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Music Pick

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Mad Juana at the Cat Club

You might remember Sami Yaffa from his days in the early-'80s Finnish hard-rock band Hanoi Rocks (although he's apparently not involved in their reunion). He recently passed through town as the bassist in the reincarnated New York Dolls, and he wrote the hypnotically descending riff to "We're All in Love," the catchiest tune on the Dolls' 2006 comeback CD. But Mad Juana, his ongoing project with his wife, Karmen Guy, is stranger and more exotic than anything else he's ever done. "Domingo," from the New York band's upcoming CD, *Bruja on the Corner* (Azra), starts with mariachi horns and segues into an Old World vibe with accordion and violin melodies that evoke Manu Chao, Gogol Bordello and Balkan Beat Box. However, Ms. Guy's bewitching singing takes things to a feverishly madcap place where dub, reggae, flamenco and punk collide seamlessly. It all comes together on "Revolution Avenue," which sounds a little like Nina Hagen fronting Tijuana No! Wicked stuff. (Falling James)