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**Max P.
Martini's
Entertainment
Shorts**

Martini's Rating Scale
"No need - it's that good!"
"What the hell - just one!"
"Oh yeah - that's better!"
"You'll need 'em!"
"Wake me up when it's over!"

Mad About Madonna?

Mad'House
Absolutely Mad
Radikal Records, enhanced CD
www.radikal.com

Mad'House's new enhanced CD, *Absolutely Mad*, is being billed as "the ultimate" Madonna tribute album. Made in France by producers Bambi (yes, you read it right!) Mukendi and Stephane Durand, this CD hit the US market in November 2002 and has actually been getting some significant airtime on pop radio stations with the current single from the CD *Like A Prayer*, which also made the top 25 on the Billboard Dance Singles Sales Chart.

The CD contains 14 tracks of Madonna songs like "Vogue," "Papa Don't Preach," and "Like A Virgin." The true Madonna aficionado will no doubt also recognize "Frozen" and "Lady of the Dawn." The CD also contains two videos (watch out - you'll need a translator for the installation instructions as they aren't in English) of Mad'House performing

"Like A Prayer" and "Holiday," as well as a photo gallery and wallpaper for your computer.

The opening 10 seconds of the CD has us "tuning in" on Madonna transmissions from outer space and then we are turbo-blasted to the club dance floor with a booming rendition of "Into The Groove." Most of the tracks have enough pulsing bass to rock your world or at least rattle the windows! If you are a Madonna fan you'll be absolutely mad about this CD. If you're not, you'll just be absolutely mad you bought it!

Max's personal Martini Rating = 4.5

**And Now For Something
Completely Different!**

Donald Currie
Sex & Mayhem - Part One
(http://cdbaby.com/donaldcurrie)

It's a movie on CD without the movie. It's an audiobook without the book. It is ... well ... it's ... something completely different, and you really have to hear it to believe it. Donald Currie brings us on a sound-filled journey through his life as a gay kid growing up in San Francisco in the 1950s and early 60s. It's a story about the quest for love, acceptance, and yes SEX!

From the lights-camera-action "Intro" track to the closing credits of the "Outro" track, the listener is treated to the funny and touching story of Currie's first real love. Currie is clear right off, declaring, "This is my story, most of it true. It's a tawdry tale ... but

then, whose isn't?" Like any trip though, it's not a "straight" (excuse the pun) line from point A to point B as we weave in and out of the main storyline.

We learn about playing Chicken Little in kindergarten, being dressed by mom, seeing *The Wizard of Oz* on the silver screen, muscle magazines, and being a star in grandma's senile eye. Two of the most memorable excursions for this reviewer were Currie's "big bay window" fantasy and his reenactment of Marilyn Monroe's performance in *The Seven Year Itch* for his parents.

Currie wrote, directed, and performs the entire piece and does it all brilliantly. But don't just take this reviewer's word for it. East Bay Express listed *Sex & Mayhem - Part One* as one of the ten best CDs of 2002, and the Stonewall Society awarded Donald Currie the "Best Literary Performer" Award for 2002. Lucky for us, Currie is already working on Part Two.

Take it from me folks; this is the most entertainment I've had in my daily commute up Interstate 89 in months. My advice to you is to turn VPR off, turn Donald Currie's *Sex & Mayhem - Part One* on, and strap yourself in for one wild ride.

Max's personal Martini Rating = 0

Max Martini is willing to try anything once, does enjoy an occasional martini or two, but prefers Tab®, especially when negotiating his commute!

Rising Stars to Get Northern Exposure

Sarah Bolen

March 6: Radio Bean, Burlington
March 7: 135 Pearl, Burlington

Skott Freedman

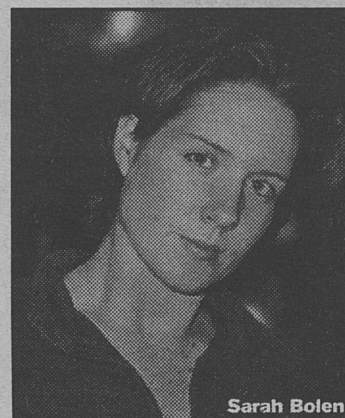
April 3: UVM

BY ROLAND PALMER

Young, talented, and masters of their chosen instruments, Sarah Bolen and Skott Freedman will both be performing in Burlington, Vermont in the next couple of months. Bolen, who performed at 135 Pearl in January 2003, will be back for two solo performances. Freedman, who has previously played at Saint Michael's and Dartmouth College, will be at the University of Vermont.

Sarah Bolen grew up in Chapel Hill, North Carolina and graduated from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill with a master's in political science and minor in Spanish. Her relatively late start on the guitar (in 1993), is surprising once you hear how masterfully she plays. Her 2001 debut release, *Naked On The Inside*, was written, preformed, produced, and financed by Bolen while she was still in college. She is now living in Northampton, MA and touring to promote her newest CD, *Late Night Confessions*.

Skott Freedman grew up in New Jersey and was a child piano prodigy; winning statewide competitions by the time he was fifteen. Freedman released his debut CD, *Swimming After Dark*, in 1999, followed by a limited four song extended play release, *Best Little Boy*, in 2000. His third recording, which was his first full-band effort,



Sarah Bolen



Skott Freedman

titled *Anything Worth Mentioning* received glowing reviews and was voted #1 album on the *Outvoice* charts in May 2001. Freedman was named the 2002 Outmusic award winner for Best New Recording - Male and is now touring to promote his fourth CD, *Some Company*. Freedman is currently the nation's youngest touring bisexual activist who when not performing travels the country with his lecture, "Battling Biphobia and Bringing Bisexuals Back to Both Communities."

Having never heard either of these rising stars, I was amazed to discover many similarities between these two performers. Both Sarah and Skott have not only started to gain recognition in the United States but have toured internationally as well. Sarah has performed in Spain and Italy, while Skott most recently performed in Sydney, Australia. Skott and Sarah are amazingly talented musicians who play their chosen instruments, piano and acoustic guitar respectively, expertly and with passion.

Both are heartfelt, talented songwriters whose lyrics are honest, refreshing, and truly original. In Bolen's

"BFF", we hear "I am jealous of that one strand of hair, strays from the rest to flirt with your eye" while in Freedman's "Fairytale" we hear "Well it can't always be like the fairytales that we used to believe, and sooner or later time's gonna run out." Bolen and Freedman's songs make you think, feel, and wonder. Both also use their voices as an instrument, which makes listening to them perform with only their guitar and piano, a truly melodic experience, where you can really focus on what they are singing about.

I encourage you to catch both of these performers at their upcoming live Burlington performances, as like shooting stars they'll be here only briefly but to hear them live will truly be a memorable musical event you won't soon forget. If you can't catch them you can listen to audio clips and read their song lyrics on their web sites - www.sarahbolen.com and www.skottfreedman.com. ▼

Roland Palmer is the President of the Board of Mountain Pride Media and an occasional contributor to these pages. He lives in Hinesburg.