

March 30, 2009

Hi guys, here's this week's article about fashion, super puma and texas club. I had trouble getting across town for the Haunted show and got there just as it finished. I took the photos, per usual. The first is Super Puma, the second is bartender Maria. I have more pix if you need them. Call if you have questions, talk soon, P

Big Cats in Athens!
Fashion Week Catwalk, Super Puma
and Texas Necropolis Club Update

As we all know, or, at least should know, rock n' roll is about style. It is one of the greatest artistic vehicles in human history that allows kids to not only play their instruments, but wear their attitude toward life, art and society. Fan clubs are built around not only the musical product, but the visual image that goes along with it. When a band can translate their ideas through its music and style through its couture, listeners not only see themselves in the product, but experience an identity exchange with the artists. This phenomenon has been seen countless times. Scads of kids worldwide used to dress up like Elvis, David Bowie, Prince, Motley Crue and the Beatles. The last two actually started their own clothing lines. And as we also should know, Sonic Boomtown spoon-feeds you the local cultural grooviness in spades. Dare I say, the Athenian "IN" crowd simply gobbles-up the column's pearly words every week while drinking their friday morning coffee. So, when I tell you to check something out, please do so. It's good for you. So here's the poop for this week's edition.

On the Sonic Boomtown hotline in Kallithea, I received two phone calls from my Street Agents of Fabulousness (SAOF), Ersi and Billy Z. Ersi simply demanded that I see the Yiorgos Eleftheriades Autumn/Winter 2009-2010 catwalk show at Technopolis Art Center. Eleftheriades is one of the few, perhaps the only, name Greek designer who combines urban sophistication with a rock edge to his upcoming collection. The crowd at his Fashion Week runway show was wowed by his chic-but-street looks for both the men's and women's collection.

On the rock n' roll side of the equation, local promotion legend/musician/artist and SAOF, Billy Z called me in a panic. He was ecstatic about up-and-coming local rockers Super Puma. In our conversation he was nearly lathering in praise about them. We met a the new, turbo-charged Texas Necropolis club on Sunday, March 29, to see the band play live.

Billy could not have been more correct in his exaltations of the group. The four-man rock ensemble from Exarheia play neck-bopping, wild-eyed rock like such paragons as Blue Oyster Cult, Alice Cooper and Motorhead in their glory years. Although their influences are mainly from the 1970s, their songs have an up-to-date feel that can attract any rock fan who uses his head, but still like to shake his butt.

Front man Lefteris is muscular, Bryan Ferry-esque cool, and slightly less scuzzed-out than Jane's Addiction former singer Perry Farrell. He knows when to jump around, be real slick or slink across the stage to dick around with his bandmates and have fun. Guitarist Daniel, the secret smart guy of the group, uses raw power barre-chords, elfen like leads and lots of muted strings and pick-dust to create a massive arena sound that curls the toes of the listeners. He is one of the few young guitarists who uses multi-effect pedals tastefully and to their fullest advantage. Bassist Vasillis, with this phantom-of-the-opera/heavy basement dweller persona provides sweeping atmosphere to all pieces while still keeping the bottom half of the song completely solid. Drummer Nontas has found the space around the human heartbeat and plays circles around it in a perfect rock beat. He accents every song, like Ringo Starr, with simple, strong measures that are never the same and always completely engaging for the listener to hear. Look for more of their shows in town in the near future.

Big kudos must go to the Texas Necropolis club for their upgrade. The former Underworld club has been cleaned-up, and the sound system is now clean as a lightning stroke for the audience. The same motif of industrial sub-basement, light torture-porn is still in tact, but the whole place has a much cleaner, audience-friendly feel to it. It is a marked improvement from its former self. Don't worry kids, bartender Maria, an icon of the night-life subculture is still there and pleasant as ever.

And finally, a note to the clever readers of Sonic Boomtown. I am always looking for the way-past-cool local stuff to write about and could use a few more Street Agents of Fabulousness (SAOFs) to give me some clues as to what hot and what's not. Should you have any ideas for local band articles, trendy stuff, or rock culture pieces, please e-mail me your thoughts. This is a win-win situation. Anybody can see that. Club update coming soon.