

Arts & Entertainment

Kristi Rose's voice coming to the Zoo

Preview by Stew Magnuson
Senior Reporter

Kristi Rose's voice. That might be the only thing people in downtown Lincoln will talk about this weekend. Even if you're just walking down 14th Street to get some cookies or ice cream, Rose's voice will grab your attention, make you forget about your sugar fix and suck you into the Zoo Bar to hear her golden pipes. Rose can sing it any way you want it. A raunch rock'n'roll voice, a country twang or soft erotic moans.

Kristi Rose and the Midnight Walkers will be at the Zoo tonight and Saturday.

Rose grew up near the Kentucky/Southern Illinois border listening to country-western, singing gospel mountain ballads in her church choir and getting the usual doses of rock'n'roll and '70s pop from nearby radio stations.

In 1980, she bought a one-way ticket to New York, carrying \$60 in her pocket and vague aspirations to perform.

"I always wanted to be a singer. But I had no idea how I was going to go about it . . . At the Pyramid Club I would just stand by a piano and sing Tammy Wynette covers," Rose said.

At The Pyramid Club she met Chris Christos, the Midnight Walkers' guitarist and Rose's co-writer. They formed the band in 1983, building a loyal following at The Pyramid Club.

"Our first following was drag queens and biker," Christos said. And they all got along great together.

"The only time we didn't get paid for playing our biker fans were there. At the end of the night, when we told them we didn't get paid . . . they tore the place up. That's the last time we didn't get paid in New York," Christos said.

The Midnight Walkers now includes Christos, Ricky Rothchild on drums and substitute bassist Steve Cohen.

Their recently released first LP, "Some People," on Rounder Records, is receiving critical acclaim and was recently voted Best New York Debut Album.

"We've been described as Tammy Wynette meets AC/DC," Rose said.

"But we're not that at all," Christos added. "People who don't know how to describe us call us that. There's a hard edge to our music. It's the intensity of the music, not the volume."

"I think the album is a good representation of us live," Rothchild said. "We're a no-gimmicks, no-frills guitar band with Kristi's big voice."

The LP was cut in two days with most of the songs performed live in the studio and few overdubs. Most of the songs are Rose-Christos creations, with three interesting covers, including a torchy version of the Everly Brothers' "Love Hurts" and a wild version of "Glory Hallelujah!"

Surf's up at McConaughy

Take a break, cruise the Caribbean with the Linoma Mashers

Preview by Tish Mockler
Staff Reporter

If dead week has made you wish you were dead, revive your sinking spirits this weekend when the sparkling tide of the Caribbean surges your way, via the Linoma Mashers.

The Mashers play rootsy island music within unabashed exuberance and a decidedly silly bent. They play everything from surf to calypso to romantic ballads. They also do a couple of tributes to "great" Nebraska reservoirs that are so catchy and unique that they could be considered a genre all their own.

The Mashers are Martin Elias, bass; Eric Goolsby, sound and percussion; Rex Gray, guitar and vocals; Steve Monson, drums; Mark Nelson, keyboards; Dan Prescher, vocals, guitar and saxophone; and Eric "the Wrecker," percussion.

The Mashers have been together for two years and are a "continuation in spirit" of "The Hut Suts," a ska band of which Gray, Monson and Prescher had been members.

Almost half of the songs they play are original, mostly written by Gray and Prescher. Some of their classics, like "Lake Okoboji (their "Anthem of Silli-

ness") and "Lake McConaughy," are group efforts. These tributes to Midwestern oases, which they call "the little Caribbean" are joyous and flamboyant songs:

"Do you wanna take a drive to west Nebraska? Well, I know I really don't have to ask ya./ There's a place with the bitchiest surfin' around./ And it's even got a super-cool prairie-dog town. Surf's up at McConaughy . . . Lake McConaughy."

Monson said they have limited their reservoir songs, but in the same breath, he pondered Lake Manawa's potential. They also play a few calypso classics like "The Big Bamboo" and "Behind for Your." Their version of "The Ten Commandments," in which Prescher enumerates 10 rules for a girlfriend to abide by, is sung with such gusto and humor that you have to forgive them for covering such a song.

The diversity of the band's personalities and their obvious rapport allow them room for some refreshing spontaneity and make for a friendly, relaxed atmosphere, that is easy to get swept up in. Prescher's uninhibited stage presence and Gray's soulful intensity complement each other.

Monson, a confessed "vinyl junkie,"

is a great resource person of island music, which is scarce, if not impossible, to locate in the United States.

"The Caribbean is the richest musical place in the world," he said.

Monson visits the islands once a year and says that he drops \$200 to \$300 on records. He has, as he joked, his "fingers on the Caribbean pulse."

Monson has been to the Carnival in Trinidad, a two-day street celebration with music and dancing in the streets. He and a few other Mashers and friends regularly bring a bit of the Carnival to Omaha when they join in parades. Their ribbon-winning "float" is a haywagon called "The Rainbow Zulu" on which they dress up in bright Carnival costumes and play drums and percussion instruments.

Prescher said that they can gauge how they are doing when they see strangers out dancing at the same frenzied pace as regulars, and so far they seem to be doing rather well. Now remember, there is life after finals. So take at least a four-hour break and dance your way to mental health with the Mashers and start to dream of the summer ahead.

The Linoma Mashers are playing at Chesterfield's tonight and Saturday night.



Ward Williams/Daily Nebraskan

Kristi Rose and the Midnight Walkers

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