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TWANGVILLE

Prima Donna: #4 of John's 'Fantastic Four of SXSW 2011'

By John Anderson, Posted on April 8, 2011



As noted previously in my post in praise of Biters, I dig me some glam rock. In that earlier post, I referenced T. Rex, since Sir Bolan struck me as being the most apt reference point to the band at hand, but I'm also an ardent admirer of take-no-prisoners gutter glam as practiced by the New York Dolls, so when Prima Donna's "Stray Doll" came up in my perusal of the second of this year's SXSW 2011 torrents with its spoken intro reminiscent of the Dolls' "Looking for a Kiss," its swaggering groove influenced by '50s rock but dragged through a '70s gutter, and its prominent saxophone (!), it was L-U-V at first listen. By the time South-by rolled around, I'd listened to the .mp3 enough times to proclaim to friends in advance that, based on this one song alone, Prima Donna was the band I was most looking forward to seeing in Austin this year.

[Nightranger](#)

Search For Sexiest Glam Bands in LA Continues: Prima Donna At Rodney Bingenheimer and Asia Muka's Romper Stomper

By [Lina Lecaro](#) Tue., Feb. 8 2011 @ 9:19AM

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Lina Lecaro

Kevin Preston is Prima pretty

If there's one thing the incomparable **Rodney Bingenheimer** knows, it's the importance of presentation and allure in rock n' roll. And while most of his faves happen to be of the female persuasion, he's been known to discover and break some real ones as well (The Ramones, Duran Duran, even David Bowie). He's still doing it too.

Friday night, he and DJ/ glam diva Asia Muka presented the latest installment of **Romper Stomper** at **The Sunset Room**, this one headlined by a group of charismatic whippersnappers ~~and~~ **Prima Donna**, a band whose appeal goes beyond snazzy haircuts and lithe bods... though they definitely possess both.

Prima Donna might be young (average age 23) but they've got some serious touring cred under their studded belts, namely a slot as ~~opening~~ **opening** band for **Green Day** in the U.K. and Europe in 2009 and five countries in Asia the following year. **Shawn Preston** - who also played with the Green Day side project **Foothill Hot Tubs**- is the whole package: pranciness and poise, snarly yet smooth, and the ability to suck in fans (yeah, especially da ladies) with suggestive tunes like "I Don't Want You To Love Me," (opening lyrics: *I don't want you to love me/I don't want you to care/I just want you to like it/When I lick you there/'Cause I'm beat and in heat*").

PD turned up the heat, alright. Especially when Preston started removing layers and then tore into Blondie's "Rip Her To Shreds," dedicated to Rodney himself. (We're not sure a male vocal works on the tune, but it was a fun/fine ~~attempt~~ **attempt** the rest of the group **Aaron Minton** on sax & keys, **David Field** on drums, **Erik Arcane** on guitar, "**Lights Out**" **Levine** on bass was tight as could be).

Lina Lecaro
Donna dudes.