

Medusa Festival IV

CBGBs

New York City, New York

June 27, 2005

While the halls of CBGBs may not stand hallowed for much longer—the legendary punk club will soon close its doors—at least one New York rocker is making sure its final days are still noisy and in-your-face.

On June 27, CBGBs hosted the fourth annual Medusa Festival, the brainchild of New York rocker Lourds, a night featuring a lineup of female-fronted or all-female bands. Medusa, of course, was the mythological woman with a head of snakes. Her bite could both poison and heal, and Lourds has chosen this classical badass as the symbol for her event.

Lourds selected Italian rockers **Nomoredolls** to kick off the evening. “The band consistently blows me away with powerful, hooky songwriting, tasty musicianship, and the vocal intensity of front-woman, Cecilia Miradoli,” Lourds says. **Love Hates Lois** fans bought front-woman Carla Giglio plenty of drinks to help celebrate her birthday. The band’s high energy pop/rock kept the crowd intoxicated as well.

Imago’s full, rich music gave Medusa a dramatic turn. Lead singer Melinda Bardos channeled the Motels’ Martha Davis. All-female band **Jen Urban and the Box** flaunted punk credentials with a song called “Fuck Me Harder Please.” Urban plays a sparkly pink guitar, a delightfully ironic contrast to her down-and-dirty lyrics. The lead vocalist is backed by guitarist Billie Stultz, bassist Monita Yee and drummer Lori T.



Sirsy showed chops and brass. Lead singer Melanie Krahmer also plays flute. The seasoned touring band with half-a-dozen CDs in its canon ruled the packed crowd, with songs like “Soul Sucker.” Lourds joined the band for its final number, her electric violin and Krahmer’s electric flute joining forces for the danceable finale.

As headliner **Lourds** took the stage, audience members stood on chairs and held cameras over their heads. Lourds plays violin, mandolin, electric and acoustic guitar and provides the attitude. With Sarah Vasil on drums, guitarist Gene Blank and bassist Joey Anthony, Lourds has become harder sounding over the last several years. With the moxie to sing “I’m a Queen,” and “I Know Who I Am” Lourds owns whatever stage she steps on. Grooving on the mandolin to “Astropop,” Lourds told the crowd to throw its hands (and

glowsticks) in the air. Sirsy’s Krahmer joined the band onstage for another flute/violin duet.

Devola has been together a little more than a year, but followed with a strong set. Elizabeth Seward sang, spat, and screamed brash lyrics, as the band pumped out hardcore grooves.

Ghost Orgy closed out the evening, seducing the crowd with dissonant melodies over the rhythm section’s metallic crunch. Dina Concina served up brooding vocals as Elena Doroftei bowed out counter-melodies with her electric viola.

Now in its final chapter, CBGBs is a storied joint. Lourds and the Medusa Festival have certainly earned their own page in the club’s history. (Kathleen Warnock) 

