



Idle Hands at Maui Sugar Mill Saloon, Tarzana, California

August 20, 2019

Nowhere else on any planet (sorry Pluto - not you) will you find a Monday night that looks and sounds like the one in Tarzana, California. "The Little Bar That Could" (And Does)" (AKA: Maui Sugar Mill Saloon), is the host venue of Cadillac Zack's Monday Night Blues Party. It chugged and chugged down the track for 10+ years to become a world-known purveyor of the blues.

Last night (8/20/19) a gathering of surreal musicians flooded the stage with talent way beyond anything reasonable in this world. A double bill that left this writer speechless & wandering aimlessly around the building after the music ended. I pondered and wondered while wandering what I could have done at that moment that could fulfill me anymore than the show just did and I thought of nothing.

The hap, hap, HAPPIEST place on Earth (on a Monday night) is for adults. Adventureland and Fantasyland were the locations of last night's captivating, colorful, creative collection of musicians, and the sounds & sights they made!

Come take my hand and let's frolic together down the path to musical surrealism!!

One of Benjamin Franklin's quotes is "Idle Hands are the Devil's Playthings." If this was true about the opening band ("Idle Hands") the devil would have definitely had his own hands full! The thing is, however, the band was more angelic and harmonious, (yet devilishly delicious) which the devil would not have liked, but the packed to capacity crowd certainly did!

Band members: Pamela Threats on vocals; Alexa Brinkschulte on drums; Vince White on guitar; Paul Van Duine on guitar; Alex U'Ren on bass. Every single one of these musicians captured my attention singularly as they each did some solo or highlighted work, and collectively, they captured not only my attention but my soul and all of my senses.

Front & center (as it should be) was lead singer Pamela. This woman exudes emotion, soul, compassion & commitment to her craft - all done in a highly theatrical style. She is a woman who HAS to vocalize... it's deep within her soul and it HAS to come out! The highly enthusiastic crowd was elated because of that! She has a voice that is powerful, strong & soulful, with a stage presence to match and some mad dance moves. I didn't get a chance to talk to her, but I'm quite sure she is also an actress because of her strong ties to her emotions and how she can express them.

Alexa could go head-to-head with THE best drummers in the world (Michael Leasure) and it would be a close call to pick a winner. Unbelievable. At first I'm thinking this is the best female drummer I have ever heard & seen and then I quickly dismissed that silly thought! Gender has nothing to do with your ability to play an instrument; it's the person sitting behind the drums.

Vince, Paul and Alex shined brightly as top-tier in their field and I was in awe of each of their talents.

Their rendition of "I Put a Spell on You" was absolutely spellbinding and were Pam's most dramatic vocals of the night. I was completely in her trance as she definitely put a spell on ME! Other covers such as "Rock Me Baby" and "Take My Blues Away" were flawless masterpieces. Not sure if they did any originals, as I was under their spell most of the set!

From what I see online, they have different band members on different gigs, so I guess you could contact them to see if Pam & Alexa are on any particular gig. (I am confident that they are great no matter who the band members are, but I have only seen them in this configuration.) <http://idlehandslive.com> and <https://www.facebook.com/idlehandslive>

A lot of people have the blues on Monday, as it's the first day back after active fun weekends! Well, you can have the blues & listen to them, too. Hope to see you there!

Evelyn Hays
the bluezy redhead