



Paul Nassari  
**LOCAL VIBE**

**Monkey mayhem**

--- ROOTS and alt. country duo The Yearlings, The Joans and melancholic Lady Grace from Victoria will put on a rare show at the Jade Monkey on October 2. The Yearlings have pulled many five-star reviews for third album *Highway Dancing*, as well as major airplay and sold-out shows. The Joans are something of an Adelaide spooky folk/blues supergroup, bringing together members of The Fiddle Chicks, Problem Pony and GT Stringer. Details: Jade Monkey, 8232 0950.

**Blues mini-fest**

--- ADELAIDE blues enthusiasts will be able to lap up the inaugural Juke Joint at Queens on October 4. This mini-fest features SA artists Sweet Baby James and Rob Eyers, harmonica player Dave Blight, Streamliners' frontman Nick Kipridis, winners of the Killing Floor Blues Challenge, revered harmonica player Chris Wilson, ARIA-winning trio Collard Greens & Gravy, and MBAS Blues Music Award-winner, Suzannah Espie. Bookings: Venuetix. Details: adelaideblues festival.com

**Select gathering**

--- STYLISH cocktail lounge bar Cushdy (279 Hindley St) throws open its doors for its new live Jazz & Cocktails night, with inaugural act Ben Harrison Trio, on October 3. The jazz club is inspired by London and New York venues. Cushdy is open Fridays and Saturdays but also has private functions the rest of the week. Details: cushdy.com.au

**Retro raves**

--- THE second appearance of R&B seasoned veterans Hoy-Hoy! at Studio 89 (89 Prospect Rd, Prospect) on October 4 promises to be an opportunity to get up and boogie. Using the smaller-sized venue to its advantage, Hoy-Hoy! will pull out their vintage amps and have a ball playing the swing and jump tunes from the early days with a real retro sound, covering Elvis, Dave Edmunds, Teddy Morgan, The Blasters, Bill Hayley, The Fabulous Thunderbirds and Willie Dixon. Details: 8342 1189.

**Best in the West**

--- THE West End Music Festival wraps up its four-day program with a skate and BMX demo day at City SK8, North Tce, today. DJs from Da Klinik, plus bikers and boarders, will rock the park from noon, and there's a cash prize for the most outrageous tricks. For those looking for something a bit more musical, catch the Cal Williams Jr Trio's EP launch at the Grace Emily at 8pm.

Email: nazz1969@gmail.com

# 'Our' Abi back to first love

After starring in iconic Aussie TV shows, versatile Abi Tucker is back making music, says **SALLY BROWNE**

**W**HEN you play a character for as long as Abi Tucker does, it's hard not to take a piece of them away with you.

Since playing the free-spirited farmgirl Grace McLeod, from South Australian-shot TV series *McLeod's Daughters*, which wrapped up filming this year, she owns more pairs of jeans than ever before.

"I've got five pairs," she giggles down the line from Sydney. "I've never owned so many jeans in my life. I was never a jeans wearer."

It's been the same for a number of her roles. While playing goth chick May in the 2000 film *Angst*, she started wearing darker, floatier clothing. After winding up the *Secret Life of Us*, in which she played funky singer Miranda Lang for three years, that character had become so much a part of her life that walking into a dress shop she couldn't decide what to wear.

"I didn't know what I wanted to look like," she says. "When you've worn a character for a long period of time, and you walk away from that person, there's quite a period of readjustment that you have."

"With *McLeod's Daughters*, that was a massive jolt for me because there was a period of

real learning, I was learning how to be a farm person. It was a phenomenal experience. I loved the show and being in that element for so long that now I've finished shooting *McLeod's*, I'm still wondering what I want to look like."

Tucker might have made a career of pretending to be other people, but on her new record *One December Moon* she is very much herself. The record, a follow-up to her 2003 debut *Dreamworld*, contains personal stories such as the title track, about meeting someone in an internet cafe while in the Outback, and *Hollywood Ending*, about a brief encounter.

She admits that she loves stories. "That's part of what music is to me as well it's more a story than a song," she says before adding self-consciously: "That sounds a bit naff."

She wrote much of the music while on the road touring *Dreamworld*, which was released at the height of her *Secret Life of Us* fame, but before you can say "TV show cash-in" it must be remembered that Tucker has been making music successfully since winning the *New Faces* talent show in 1992.

She formed her first band Jatz and The Crackers when she was just 14. And while she was playing Jodie Cooper, who started out as a rap-



**DOWN TO EARTH:** Abi Tucker says she loved living in Adelaide.

per on *Highbreak High*, off-set she was singing her lungs out in heavy metal-inspired band called Damnation.

Tucker has been able to marry her songwriting and acting career so well that her songs have been in the soundtracks to her shows, and in both *Heartbreak High* and *Secret Life of Us*, she played aspiring singers.

Her current single *Hey You*, plus new song *Speak My Angel* both feature in *McLeod's*. But such success

has its downside. "There is that double-edged sword where people sometimes have an opinion before hearing the music," she says. *One December Moon*, which features a range of talented musicians including harpists from the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, presents a more grown-up Tucker. She has followed her career around the planet, moving to Melbourne for *Secret Life of Us*, then to London for a record contract and then to Adelaide

to join *McLeod's*. The Sydney-sider loved living in Adelaide. "It was sad and it was joyous," she says of the last days of shooting *McLeod's*.

At the moment there are no acting roles on the horizon, but it's giving Tucker the freedom to focus on her music, which she will be taking on the road in November.

"At the moment I'm just settling in and want to focus on this as it is a big deal," she says.

**One December Moon is out now.**

adelaidenow.com.au  
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**THE Top 10 iTunes songs in Australia as of 5pm, Friday:**

- 1) *So What*, P!nk (1).
- 2) *Just Dance*, Lady Gaga (3).
- 3) *I'm Yours*, Jason Mraz (2).
- 4) *Hot N Cold*, Katy Perry (6).
- 5) *All Summer Long*, Kid Rock (4).
- 6) *Disturbia*, Rihanna (5).
- 7) *Closer*, Ne-Yo (-).
- 8) *Shake It*, Metro Station (7).
- 9) *Sex on Fire*, Kings of Leon (9).
- 10) *Electric Feel*, MGMT (8).



**POP/ROCK**  
**Svn fngrs**  
Black Francis (Cooking Vinyl/Shock)  
★★★★½

**In short:** Twisted pop.

--- FANS who either found themselves back on a mega-Pixies trip or those who discovered them for first time after the recent re-union tour will be grateful to know it appears to have awoken the old monster in Francis' songwriting.

The rumour is this was written for possible inclusion on a "new" Pixies record. Whether that's true, the material shows telling tips of the hat towards both his Pixies past as well as his first couple of solo albums. Like any long-time fan of this great man, I've given up trying to make sense of his surreal lyrics and just adore them for all their divine oddness.

Opener *The Seus* is a bizarre pastiche of mega-quirky indie pop with rap and spoken word elements.

Paul Nassari

**ALT. ROCK**  
**proVISIONS**  
Giant Sand (Yep Roc)  
★★★★

**In short:** Sand-man delivers.

--- THE prolific Howe Gelb and his band Giant Sand have been one of the influences in creating a distinctive American sound.

The wide, open spaces of their base in Tucson, Arizona have helped shape Sand's trademark sprawling arrangements.

The songs have a feel that is large and languid. Guitars are heavy with tremolo and reverb, with a distinct western flavour. Giant Sand has been described as Lou Reed and John Cale meet Brian Wilson and Johnny Cash, and that's pretty close. *proVISIONS* was recorded in Tucson and Denmark. Outstanding tracks are *The Desperate Kingdom of Love*, written by past Sand collaborator P.J. Harvey, and the fuzz-guitar-drenched *World's End Start Park*.

Greg Reilly

**WORLD POP**  
**(Coup D'tat) Pt 3/ The Next Chapter**  
Various (Filter/Shock)  
★★★★

**In short:** Awesome exotica.

--- THIS 26-track, double-disc set takes its listener all over Europe, South America, Africa and Asia to reveal a melting pot of emerging international sounds which fuse 21st-century modernity with rich old-world culture.

The divine and dreamy Yael Naim (like Laura Marling crossed with Norah Jones) and gorgeous chiming twin vocals of The D are just two of the highlights in this excellent set.

Some more well-known names turn up, such as the always worthy Gotan Project, Vanessa Da Mata featuring Ben Harper, Moriarty's Amy Winehouse goes cool country on *Osh-kosk Bend*, and The Clash's *Rock The Casbah* gets sexy undertones by Rachid Taha.

Paul Nassari

**LOUNGE**  
**Fever Italia 2008**  
Various (Filter/Shock)  
★★★★½

**In short:** Molto bene.

--- ONCE again *Fever Italia* offers a yummy serving with its annual unofficial soundtrack to the Italian Film Festival, utilising classic soundtracks, acoustic jazz and pop.

Fans of cool and exotic old-school jazz get loads of love here thanks to Ennio Morricone's light pop *Le Foto Proibite Di Una Signora Per Bene*, Gianmaria Testa's smooth and sultry *La Traiettorie Delle Mongolfiere*, Nino Roti's gentle tenor sax *Patricia* (which segues into a famous circus theme), Les Italiens' *Ultimo Amore* and Claudio Villa's breezy *La Strada Del Bosco*.

There's a slice of comic fun courtesy of Luciano Pavarotti, Henry Mancini & Orchestra's sprightly *Voglio Vivere Così*.

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