

Entertainment In The Hamptons

The Queen of the Hamptons Rock Scene

I had never heard Nancy Atlas' music before now, but I was interested in what her double disc album had to offer. And from the moment that I played the disc, I listened to the music without interruption. Her latest CD, "Feels Like Home," had me hooked. Now a Nancy Atlas fan, I was curious to discover what stories and experiences could shape an amazing album like this one. Here is the scoop from my interview with the local rock legend.

Q: What is a typical day like for Nancy Atlas?

A: A typical day starts tired and ends tired, which is good thing! It starts with a nice cup of PG Tibs English breakfast tea with milk and sugar and a bottle of milk for the baby! I am never off. People always say, 'Wow, it must be so wonderful to be a rock n' roll musician!' as if all I do is what they see on the stage and sit by a pool drinking cocktails all day. I am a musician but I am also an entrepreneur.

Q: How did the idea for a concert at Guild Hall come about and what went into the planning process?

A: I had my son, Cashus Lee, last March. Alas, my world is always 3-6 months ahead. For example, I will be booking Christmas parties when it is still very warm out. Fans have been asking for a live album for a long time and this seemed like the perfect time to do it. So I called up Josh and booked out Guild Hall for two days and then started lining up the troops. It was a massive undertaking. I hired Cynthia Daniels and Neveva Productions, which is a mobile recording truck. I flew in Drew Holshouser, who is known as the "Sound God," to do the front of the house, as he was on tour with The Subdudes. Then I contacted

Plum Television. David Kuhn was onboard to film it with five cameras and his entourage – plus the band and a few extra top-shelf players in the area, which all resulted in the double disc CD and a solid DVD.

Q: I hear a lot about Large Marge on the album, who exactly is Large Marge? Do you have a story about her to share with *Dan's Papers'* readers?

A: Large Marge is my 1990 B150 Extend Pistachio green Dodge van. She is more famous than any of us. This car has taken the whole band, plus PA's and instruments, on tours across the southern parts of this fine country. She is my girl. I love her. She's saddled right up there with my dog, my husband, my baby and my guitar. My favorite Large Marge story is that we took her on tour and she drove from Sag Harbor to Charleston, Key West, New Orleans, Memphis and Nashville and we ended playing a show for the Kentucky Derby. After the show, we drove home for 17 hours, straight through the night. She got everyone home and then broke down in my driveway. Now that is a bloody tour van.

Q: There is a wide variety of music on the album, what do you have to say about that?

A: Everyone owns an album that has one great single and the rest of the album sucks. I don't roll that way. I am a songwriter first and a singer second. I love reggae, rock n' roll, Americana and Southern rock. Because I own my own label



Photo by Victoria Cooper

(Neptuna Records), I am free to do whatever the hell I want. The three songs that seem to be the cult favorites are "Tequila Sheila," "Galaxy Eyes" and "Boots."

Q: What inspires you most about the East End as an artist?

A: The scenic beauty and the solitude. I am always amazed at the wonderful trails and beaches we have out here and the very few people that actually walk them. I go for the most amazing walks in the fall and winter where I am literally the only footprints in the snow. I work lyrics out amongst the rustle of the leaves.

Nancy Atlas describes her music and style as "American Rock with a touch of Southern Comfort."

Nancy Atlas can be as sweet as Norah Jones then, in a moment, make you feel like you're at an Allman Brothers Concert. I highly recommend Nancy Atlas' newest album "Feels Like Home." If you are looking for Nancy Atlas' album "Feels Like Home" or would just like to see her perform live, she will be playing this Friday, July 6 at the Stephen Talkhouse in Amagansett at 11 p.m. Fans can always find out what's going on at www.nancy-atlas.com and her latest CD and DVD are available locally at Gone Local in Amagansett, Long Island Sound Music in East Hampton and Flashbacks in Sag Harbor. They are also downloadable at www.Digstation.com and will be up on iTunes shortly.

– Jason Dadarria



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