

SOS (Songwriters Original Showcase) returns to Act II Playhouse March 18

By: Joseph D. Checchia - Correspondent

03/12/2001



Slot One Entertainment's second Songwriters Original Showcase (SOS), set for March 18 at Act II Playhouse, features many local and regional artists, including (pictured here) Marina Vittoria.

What do you do when a concert receives such an overwhelmingly positive response? The answer is simple - throw another concert! On March 18, that is exactly what Slot One Entertainment Inc. is doing with its second SOS (Songwriters Original Showcase) at Act II Playhouse in Ambler.

Last month's showcase featured up and coming artists locally and regionally. This month's concert will do the same, but it will be less a hidden secret than a billboard promoting an exceptionally good time. "More tickets were sold presale this time than last," Rick Denzien proudly tells me in a phone interview from his home.

"Ambler Act II Playhouse is a worthy place to perform and it is where people could support such local acts as myself," Denzien says about the setting of the showcase. "The Playhouse is a fantastic venue for this intimate one-to-one relationship; it's like you're in the artist's living room."

And who is Rick Denzien? Well, if you've heard of the Grammys or the word "cyber-artist," you're beginning to get the picture. Denzien's claim to fame has been his chart popping success on Mpulse.com (the Internet music charts), where he has held down the number one and two spots during the past year. His achievement earned him a spot in the Grammy process for his song "Desperation" from his most recent release, "Exit 21" (Slot One Entertainment, 2000). He also gained a spot on the first-ever MP3 Summer Tour 2000 that rocked as far west as the House of Blues in Los Angeles and locally at the North Star Bar in Philadelphia.

"It was a great honor to be on tour with such rising talents as Emily Richard and bands such as Clear," Denzien tells about the MP3 Tour. Following that tour Denzien was featured in another showcase called "Just Plain Folks" before traveling the east coast from Portland, Maine to Washington, D.C., promoting "Exit 21" and trying out new material for a new album scheduled for release in 2007.

<http://www.RickDenzien.com>

Denzien also finds time to help produce performers who record at Slot One studios, such as The Bloodhound Gang on their first major label release, "Use Your Fingers" (Sony/Columbia, 1995) and local superstars, Mariah. There is also a buzz about a new band of 15-16-year-old teenage boys called Five to Nine, whose recordings Denzien is also helping to produce. Despite all that's going on in Denzien's life, he has another goal he would like to tackle when time opens up -namely, to bring a lively music scene back to Ambler.

The March 18 SOS (Songwriters Original Showcase) features Debra Lee. "An amazingly clear voice," Denzien praised. Also performing is Marina Vittoria, with her soulful acoustics and charismatic appearance. In the shadows of Tom Petty and John Hiatt, Philadelphian artist Aaron Snow will perform at the show as well as Jon Dichter (from Jive Five Minus Two), who will be joined by blues singer Debby Callahan for their duo "The Blue Root." Also in the line-up is Harrisburg's modern rock band Simplyd and, of course, Rick Denzien, who might share the stage again with Vujaday to repeat the performance where last month's showcase left off.

By logging onto the website you can download digital audio and pictures from the event at <http://www.SongwritersOriginalShowcase.com>

Many local businesses have contributed to the showcase, including KC Alley's, a neighborhood pub where the performers get treated to a free meal and meet and greet their fans after the show. Also noteworthy is SOS's huge life saver-typed sign designed and sponsored by Insignia Signs and Graphics in Ambler.

If you go, be prepared to be awed by this local music scene. About SOS, Denzien concluded, "The community and artists are so supportive and the response is overwhelming I had no idea it would be so professional. There are so many talented people here."

Songwriter's Original Showcase (SOS)

will take place at Act II Playhouse,

56 E. Butler Ave., Ambler,

Sunday, March 18, 7 p.m.

Tickets: \$8, pre-sale; \$12 at door.

Info: (215) 643-1313 or (215) 654-0200.

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