

## High-kicking Devil-Ettes Dance troupe celebrating 3rd anniversary

James Sullivan

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At this point the Devil-Ettes can say it with confidence: They are, without a doubt, the Bay Area's most beloved synchronized dancers.

When these classy showgirls shimmied their first ko-ko-bops three years ago,

they had little reason to believe they'd soon have a small-scale institution on their hands. They came into existence as a Christmas party lark among self-described (and way too modest) "no-talent" staff members of two sister clubs, the Casanova Lounge and the dearly departed pizza-and-playlist joint, Radio Valencia.

Three years later, the restaurant is a thing of the past, but the Devil-Ettes are here to stay. To celebrate the troupe's anniversary, another Mission District mainstay, the Roxie, will screen "Twist All Night." The movie features Louis Prima as a bandleader who throws a block party for the kids who have been crowding his nightclub. The Devil-Ettes certainly have a talent for that. .

Devil-Ettes 3rd Anniversary Go-Go Fest, 7:30 and 9:45 tonight at Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St., San Francisco. Tickets \$3-7.  (415) 863-1087 or [www.roxie.com](http://www.roxie.com).

The Pound, the state-of-the-art rawk nightclub way out on Pier 96 in Bayview/Hunters Point, abruptly canceled its New Year's Eve show with L.A. Guns the day of the gig. Let's hope the planning goes a little more smoothly for tomorrow's show, which features guitarist Sylvain Sylvain, a surviving member of the New York Dolls.

The legacy of the Dolls -- the outrage that Kiss always wished it could be -- has survived the deaths of original drummer Billy Murcia, his replacement Jerry Nolan and guitarist Johnny Thunders, the short-lived stewardship of Malcolm McLaren (pre-Sex Pistols) and the post-band career of singer David Johansen, including his heinous alter ego, Buster Poindexter. At this point, Sylvain deserves a heap of credit just for showing up. .

Sylvain Sylvain with Red Planet, Hot Box, Chix Pack, 8 p.m. tomorrow at Pound-SF, Pier 96, 100 Cargo, San Francisco. Tickets \$12.  (415) 826-9202 or [www.poundsf.com](http://www.poundsf.com)

Several months back, the shadowy Pacific Northwest solo act M. Ward played the opening slot at a



midweek Great American Music Hall show. A scant trickle of customers had wandered in by the time he was finished, but those on hand were surely sold on his obvious talent.

Ward's "End of Amnesia," on the local Future Farmer label, was one of the most beguiling records of last year, a brooding, elegiac, largely instrumental performance that seemed to open a hidden crawl space for the stereotypical man- with-guitar. Ward, still widely unknown, is the opening act again tomorrow at the Music Hall. Better three hours too soon than a minute too late, as our man Shakespeare once wrote.

Freedy Johnston, Ken Stringfellow, M. Ward, 8 p.m. tomorrow at Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell, San Francisco. Tickets \$12.  (415) 885-0750 or [www.musichallsf.com](http://www.musichallsf.com).

What Ward is to songwriters, New York's Aesop Rock and Cannibal Ox are to rap. Not for them the frivolous fantasyland of pop success; they'd much rather confront the truth as they see it. (On "Save Yourself," Rock name-checks Holden Caulfield, which might be a first for hip-hop and should provide some idea of where this particular rapper is coming from.)

Both acts have been touted as the future of hip-hop. Gaze into the crystal ball when they hit the Justice League together Wednesday. .

Aesop Rock, Cannibal Ox, 9 p.m. Wednesday at Justice League, 628 Divisadero,

San Francisco. Tickets \$13-\$15.  (415) 289-2038 .

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