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Songwriters Original Showcase (S.O.S.) Sunday, May 20 At Act II Playhouse, Ambler

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SOS - Songwriters Original Showcase features an exciting lineup of award winning indie recording artists, including New York's Joe Matzzie with Philadelphia recording artist, Stephen DiJoseph, on Sunday, May 20, 7 PM, at the Act II Playhouse, 56 East Butler Pike, Ambler, PA.

Creative mastermind and mad genius, Joe Matzzie's music incorporates Rock, World, Jazz, and Rhythm into honest, melodic pop. He'll perform songs from his latest release *It's All True*, a collection of conspiracy theories, urban legends, and parables about the constant desire for the definitive, and is popping up on college radio nationwide. Philadelphia's Stephen DiJoseph, a compelling musician known for his piano virtuosity, will appear with Matzzie.

Others performing on May 7 include songwriter and comedian Stewart Brodian, from Allentown, PA, who has appeared on national radio and television with Howard Stern, and whose songs are described as "dangerously correct political observations."

New Hope singer-songwriter and recording artist Peter Spencer will bring guitar virtuosity and humor to the SOS stage. Spencer toured North America and Europe playing blues, ragtime, and original songs as a solo guitarist. He was a leading light of the 1980s Greenwich Village folk scene, founding member of the Speakeasy Musicians Co-op, and contributing editor to the now-legendary *Fast Folk Musical Magazine*. He retired from performing in 1984 and became a leading folk and world-music critic on the East Coast. In 2000 he released *New Hope and Wise Virgins*, his first album in 18 years, and since then has resumed an active performing schedule.

Violet Truth brings alternative-laced indie pop with a bit of Nashville grit to the SOS stage. Vocalist Victoria Crago is hailed for "warm, sensuous female vocals wrapped around incandescent melodies." The band performs frequently in the New York/New Jersey area, and they also have appeared in Boston, Philly, Toronto and Buffalo. The band showcases around New York City, and has also been invited to showcase at the prestigious Canadian Music Week festival in Toronto in 2001. The band's CD, *Candy Coated*, was recently named one of *Jersey Beat's* Top 20 releases of 2000 and is receiving national airplay.

Ambler singer-songwriter and recording artists Rick Denzien, founder of SOS, will also perform. His songwriting is known for its emphasis on quality lyrics and good melodic structure. Described as "personal slices of life and observation that work on a cerebral as well as visceral level," Denzien's songs, whether an acoustic-based ballad or an up tempo rocker, maintain a commanding presence with earnest guitar work and rich vocal harmonies. Denzien has been one of the most heavily downloaded artists on MP3.com for nearly two years, and his album, *Exit 21*, appeared in the Grammy Award Entry List for both the 42nd and 43rd Annual Grammy Awards.

Denzien will feature singer-songwriter and recording artist Debra Lee, whose writing "transcends time in popular genres," with "beautiful melodies" executed by sensual, haunting vocals. She assists Denzien in producing Songwriters Original Showcase.

S.O.S. is a monthly acoustic performance venue for original music that features six songwriters-performing-recording artists each month, from the Philadelphia area and also nationally, performing their original music at Act II Playhouse, a non-profit, 130+ stage theater. Located at 56 East Butler Pike, Ambler, PA, the theater is across the street from the former Ambler Cabaret, a once popular national touring stop for bands, artists, and top regional acts.

"SOS is a one-of-a-kind acoustic performance venue in the Philadelphia area for original music," said Denzien of Slot One Studio, the Ambler, PA, based recording studio and independent label sponsoring SOS. "The venue features top regional indie recording artists and songwriters, and has been attracting attention from songwriters all over the country," he said. Songwriters will include nationally known, award winning recording artists, along with newcomers who have commercially released recordings of their music, according to Denzien. The showcase is sponsored by Act II Playhouse and Slot One Entertainment, Inc., and other Ambler area businesses, including KC's Alley, 10 W. Butler Pike, Ambler; Insignia Graphics & Printing, 43 N. Main Street, Ambler; and Hart International, Inc.; 265 N. Main Street.

Admission is \$10.00 in advance, which can be ordered on-line over the SOS website at www.slot-1.com/sos.

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