

Strand Theatre Shelbyville, Inc.

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Pressed In Black ? Review

Written by David on March, 22 2010

Rising talent rocks the Strand

A rising tide of youth swept into the Strand Theatre Saturday night in a show by two bands sharing the same guitarist.

Like the bulging swell of a tsunami, this guitarist/singer/ songwriter, 17-year-old Kit Haymond, displayed his sometimes raw, sometimes rhythmic sounds, passions and sheer bravado which promises, in each band, to break like a cresting wave of musical skills

Each band, in its own style and way, appears poised and ready to deluge fans in a flood of sound arising from the garages of Middletown and Waldron, where both bands, "Caffeine" and "Pressed in Black," hone and refine the tidal onslaught of rock, blues and funk(into folk waves of sound.

Saturday night's concert at the Strand opened with "Caffeine" a trio of teenagers featuring Haymond on guitar, Kathleen Clary on mandolin and guitarist /singer Darren Isaac, winner of the most recent Shelby Idol.

Isaac's crooning vocal style was emphasized and shined on several traditional ballads the trio performed in a set best characterized as funky, folk music which recalled the coffee-shop music of a time, (the 1960's) before any of these musicians were born.

In a short opening set, recalling the calm before a storm, each member of "Caffeine," flashed the pregnant and poised talents, skills and passions which seem to simmer below the surface of their music. They are a band swelling with potential and one to scan the horizon for in the next few years as they physically grow into their promise and musically mature.

The evening's head-lining act, "Pressed in Black," is another trio featuring Haymond's skills, this time his prodigy-like passion for songwriting and his precocious blues and hard-rock guitar play.

This band, rounded out by bassists Jason Mibourn and drummer Matt Green, is a tight, joyous trio whose musicianship and music evokes the raw, spontaneous feel of sitting in a garage and listening to a jam session.

In point of fact, this is a band with cojones and the talent to back it up which became evident in the first eight songs, five of which were original songs written by Haymond. It is rather refreshing to witness such a bravado, tour-de force performance of compelling music, especially when a band performs a song that is merely two-days old as "Pressed In Black" did on their ninth tune "Last Song."

The birth of new music (a dozen or so songs in two sets) is always an exciting thing to witness and the "Last Song," is no exception. It is musically a very interesting piece with a challenging circus-freak kind of rhythm, that recalls both "The Doors" and "The Animals."

Indeed, original tunes abounded frequently and early during the twin-sets of rather eclectic music by this local trio. From the second song, "Let it Ride," a mellow, alternative ballad, to a later Ska inspired song and finally into a second set of several uninhibited hard-core thrash songs featuring full-frontal metal, this is a band that is always in your face, both artistically and musically.

In point of fact, "Pressed in Black" is a band without fear, a band willing and able to test it latest, newest music live before an audience, a band which seems to revel in the raw promise of live performance to explore new sounds.

Another unique feature of this concert was the unplugged songs performed band members between sets. Alone on stage, sitting down individually under a spotlight, Milbourn sang a rather raspy, gritty alternative version of "Billie Jean." He was followed to the microphone by Haymond who sang a Buddy Holly tune .

"Pressed in Black," even more than "Caffeine," is a band bursting with passion, talent and an unbridled passion for music that does indeed swell off stage like a tsunami and deluges the audience in a deep, resonant wave of sound. Watch for their rising tide of artistic mayhem, and be aware a tide of malevolently creative music is arising out of Middletown.

Images on this post:



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This independent review does not express the opinion of the Strand Theatre.

