

music blog - Red Devil Lounge, San Francisco

By Tiki Houseman, 9-July-2008

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Even though the [Red Devil Lounge](#)¹ is an easy four blocks from my flat, I had never been there until tonight to support [Victoria and the Vaudevillians](#)² and [GG Tanaka](#)³ (who was playing the violin).

[Leslie Rafferty](#)⁴ and [Rebecca Cross](#)⁵ were also playing. Leslie I know, but had never been to one of her shows, and [Jesse Dyen](#)⁶ and [Dave G](#)⁷ were backing her. I had never heard of Rebecca Cross, but I'll get to her in a bit.

Leslie and Victoria could not be more worlds apart in their music and their stage personalities. Leslie has her zen-like attire of jeans and a t-shirt, and belts out heart-felt songs with a big Kentucky voice.

Victoria is all drama and she is prepared -- she came in with her truck of clothes, props and theatrical supporters, who are part of her show. Victoria's music is like Kate Bush meets Wes Craven, with a touch of German cabaret. Her songs are funny, dramatic and basically, she is telling a story with a lot of flair.

The [Red Devil Lounge](#) is a great venue for artists: it has a proper stage with track lighting and a bona fide sound person. The walls and tables are black, but it is brightened by red velvet curtains and lamps (devil-like -- get it?).

And it's in a busy neighborhood -- bunnyville -- where there's a built-in crowd with LV bags and Oakly sunglasses pouring into the neighborhood watering holes like animals in the savannah quenching their thirst. And this is wonderful.

Musicians are really beer and vodka salesmen. A booker/bar owner would prefer fewer friends who are drunk and wasted than double the crowd of abstinents. (Even though musicians probably prefer the latter!)

¹ Red Devil Lounge, San Francisco, CA – www.reddevillounge.com

² Victoria and the Vaudevillians – <http://www.myspace.com/victoriavband>

³ GG Tanaka – <http://www.ggtanaka.com> –and- <http://www.myspace.com/ggtanaka>

⁴ Leslie Rafferty – <http://www.myspace.com/raffertyleslie>

⁵ Rebecca Cross – <http://www.myspace.com/rebeccacross>

⁶ Jesse Dyen – <http://www.myspace.com/jessedyen>

⁷ Dave G - <http://www.myspace.com/davegursommusic>

Musicians and "outsiders/supporters" are separated by a green day-glo wrist bands. An old crippled dog with his tail dragging loped in, not pandering to the attention of humans. I think if he could have flipped me off, he would have (but at the end of the night when he wandered in, he did lick my hand).

Rebecca Cross had the "sweet spot" -- in-between Leslie and Victoria -- and has a very good draw. She knows how to command an audience and had some fantastic musicians backing her, including a violinist and a trumpet player. Her songs have interesting changes and her words are provocative ("literate" is how Jesse described her). My favorite song was "Barely Human" (had the trumpet in the background) -- [check it out!](#)