

Reviews



"Satellite Rock"
The Mannish Boys
Amazing Records
★★★★

The Mannish Boys' follow-up to their debut album, "A Little Dab'll Do Ya," not only gives Texas blues fans a bigger dab, but places these guys as the best thing to happen to Texas blues since the Fabulous

Thunderbirds' flight to fame and fortune.

"Satellite Rock" is 10 songs of rockin' blues that swings from Chicago-style grit to rockabilly blasts and makes for another great album from Amazing Records.

Few studio albums, if any, capture a band's live sound. On "Satellite Rock" the Mannish Boys, aided by producer Stuart Sullivan, collaborate to transfer their barroom sound to vinyl. Powered by Gary Primich's wailing harmonica, Gil Hartman's stinging guitar leads, and the solid rhythm section of bassist Frankie J. Meyer and drummer Kenny Felton, the album preserves the spirited nature of the band's live sets.

As for the songs themselves,

there is not a weak one to be found. One of the album's lighter moments is the humor of "Money Habit." Primich sings the blues of the chronic spender on this song, a standard of the band's live shows.

The instrumental title cut is reminiscent of the T-Birds' "Down At Antone's," with the honking of Primich's harmonica leads and Felton and Meyer's shuffle beat.

Another jewel in this musical treasure chest, "Evil Hearted Woman" features great vocals by Primich and some furious guitar leads by Hartman.

Hartman shines most on "Running Wild" as he peels off some icy, Albert Collins-like leads guaranteed to chill the spine. He's also a solid rocker,

as the band's version of Eddie Clearwater's "Hillbilly Blues" demonstrates.

All of the songs on this album are good, but the last two tracks reveal that the band must have been saving the best for last. "Go On Fool," another great from the live stage, features a driving beat by Felton, and another mean harp solo by Primich. Guest artist Mike Kindred, who supplies piano and organ on several songs, rocks the ivories here.

The band then brings "Satellite Rock" to a smashing close with the rockabilly blast of "Don't Put That Thing On Me."

For pure blues power, this satellite carries enough to reach the next galaxy.

Review by Shane Hall

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Aggie Players open season, present political drama

By Richard Tijerina

The world premiere of Pat Pfeiffer's play "A Question of Identity" will be presented by the Aggie Players on October 7 in Rudder Forum at 8 p.m. The play will be making a two-weekend run.

"A Question of Identity," an intriguing political drama, explores the life and death of a fictional black civil rights leader through the eyes of a liberal white reporter.

The play, which was the winning entry in the Aggie Players 1988 New Plays Competition, was one of over 100 entries that came from 26 different states. It is the first production the Aggie Players are sponsoring this semester.

A&M playwright Charles Gordone will direct "A Question of Identity." Gordone, who won the 1970 Pulitzer Prize for his play, "No Place To Be Somebody," is currently a lecturer at A&M and working with Pfeiffer on the production.

Pfeiffer, a freelance writer from Los Angeles, California, submitted the winning script in last year's competition.

Since then, she has been working as an artist-in-

residence on campus, working with Gordone and the cast of the play.

"A Question of Identity" centers around a newsman's quest to uncover the circumstances of the black leader's controversial death. This quest for the truth leads him to several disturbing truths about the civil rights movement, American politics, race relations, modern journalism and himself.

Pfeiffer says the final draft of the play that will be presented on the stage is quite different from its original form. Through the rehearsal process, she and Gordone extensively rewrote the script.

"In the process of rehearsals, Charles has helped me to transform the play into what was a simple docu-drama into what is now genuine theater," Pfeiffer says. "I think we have a successful script, but we have substantially rewritten it during practice. Any new play, as this one is, undergoes substantial changes during an initial production."

Pfeiffer says she and Gordone have been working together on the play very closely, although there was

much more collaboration in the early phases of its production. She says she enjoys working with Gordone because of his professionalism.

"It's a bit of an ordeal, but what comes out is a professional production," she says. "It (the play) is his baby now. He knows his standards are very high and he stretches you to the best of your ability. I agree with him that good theater should engross, and if it loses interest then you should forget it. It's been a very positive experience, a very constructive experience."

The play was honored with a fellowship grant from the Writers' Guild of America East Foundation and also received an honorable mention award in the National Black Playwriting Contest.

"A Question of Identity" will be presented October 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15 at 8 p.m. in the Rudder Forum. Tickets are \$5 for the general public and \$4 for students and senior citizens. Reservations or ticket information can be made by calling the Rudder Box Office at 845-1234.



The Aggie Players

Department of Speech Communication & Theatre Arts
Texas A&M University
Present



A QUESTION OF IDENTITY

by Pat Pfeiffer

A gripping drama of political intrigue!

A Question of Identity tells the story of a prominent black civil rights leader who dies under mysterious circumstances and the liberal reporter who wants to find out why. His quest raises more questions than answers about American politics, race relations, and modern journalism. Along the way, the reporter encounters old enemies, the dead leader's mistress, and some disturbing truths about himself.

October 7, 8, 13, 14, & 15 8:00 PM
Rudder Forum

Texas A & M University

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