



LIVE AT LEFTYS CANDLELIGHT BAR & GRILL

BY MIKE FERRARI



**the who's who of L.I. Blues:
Sweet Suzi, Pamela Betti,
Gary Sellars and Sam Taylor**

So I get a call from Leftys manager Rob Lepano, "Hey Mike, it's Rob. Why don't you come down Saturday night we have some Blues going on with Sweet Suzi...".

Now I had seen Sweet Suzi and the Blues Experience before at Leftys. This woman can belt the blues out like no one's business. So I figure any excuse to sip a Guinness and take in some blues is an Aural Fix agenda

to-do item! Turns out Sweet Suzi was trying to raise funds to get down to Memphis for the The 23rd International Blues Challenge and had brought some big guns to take the fund raising party to a new level by including local legend and Long Island Music Hall of Fame inductee Sam Taylor.

Also on the bill was Taylor blues disciple Gary Sellars and firecracker blues gal Pamela Betti. If you like the blues and don't know these names, put down this rag right now and go online and look 'em up and give them a listen – this is top shelf L.I. Blues!

If you didn't know, Long Island has a rather vibrant and close knit Blues scene. Thousands flock out to Riverhead for the annual Blues Festival out there.

But tonight some of the cream of the crop was right here in Lindenhurst – who says there no culture on the South Shore?!

www.dirtyloveband.com

www.garysellars.com

www.bluesexperienceband.com

www.bluzman.com



FLAMIN MERKIN

Another cool band I came across at Leftys is Flamin Merkin. Yeah, I know the name is well... never mind that right now.

They have a cool modern rock sound with influences of older Radiohead, The Cure, maybe a little Catherine Wheel. Some songs are crisp and kinda of pop, while other songs kind of delightfully meander into some kind of alternative rock jam, think of as an anti-phish thing.

As of now they don't have a web site, and probably the only band not on myspace at the moment, but they are working on a CD which should be out later this Spring.

So until then you'll just have to catch them live, which your next chance will probably be in April at Leftys on a Saturday night!

AMERICAN "IDLE" PREMIERES CD

BY HANK STONE



DanLowery&JohnnyCuomo

The Setauket Neighborhood House was a fitting location for the party and concert celebrating the release of Johnny Cuomo's "American Idle." Cuomo is a veteran of traditional Irish music as well as of rock, and the large room of this historic house put a perfect frame around his Dylan-flavored music, lyrics, and voice. The title and many of the lyrics poke sly fun at the popular TV show, and also express the deeper emotions unknown to participants of that contest. Accompanied though most of the show by Dan Lowery on acoustic lead and

mandolin, and sometimes by his sister Lisa Cuomo on bass, and Kevin Meehan on button accordion, Johnny gave easygoing yet intensely emoted versions of the songs from the CD, sometimes switching to Dobro. Dan's harmonies were very well matched to Johnny's voice; as co-writer of the music, he knows it well. The interplay of their guitars brought to mind Jim Croce, as well as Dylan's "Blood On The Tracks" album. Highlights were the opener of the Paradiddle Records CD, "Try, Try, Try," as well as "Milk & Pumpkins" and "Progress." The band did a few tunes not on the album, notably one about White Sands National Monument. Johnny's wife and infant child were in attendance, along with numerous other young families, adding to a great community feeling in the packed hall. Tom Crawford and Bill Herman, founders of Paradiddle, seemed pleased with the turnout. Last year saw the release of two of their well-received compilations, a Dylan tribute and a Christmas CD, both of which feature Cuomo also.

Check them out at
www.paradiddlerecords.com

AURALISLAND.COM & AURAL FIX ANNIVERSARY PARTY

10 Years Online
7 Years in Print

SAT. MARCH 24TH
at Mr. Beerys

4019 Hempstead Tpke, Bethpage

featuring performances from:

Marco Conelli Mob, String Alley,
Pilgrim Soul, Reign of Angels, The
Crusher, John Wilkes Booth
plus an ART & MEDIA EXHIBIT
in the magical Beerys basement!

GIVE AWAYS • DRINK SPECIALS
AND OF COURSE THE INFAMOUS
WHITE TRASH BUFFET

\$5 ADMISSION • 21 & OVER

supported by RadioX,
and WebRadioWCWP
produced by aural island entertainment