

music blog – Big music week in the Bay Area

By Tiki Houseman, 29-July-2008

<http://www.myspace.com/tikihouseman>

I wrote two new songs this week. This is an absolute record for me and so I was exited about getting a good number at [the Utah](#)¹ last night. I wasn't sure which song I was going to perform -- I had practiced all weekend and it really came down to how I felt once I got onstage.

I chose the bluesy woman-empowering (at least I hope it is) song I named "Wonder Woman" -- probably because I was following the uber hip [Jesse Dyen](#)² who was the feature last night (I didn't want to follow up with a sad, depressing song like the second one I wrote, which is about how time goes slowly when you're hurting inside). "Wonder Woman" is more about not being bought in a relationship and being yourself (gee, I wonder where I got inspiration for this? I could have easily wrote about an Incubus)

It was a fantastic night. First of all, there was an artist named Jane Louie who I really liked. She had been drawing bad numbers, so [JJ Schultz](#)³ gave her his number (what a mensch!). You can hear her by going to [the Utah site](#)⁴ and searching her name (probably won't be up until Wednesday, though).

[James Frost Winn](#)⁵ played -- always my favorite -- with [GG](#)⁶ on the drums (GG was very busy last night holding down the backbone for many artists). He will be playing at the Broadway Studios on Friday. GG will be playing at the Utah on Friday with [Roger Rocha and the Goldenhearts](#)⁷ and [Kelly McFarling](#)⁸.

[Dave G](#)⁹ announced that he is forming a band -- I think with Jesse and GG? Anyway, we have been anticipating this and he is playing tonight at the Utah (and [Nutarah](#)¹⁰ is playing at the Brainwash as well). It's exciting to watch this progress.

As I mentioned earlier, Jesse Dyen was the feature and normally I hear Jesse play on the piano, but last night he also played guitar. Jesse's songwriting is top notch and political -- I

¹ Hotel Utah Open with host JJ Schultz – <http://theutah.org> –and- <http://www.myspace.com/theutah>

² Jesse Dyen – <http://www.myspace.com/jessedyen>

³ JJ Schultz – <http://jjschultz.com>

⁴ <http://theutah.org>

⁵ James Frost Winn – <http://www.myspace.com/jazzmanjameslv>

⁶ GG Tanaka – <http://www.ggtanaka.com> –and- <http://www.myspace.com/ggtanaka>

⁷ Roger Rocha and the Goldenhearts – <http://www.myspace.com/thegoldenhearts>

⁸ Kelly McFarling – <http://www.myspace.com/kellymcfarlingmusic>

⁹ Dave G – <http://www.myspace.com/davegursommusic>

¹⁰ Nutarah – <http://www.myspace.com/nutarah>

love it when artists take a stand on something. My favorite song is "Sons and Daughters" and you can hear his performance on the [the Utah site](#)¹¹. Very moving.

I was pleasantly surprised when Roger Rocha told me he had an extra ticket to see [the Watson Twins](#)¹². I was not familiar with them but I always like discovering new artists. We left and went to the Bottom of the Hill and caught the last half hour of their set. They performed an amazing cover of a Cure song.

I'm a converted fan -- they were incredible. The Watson Twins are, well, twins! They both sing, play the guitar and play harmonica and they have a fantastic band backing them. I kind of was wishing I was a twin and could play music with my sister (my sister and I are close -- don't get me wrong -- but instead of playing music together she convinced me that if I were to ever have a decent conversation with her while she was in medical school, that I should read the same books she was reading -- books on infectious disease, Syphilis and dying. I'm not bitter, really).

Also interesting was the cab rides to and from the Bottom of the Hill. Roger is very good at asking questions and talking to people. The first cabbie was obsessing about buying milk before he returned home and the conversation that followed was about eating healthy, not eating sugar, not drinking tap water (I don't agree with this -- I think our tap water is great, unless you live in Davis where it's radioactive, IMHO) and how dangerous *things* are.

You can't live life in a plastic bubble. We all have to die of something someday and frankly, I don't want to live to be 100 where half of my life would be spent being bald and incontinent. Give me my doughnuts and let me live to the ripe age of 54 and I'll be very happy indeed.

The second cabbie was an artist named "Spirit" who will be debuting erotic art on the Internet in a couple of months. I asked her if she was working from live models or her imagination (I was curious), and she said that she's inspired by her husband, a bodybuilder, who she's been married to for 13 years. Wow! She also told us something about an old astrological sign that the Catholic Church kicked out, but I really don't remember anything else about the conversation except that I was very entertained! I'm not sure why the Catholic Church would keep any astrological sign, but I'm not well-versed on normal Catholicism since I'm just a Jewish girl who went to a Catholic school run by Irish nuns. What do I know?

¹¹ Utah Open Mic website – <http://theutah.org>

¹² The Watson Twins – <http://www.myspace.com/thewatsonstwins>