ukulele and electric violin. Bitch formed this new duo, Bitch and the Exciting Conclusion, with Daniela, an actress in Showtime's *The L Word*, following her 2004 split with Animal. They've recently appeared in John Cameron Mitchell's film *Shortbus* and toured the country with the Indigo Girls; now they're kicking off their own set of headlining shows in promotion of Bitch's solo album *Make This/Break This*, released on Kill Rockstars Records last October. Viva la feminista! (March 1, 7 PM, \$10, 17 New Scotland Ave., Albany, 432-6572)

Lee Shaw CD-release party

WAMC Performing Arts studio, Friday

Local jazz luminary Lee Shaw has been a part of the Capital Region music scene for three decades. Shaw began her career as a pianist at age 5, and she eventually earned her first degree in piano in Oklahoma (where, in 1993, she was inducted into the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame), before she

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earned her master's in piano at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. She's studied and played with the great jazz pianist and composer Oscar Peterson, and she's toured the world with her own trio. We here in the Capital Region have been a beneficiary to Shaw's great talent as audiences *and* students—she still gives lessons. Along with her trio, featuring Rich Syracuse and Jeff "Siege" Siegel, Shaw will celebrate the release of her brand-new album at the Linda Norris Auditorium tomorrow night. (*March 2, 8 PM, \$18, 339 Central Ave., Albany, 465-5233, ext. 4*)

Albany Amped Vol. 1 CD-release party

The Skyline, Friday

Seven of the 11 local and regional bands featured on the new compilation *Albany Amped* will play "fashionably loud"—for eight hours—at the Skyline tomorrow (Friday) night. These will include the Churchills, Readymade Breakup, Red Red Wine, the Crayons, Big Nixon, Guiltless Cult and the Suggestions. We like these compilations, and so should you: You can sample a wide variety of artists for a few bucks. And if you're one of the first 300 through the door, you'll get a copy of the disc gratis. A gang of local organizations are involved in this, too, including Rock2Rebuild, WEQX 102.7, 1st Friday, DL Entertainment, Raise the Barn . . . you get the idea. It's a really big show. (*March 2, 6 PM, \$5, 4-6 Sheridan Ave., Albany, 472-8150*)

Papa Roach, It Dies Today

Northern Lights, Saturday

Please note that Papa Roach are not down with playa-hating. They just totally want to rock you this Saturday. They would play monster-truck-rally-type commercials to get you there if they could. (SATURDAY, SATURDAY, SATURDAY! PAPA ROACH ARE GONNA OWN YOUR SKULL! BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!) And why shouldn't they? They are the band who took rap-rock to lofty

heights (at least on the *Billboard* charts), and now they are taking post . . . um . . . post-rap-rock to new levels of artistic integrity. While every other self-respecting rap-rock band broke up (and for those of you who are unaware, there was only one self-respecting rap-rock band, Rage Against the Machine), Papa Roach churned out appropriately titled albums like *Getting Away With Murder*. The group's latest effort, *The Paramour Sessions*, sees the band's dress and hairstyles looking oddly close to that of fellow Californians Atreyu and Avenged Sevenfold. (My black retro mullet owns your fauxhawk, dude!) Their taste in fashion is so totally metal-fabulous, right? What does the new album sound like? Sorry, but we don't know—the Interwebs are currently clogged and we aren't hard enough to get a Roach demo. (*March 4, 7 PM, \$18, 1208 Route 146, Clifton Park, 371-0012*)

Taj Mahal Trio

Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, Saturday

Taj Mahal (aka Henry Saint Claire Frederick) has had a career that many view as a picture of artistic triumph: For more than 40 years he's had popular acclaim and critical success. Now considered a musical legend, Frederick had a humble start: His father was a pianist and composer of Jamaican descent, and his mother was a gospel singer from North Carolina. As a child, Frederick was drawn to world music; after spending time in West Africa, South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia and Hawaii, he was able to incorporate these sounds into his country blues foundation, creating his characteristic blend of Afro-Caribbean blues, jazz and rock, with some soul, zydeco and R&B thrown in for good measure. The Taj Mahal Trio (with Frederick on guitar, piano and banjo, Bill Rich on bass, Kester Smith on drums) will appear at the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall this Saturday. (*March 3, 8 PM, \$29-\$32, 2nd and State streets, Troy, 273-0038*)

Gandalf Murphy and the Slambovian Circus of Dreams

WAMC Performing Arts studio, Saturday

As you may have guessed, there is no one in this band named Gandalf Murphy, just as there is no place called Slambovia. The Circus comprise four members (whose names are already unusual enough) who play what one might sum up as a sort of weird folk-rock, but what is essentially an homage to a variety of influences—their first album was called *A Good Thief Tips His Hat*, and that is just what they do, regularly interspersing bits of tunes by the Beatles, Hendrix, and others into their own songs during shows. Hailing from Sleepy Hollow, the Circus have been described as “surreal Americana,” and their official bio says they dance “freely between existing religious and philosophical mythologies.” (March 3, 8 PM, \$18, 343 Central Ave., Albany, 465-5233 ext. 4)

Also Noted

Red Square is back up and running after a brief hiatus; go there tonight (Thursday) to see the New Orleans-based **Stanton Moore Trio** with **Will Bernard** and **Brian**



Peter Mulvey

Coogen (4 PM, \$12, 465-0444). . . . **Madball**, who just finished a tour in Australia, will headline a show at Valentine's on Saturday; also on the bill are **Death Before Dishonor** and **Since the Flood** (7 PM, \$5, 432-6572). . . . Or you can head to Northern Lights on Saturday to see alternative-rock band **Bulletproof Messenger** with openers

Hyngd, 29 Counts, and Gordon St.—if you haven't been to Northern Lights' Web site lately, go check out their cool new feature that lets you choose bands you want to be sent updates about (like when they're coming back to the club) (7 PM, \$5, 371-0012). . . . Milwaukeeen **Peter Mulvey** will perform his brand of folk-rock on Sunday at the Iron Horse Music Hall in Northampton, Mass. with special guest **David Berkeley** (7 PM, \$15, 413-584-0610). . . . There's just too much going on at the WAMC Performing Arts Studio this week—in addition to the other shows we highlighted, renowned father-and-son guitarists **John and Bucky Pizzarelli** will perform two shows on Sunday (3, 7 PM, \$28, 465-5233 ext. 4).



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