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Go WILD

Old oddball Otway steps out in style

MONDAY
Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz are joined for their regular gig at the Didsbury Cricket Club by blues singer **Marilyn Middleton-Pollock** and guest trombonist **Paul Murray**. Wilmslow Road. 8pm. £4.
 Also in a jazz vein, the **Vinny Parker Trio** guest at Woodhouses WMC, Falsworth. 8.45pm. £1.50.

TUESDAY
Angelique Kidjo is the diva of African dance music and her live

shows are a sight to see and hear, with the drop-dead cool Angelique and her band absorbing the musics of the continent to create a wholly contemporary sound of her own. Her new album *Aye* is a seamless blend of driving funk, African cross-rhythms and dance beats and storm warnings have been issued for her Manchester debut at the Plitz, Whitworth Street West. 8pm. £9.50.

Jodeci, hot soulsters from the US of A, also make their Manchester debut, this time at the Free Trade Hall, not normally a haven for all things funky, it has to be said. Peter Street. 7.30pm. £15-£16.50

Holly Burton brings her melodic, American folk style to the Night And Day Café, Oldham Street. 10pm. £2.

WEDNESDAY

Skellig, a cracking new Manchester band mixing contemporary and traditional material much in the vein of Planxty, include well-known local faces **Martin McGroarty**, **Tony Trundle**, **Kelly Burke** and **Jimmy Horan**. They should be well worth checking out live at the



ROCK ON: John Otway; left, Jaime Harding, singer with Marion

Band On The Wall, Swan Street. 8.30pm. £2.50.

Currently one of the most fashionable new American bands, despite their ghastly name, **Veruca Salt** top the bill when the NME/Carlsberg Brat Bus Tour rolls into Manchester University Students Union. Local picks to click **Markon** are also on board as are **Slunk Ansel** and **60ft Dolls**. Oxford Road. 8pm. £6.

THURSDAY

Aylesbury oddball John Otway, still remembered with some fondness and a lot more confusion for *Cor, Baby That's Really Free*, his freak hit with erstwhile-partner **Wild Willy Barrett**, throws himself around the stage – and will doubtless nearly knock himself senseless at the **House Of Blues**, Bernard Street, Glossop. 8pm. £4-£5.

Go COMEDY

Water Street. 7.30pm. £7-£9.50.

MONDAY

Next week's **Raw** session, the regular open-mike night for aspiring comics, is hosted by **Nick Smith**. Why not go on down and take a chance on catching a rising star? **Old And Bucket**, Newton Street. 8.30pm. Free.

WEDNESDAY

Peter Cook may no longer be with us but **Cuddly Dudley's Comedy**

Club is still around after its opening night and the new comedy venue offers a delicate double bill of **Martin Big Pig** and **Nick Smith**, plus open spots and a joke competition. If you need to get into the mood for laughter, **Happy Hour** is from 5pm-8pm. The **Exchange Café Bar**, Royal Exchange Arcade, Cross Street. 8.30pm. £2.

THURSDAY

Stylish stand-up **Mike Hayley** tops a bill at **The Bazz** club that also features stand-up comics **Jo Enright** and **Karl McDermott**. The Southern, Neil Lane, Chorlton. 8.15pm. £5.

Go JAZZ & BLUES

Great White hope

FRIDAY

Zappamania is a night of true madness, a musicians' get-together, led by John Ellis, in tribute to the late Frank Zappa. **Night And Day Café**, Oldham Street. 10pm. £2.50.

Joe Lester and the Norman Bolton Trio are this week's guests at the Hyde Cricket and Squash Club, Werneth Low Road, Gee Cross. 8.30pm. £2.

Sip The Bourbon Junkies' funky blues at PJ Bells, Oldham Street. 9pm. £4-£5.

Stax of Soul liven up The Willows in Salford with their highly danceable brand of big-band soul tonight and tomorrow. The evening starts at 8pm each night with tickets priced at £6 for admission only and £16 for admission and dinner.

"Mighty fine blues" is the claim from **The Mighty House Rockers** at Glossop's House Of Blues, Bernard Street. 8pm. £3-£4.

SATURDAY

One of the great "White" hopes for the blues, **Frank White**, pictured right, brings his anguished, ground-glass voice, his stinging blues guitar, and his long-time love affair with the very best in old and new R'n'B to the **House Of Blues**, Bernard Street, Glossop. 8pm. £4-£5.

Albert Anal And The Flashbacks play "grooves from the bottom of the pan" in

their tribute to Albert Ayler at the **Night And Day Café**, Oldham Street. 10pm. £3.

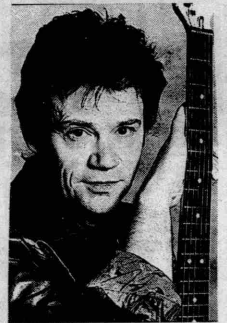
The wild 'n' crazy rockabilly and raw energy of **The Winchesters** is up for grabs at the **Band On The Wall**, Swan Street. 8.30pm. £3.50.

The Roach Blues Band are at PJ Bells' One Nation night. Oldham Street. 9pm. £4-£5.

The Dennis Freedman Trio are joined by alto sax player **Harold Salisbury** at the Malt Shovels, Stanford Street, Altrincham. 9pm. Free.

SUNDAY

The Shades Jazz Orchestra play at the Alma Lodge Hotel, Stockport. 8.15pm. £4.



Ready to roll out the barrel

FRIDAY

Guests at this weekend's comedy sessions at the **Bell's Barrel Of Laughs** (both tonight and tomorrow) are stand-up comedians **David George** and **Anthony King**. The **Frog And Bucket**, Newton Street. 8.30pm. £2.50-£3.50.

SUNDAY

Sh Boom Sh Boom With The Barron Knights features the comedy cabaret group singing and laughing their way through two hours of harmony songs from the doo-wop of the fifties up until today. **Buxton Opera House**.

Straight from the heart

WHAT'S GO-ING ON

FRIDAY
Teddy Dan, the man with an uncanny resemblance to the late Bob Marley – should apparently barking-mad Marley fan **Teddy Taylor MP** be told? – lays down a bona-fide roots reggae night with his melodic and powerful band at the **Band On The Wall**, Swan Street. 8.30pm. £3.50.

SATURDAY

In America, a tribute seems to mean that a bunch of disparate people, some of whom you'll like, one or two of whom you'll hate, and a

large number who you just couldn't care less about, get together to play rogy versions of selected highlights from one artist's repertoire on a disc which, for the most part, only committed fans are even vaguely interested in buying. Here, on the other hand, it can often mean that some committed fans run through the greatest hits of a heavy metal band and reproduce some of their onstage

antics. In the case of a band like **Kiss**, this may not be such a bad idea at all and **Duce** play their "tribute" to the made-up rockers at the **Witchwood**, Ashton-under-Lyne. 8pm. £2.

SUNDAY

A Woman's Heart, the gorgeous compilation album of such great folk-based Irish women singers

and players as **Mary Black**, her sister **Frances**, and accordionist **Sharon Shannon**, became such a huge popular success that a second volume, adding the likes of **Mary Coughlan** to the roster was recently released. Now those four are out on tour together, under the banner **A Woman's Heart** and, for anyone interested in hearing some of the best contemporary women singers and players, their show together at the **Opera House** is an unmissable, golden opportunity. **Quay Street**. 7.30pm. £13-£15.

ARNDALE
centre of manchester

NOW OPEN EVERY SUNDAY
11am-5pm