

choice cuts

By Eric Harbadian

horns on this track are a revelation. Michael Clarence Jones' "Hart Plaza" is a sweet shout out to the beloved Detroit riverfront locale. And the afore-mentioned homage is reverently paid to Edward Kennedy Ellington in "The Duke" and Ella Fitzgerald in "First Lady." Landis utilizes her voice in a myriad of fresh and unorthodox ways that continue to inspire while Matie keeps one foot in traditional styles and one step beyond. Highly recommended!

Angel releases at the time and the band was stalwart, unfaltering and totally spot on!

Allman delivers his classic world-weary rasp of a voice with passion and well-measured verve. And his Hammond B3 work is focused and ever present on peripherals like "Statesboro Blues" and "One Way Out." But, perhaps, the MVP of the night has to be "Dangerous" Dan Toler on guitar. From jazzy rhythms to rough hewn soul riffs this guy is certainly one of rock's most underrated axe slingers. Overall a very accomplished program!

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They were Replacements! Ah yes, The Replacements!



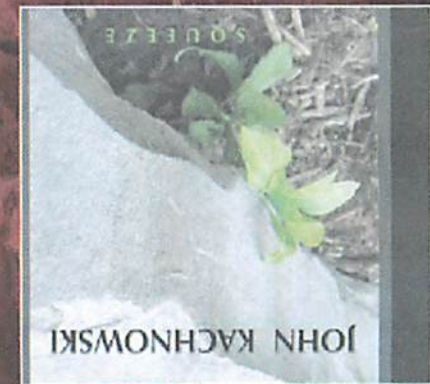
Minneapolis band that came to prominence during the heyday of indie rock in the '80s. Many would say that they were one of the first bands that truly defined the genre as we know it today. "Bastards of Young," "Here Comes a Regular," "I Will Dare," and "I'll Be You" were just some of the MTV staples that helped put them on the map. They were known for being quite unpredictable, for reasons ranging from what brilliant rock covers they would attempt in a particular live set to how much they had to drink before a show. And it's that roller coaster of myth and legend that is the basis of this documentary by writer/director Gorman Bechard. He is obviously a fan and that fervor for the band comes through from the very first frame. But this is not your typical rock doc! There is not one snippit of concert footage, or a conventional band member interviews, or a conventional Replacements soundtrack included for that matter. The story is told through those that record store retailers and personal friends knew the band best—roadies, managers, record store retailers and personal friends. There are also rock and film celebrities like chime in with their band recollections like actors George Wendt, Tom Arnold, Dave Foley and musicians from Husker Du, Goo Goo Dolls, The Hold Steady and Babes in Toyland. Rock 'n' roll scribes like Legs McNeil and Robert Christgau contribute with their affection for the group as well. And, despite the obvious absence of the band itself in the film, it works! Whether you were a fan of The Replacements or not, one can't deny that Bechard has created a fascinating work and a fine tribute to a group that influenced a generation.

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Sheila Landis & Rick Matie, Heart Plaza (Shelan Records, SLO23):



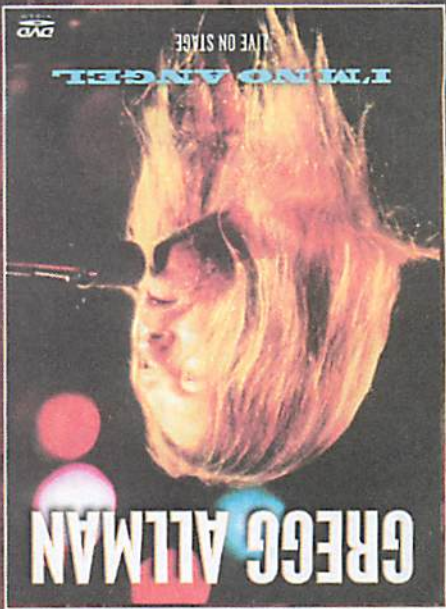
Award-winning Detroit area jazz musicians, singer-songwriter/vocalist Sheila Landis and guitarist Rick Matie perform a series of poems set to music. They are accompanied by bassist John Lindberg, drummer/percussionist Dennis Sheridan and legendary Detroit titan Wendell Harrison on clarinets and saxophone. Landis and Matie have been fixtures on the Detroit and Midwestern music scenes for well over thirty years and always bring something creative, entertaining and cutting edge to the table. But, in doing so, they remain faithful to the main precepts of jazz, which are to make it swing and always pay homage to those in the music that came before you. The opening track "Jazz" couldn't be more emphatic of those principles. Elisabeth Komatz's poem about the humanization of the improvisational art form comes alive via Landis' elastic and expression-filled vocals. Matie follows suit, with an ingenious palette of tones, colors and melodic ideas to fully complement the complex, yet open arrangement. Landis' own "Bag Lady" really grooves, with a bouncy samba beat. Lindberg's robust bass and Harrison's wall of



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John Kachnowski, Squeeze (www.reverbnation.com/johnkachnowski):

Detroit area trombonist/vocalist/multi-instrumentalist/songwriter/producer Kachnowski has been a member of several prominent ska-based groups, including The Exceptions, The Articles and Gangster Fun. But he's also displayed his versatility and range as a classically-trained symphony musician as well as first call sideman and session player. On his latest release he employs all those combined talents to create an eclectic mix of quirky rhythms, biting humor, slinky beats and lean, visceral arrangements. Opening track "Looking for Loopholes" leaps out of your speakers and smacks you with a one-two punch. Clever, thought-farrring observations on human nature make you smile as the song's insistent herky jerky grooves go straight for the feet. Title track "Squeeze" features intricate interwoven horns that blend perfectly with Kachnowski's urgent Joe Jackson-like delivery. There are also reggae moments on "Eye of Blue" and an amusing tribute to TV dinners, with the tune "Swanson's." Nine cuts in all, a nice overview from one of southeast Michigan's true originals!

Gregg Allman, I'm No Angel: Live on Stage (DVD, Cherry Red Films, GRDVD182):



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