

sound, "a unique blend of Eastern European melodies, Parisian musette, Spanish flamenco and American swing." Today, the attitude born in Parisian cafés 80 years ago is enjoyed all over the world.

Neil Andersson, formerly of the Wailers, and Dudley Hill played jazz as a duo for four years before bassist David "Pope" Firman joined the pair in 1994 and the trio became Pearl Django. Shelley Park joined in 1995, contributing a rhythmic guitar sense. That same year, Pearl Django recorded its debut effort *Le Jazz Hot*. The next year Andersson, Hill and Park made their presence known at the Django Reinhardt festival in Samois-Sur-Seine, France, the town where Reinhardt spent the last years of his life.

Pearl Django's jazz pays homage to guitarist Django Reinhardt and violinist Stephane Grappelli, who together pioneered the Gypsy Swing sound, "a unique blend of Eastern European melodies, Parisian musette, Spanish flamenco and American swing."

The festival is ground zero for Reinhardt fans and Gypsy Swing players, and though Pearl Django was not an official part of the festival, the band's performances at local jam sessions turned heads. 1996 saw the band adding yet another layer of luster with the addition of violinist Michael Gray and the release of "New Metropolitan Swing."

While the band's musicianship excelled and fans the world over took notice, "Pope" Firman left the group. The new bassist, Rick Leppanen, took over just in time to record the next CD, 1999's *Mystery Pacific*. Also in 1999 the group released *Souvenirs*, a tribute to the music of Stephane Grappelli, spearheaded by Gray, a fan and "perennial student" of Grappelli. The fifth CD, *Avalon*, was arguably the "break-through" CD, having achieved top 40 status on the Gavin jazz charts for seven weeks. Now people really knew what Pearl Django was all about.

Despite the success, the band continues to have line-up changes — Park left the band last year and was replaced by guitarist Greg Ruby, who is also a member of Hot Club Sandwich. Last year, the band's sixth release, *Under Paris Skies*, saw the light, and Pearl Django finally performed officially in Samois-Sure-Seine's Django Reinhardt Festival, coming full circle, and ready for more.



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9TH ANNUAL WITCHES' BALL

WITH **LAND OF THE BLIND**

SATURDAY OCT. 25th

AUDIO LIBERATION FINAL EVENT

SUNDAY OCT. 26th

5 SOUTH SIR BASIL CAP GUN SUICIDE CHAIN OF BEING LONGSHOT STATION WAG SERVANTS OF THE END

FRIDAY OCT. 31st

TRIP OR FREAK **TAARKA** AND THE **SUGAR BEETS**

SUNDAY NOV. 2nd

project/object

FEATURING: IKE WILLIS NAPOLEON MURPHY BROCK AND DON PRESTON

PERFORMING THE MUSIC OF FRANK ZAPPA

TUESDAY NOV. 4th LATE SHOW

YELTSIN

THE DESERT FATHERS

MOOD AREA 52

DOORS AND SHOWTIME 9:30 PM ADMISSION FREE

★11/6 LIFSAVAS/JOSH MARTINEZ★

★11/7 GYPY FLAMENCO★

★11/8 NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALLSTARS★

★11/9 THE VELS / THE FRUITBATS★

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