

sound check

NEW THIS WEEK

White Trash With Money
Toby Keith

Daniel Powter
Daniel Powter

The Capitol Albums Vol. 2
Beatles

You in Reverse
Built to Spill

Animal Years
Josh Ritter

Death By Sexy
Eagles of Death Metal

Todd Smith
LL Cool J

Sound the Alarm
Saves the Day



Black on Black: A Tribute To Black Flag Various Artists



A black metal tribute to a punk band? Could metal bands pull off the raw, intelligent, angry honesty that surrounded Black Flag?

From the get-go the sonic assault is merciless, and at times, purely ruthless. Standout tracks include Most Precious Blood covering "Rise Above," Zao doing "Black Coffee," The Dillinger Escape Plan tearing up "Damaged" and Playing Enemy thrashing "Six Pack."

Listeners will be thrown into a relentless fusion of ass-kicking guitars, thrash vocals and rhythm sections that will leave them begging for more. *Black On Black* is not for those faint of heart.

Do the bands do Black Flag justice? Yes, they do.

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- Markus Goldman
WMMR On-Air Talent
Special to *Philly EDGE*

Love Is Still The Answer Essra Mohawk



In the spirit of the uplifting spring holidays, always the bridesmaid and never the bride, singer-songwriter Essra Mohawk (Sandy Hurvitz) has called Feasterville, NE Philly, West Philly and (since the '90s) Nashville home. Her credits (Tina Turner, Cyndi Lauper, Frank Zappa, David Crosby, Procol Harum) as earthy auteur, muse and hit writer are impeccable with maybe 400-plus titles having been farmed out.

The fresh versions of these 13 leftover tunes of Mohawk's stretch over a period from 1977 to one used on the present-day CBS drama, *Joan of Arcadia*. Damned if there aren't a slew of unearthed hooky, multi-styled gems here including gospel, "Ready For Some Good News," country slide, "How Could You Turn Me On," a neo-march "Loosen Up The Squeeze," as well as barbed balladry, "It's Not About Love."

Never feeling forced, Mohawk's "Magic Pen" writes universal, well lived-in, poetic truths. But then pros always make it look so easy, don't they? Here's hoping she'll actually chart under her own name one day soon.

Until then *Love Is...* represents a worthy addition to Mohawk's four-decades-young body of work. Whatever the question is, crack a window and cipher me in.

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- Paul Mick
Philly EDGE Correspondent

Baltimore blast



Ballyhoo! brings rock-reggae to 'MMR Spring Break '06

By Michael Lello
Philly EDGE Correspondent

When a band that has shared stages with the Beastie Boys and Hoobastank and performed several times at Washington D.C.'s HFStival calls out an upcoming show as a career milestone, you take notice.

"That'll be our biggest show we ever played," Ballyhoo! front-man Howi said in a recent phone interview to advance the Baltimore/Washington-area group's appearance at WMMR Spring Break '06. The Friday event at Temple University's Liacouras Center will feature headliners Switchfoot and Soul Asylum.

The show will be the latest in a string of area shows for the Sublime-inspired reggae rockers who have found a home away from home in Philly area clubs and on local radio airwaves, namely WMMR.

The Ballyhoo! track "Last Breath" was released on 'MMR's

Local Shots Vol. 1 last December, and Howi said the song will be put into rotation on 'MMR. Ballyhoo! also got props from Philly's Y100 (before it became an online-only entity) when it nominated the band for Best Unsigned Band in a 2004 poll of its listeners'.

Conceding that Baltimore/D.C.-area fans might not be thrilled to hear him say it, Howi noted the extra juice a Philly crowd brings to a Ballyhoo! show. "There's a different vibe than there is in Baltimore," he said. "I don't know what it is, but I feel Philly has a little more appreciation for live music."

Ballyhoo! — which includes current Philly resident Blaze on turntables, Howi on guitar and vocals, Dino on drums and bassist Mista J — has been

together for 11 years and released two full-length albums and an EP. The most recent album, *Do It For The Money!*, was released in January. Upcoming dates include a quick return to Philly on May 4 at the Pontiac Grille.

With accolades like the inclusion of its version of "40 Oz. To Freedom" on a Sublime tribute album released this year (which also featured Ozomatli and Voodoo Glow Skulls interpretations), at least one frontier remains relatively unconquered for the Ballyhoo! boys: Japan. The band is not a totally unknown quantity

there, however; 15 to 20 Ballyhoo! CDs have been sold in Japan, including seven copies sold to one fan, Howi said.

"I always wanted to say I'm big in Japan," he said, laughing.

WHAT: WMMR/Bud Light Spring Break '06

WHO: Soul Asylum, Switchfoot and Ballyhoo!

WHEN: Fri., Apr. 14, 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Liacouras Center, 1776 North Broad St., Philadelphia