

## **Review of MEDUSA FESTIVAL IV in the popular Italian magazine, "ROCK SOUND"**

[Written and reported by Cecilia from **Nomoredolls**]

[Translated by Max Tarenzi from **Nomoredolls**]

At the legendary CBGB in NYC, Lourds (the rocker with the electric violin) hosts the fourth edition of the Medusa Festival, a night celebrating chick power and the sexiest rock'n'roll divas in New York.

Worshipped by the Amazons in mythology, Medusa used to turn men into stone who ventured to unveil her face. In other words, quoting Lourds, Medusa was "one bad ass bitch." This is the prerequisite for all the frontwomen chosen to be among the eight bands for this festival (a cult legend in the underground NYC music scene). CBGB, as everybody knows, is almost closing, despite the communal efforts of its supporters. This may be one of the last big events at CBGB, which makes this experience that much more special.

**Nomoredolls** was the only "foreign" band but the crowd seemed to enjoy our unique European twist and passion on stage. I definitely stood out as the only devil girl dressed all in red amongst the sea of rock chicks dressed all in black.

Then came **Love hates Lois** from Queens whose singer Carla celebrated her birthday and graciously drank whatever her fans brought her on stage. Her voice and the pop-rock style of the whole band and her voice are reminiscent of the Pretenders.

**Imago** creates a more intimate atmosphere. Lead singer Melinda Bartos, who seems to feel more comfortable with acoustic instruments, captured the crowd with a set filled with sensitivity. Someone compared her style to Martha Davis.

**Jen Urban and The Box** is an all girl electro-punk band. Urban, with her pink guitar, drove the audience crazy with songs such as "Fuck Me Harder Please."

Then, **Sirsy** and their lead singer/ flute player Melanie Kramer took the stage. The band, who has released several CD's, was joined by Lourds on the violin in the last song of the set.

The climax of the night was when the Queen of Medusa got on stage, **Lourds**. The crowd wore glowsticks, creating a psychedelic effect as people danced and screamed. The band sounded heavy and featured a tight and groovy female drummer. Lourds mastered the stage with a powerful voice, sort of a New York version of Skin [from Skunkanansie]. A talented performer, she plays furious solos and rockin' parts on violin as well as mandolin.

**Devola** was the heaviest act of the night with progressive influences.

Then **Ghost Orgy**, a gothic-metal band featuring a violist in the line-up, closed out the festival.

Outside the club, in the Manhattan night, a lot of people were still waiting at the door to get in, while musicians were busy loading and unloading gear from their vans. The sidewalk was filled with different kinds of people: punks, new wavers, "yuppies" who came directly from their offices, as well as journalists and industry people too because the Medusa Festival always attracts a lot of attention from the media. The whole night was filmed and a documentary video will be created from that.

We hope CBGB is never going to close but one thing is for sure, Medusa Festival, showcasing the wild and diverse female music scene, will be around for a long time to come. For info: [www.medusafestival.com](http://www.medusafestival.com)