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Ana Popovic Band: An Evening at Trasimeno Lake

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Ana Popovic Band

By: Rick J Bowen

An Evening at Trasimeno Lake

artistex clusive

Born in Belgrade, not known as a bastion of the blues, Popovic picked up the guitar at fifteen with her father's encouragement and the influence of his vast record collection. In 1999 she was signed to Ruf Records in Germany after studying at Utrecht Conservatory and has been on the road ever since.

Now an artist on the Electro Groove roster, Popovic got the chance to return to Italy with her band and play the Trasimeno Lake Blues Festival for a second time, seizing the opportunity to film the show for her second live DVD. The concert setting is amazing: an amphitheater stage back-dropped by the Rocca Medievale, a medieval castle built in 1247. Popovic is guite the blonde bombshell decked out in studded knee high boots, leather pants and a sequined bustier, but don't be fooled-- her 1964 Fender Stratocaster is loaded for bear.

She makes it perfectly clear she is here to shred as she rips into the opening song and sings "you're messing with the wrong woman." Popovic is a cold calculating tactician on the guitar, and this DVD is meant to showcase all of her formidable chops. Her songs cover a wide range from driving blues rock to funk and jazz, giving her room to stretch out on the frequent guitar solos captured in close up detail. The burning slide on "How'd You Learn to Shake It" is a standout, and she gets playful with the audience on the classic blues shuffle, "Let me Love you Babe."

Thankfully, director Simone Pucci has also chosen to give plenty of screen time to the rhythm section who join Popovic and give relief to those who tire of her fiery fret work. On the bass is the highly animated Ronald Jonker, who plays off the authentic groove of Chicago drummer Andrew 'Blaze' Thomas while Michele Paradia, an Italian jazz artist in his own right, adds amazing color and soul on the keyboards. A fine pair of horns and backing vocals was added to several of the more funk oriented numbers like "Nothing Personal" and "Get Back Home to You." The show ends with the full band joining in on the political rouser "Hold On," raising the audience to its feet to sing along.

Overall "An Evening at Tresimeno Lake" is a well produced DVD aimed at her loyal fan base featuring great camera work and high quality sound. The mix on the vocals at times is a bit too clean to be believed as a live performance and could be a bit more ambient and include more crowd response as to not feel so canned, but her guitar certainly does sound great!

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