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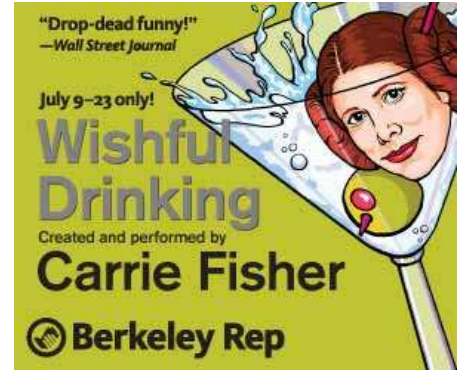
Essentials: This weekend's live music picks

Michelle Broder Van Dyke, Kimberly Chun, Andrew Gilbert, Mosi Reeves
Thursday, June 18, 2009

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Here are The Chronicle's picks for nightclub happenings this weekend. Compiled by Michelle Broder Van Dyke, Kimberly Chun, Andrew Gilbert and Mosi Reeves.



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Sly & Robbie, Heavyweight Dub Champion

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Tonight @ the Independent: Sly Dunbar and Robbie Shakespeare's partnership spans four decades of Jamaican music. They've added their supple bass-and-drums signature to reggae classics (Peter Tosh's "Equal Rights"), genuine pop hits (Grace Jones' "Pull Up to the Bumper") and adventurous solo material ("A Dub Experience"). San Francisco's

illbient-styled newcomer Heavyweight Dub Champion can only hope for such a career; it has made a decent start with the just-released "Rise of the Champion Nation." 9 p.m., \$25, 21+. 628 Divisadero St., S.F. (415) 771-1421. www.theindependentsf.com. (M.R.)

Sleepy Sun

Friday @ Great American Music Hall: The sun also rises for these Santa Cruz refugees, who relocated to San Francisco's Sunset District. The Cali-sun-swept psychedelia of "Embrace," the sextet's debut, has now been re-released by the prestigious ATP Recordings. Few bands follow through so completely live with the acid-splashed majesty promised on record. With Spindrift, Assemble Head in Sunburst Sound and DJ Wet Burrito. 9 p.m., \$13, all ages. Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St., S.F. (415) 885-0750. www.gamh.com. (K.C.)

White Rabbits

Saturday @ the Independent: This six-piece creates rhythm-driven rock in a loft in Brooklyn, where they share one room with only a foot and a half between six twin beds. "Percussion Gun" begins its recent album, "It's Frightening," with stampeding drums that scatter into a surprising range of influences from surf to ska to funk. Its beat-driven hooks are coated with multi-layered melodic chants that complete the grand drama. With the Subjects and Avi Buffalo. 9 p.m., \$14, 21+. The Independent, 628 Divisadero St., S.F. (415) 771-1421. www.theindependentsf.com. (M.B.V.D.)

Goran Bregovïæ and the Wedding and Funeral Orchestra

Sunday @ Nob Hill Masonic Center: On his first U.S. tour, the Yugoslav-born, Paris-based rock star Goran Bregovïæ is traveling with his celebratory Wedding and

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Funeral Orchestra. Combining the fierce energy of a Gypsy ensemble and traditional Balkan polyphonies with his rock-electric guitar riffs, Bregovic is both the catalyst and ringmaster for a musical spectacle unlike anything else on North American stages. 7 p.m., \$20-\$60, all ages. 1111 California St., S.F. (866) 920-5299. www.sfjazz.org. (A.G.)

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