



**BRENDA
WEILER
PLAYS
CAFE
PARADISO
FRIDAY.**

Natural Talent

Two hot acts for the end of the term

Two great shows, each totally different, bookend our entertainment this week. First up, Cafe Paradiso's Friday, Dec. 12th show features the return of **Brenda Weiler** as she celebrates the release of her brand new CD, *Cold Weather*.

The talented Weiler, 25, is a native of Fargo, N.D. She spent several years in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota before recently relocating to new digs nearby in Portland.

Weiler's adopted hometown of Minneapolis loved her enough to award her the *City Pages* "Best of The Twin Cities" Critics Pick for Best Female Vocalist, and she twice received the honor of Musician of the Year by the *High Plains Reader*.

This is an exciting time for Weiler. *Cold Weather*, her fifth release, is her first nationally distributed CD after seven years of perfecting her craft. It has also been released on Virt Records, home of label-mate Vienna Teng.

Music was a big part of Weiler's family life; her father held a doctorate in music and her seven other siblings all sang or played an instrument. Weiler played cello for 10 years and sang in choir, but it wasn't until the summer after her graduation from high school that she picked up the guitar. The music biz then opened its arms for her, and she decided to forgo college for one year as she explored the world of music.

That passionate pursuit led to an indefinite postponement of college and four independently released CDs, the last being 2001's well received *Fly Me Back*. Each CD cultivated for Weiler more and more acclaim, and each showed her gaining agility in her songwriting abilities.

Cold Weather shows Weiler inhabiting a less hospitable environment; she's got a chill she can't shake. The 10th track, "The Weather I'm In," most clearly illustrates her deeply felt, emotionally stark state when she solemnly croons "Don't ask me why/ don't ask me how/ all of this darkness and ugliness found me/ it won't be good."

Weiler has explained in past interviews that the songs on this CD are reflecting a growing sense of desperation she feels in the political and social state of the world. She has tapped into an eloquent discovery of the dark realms of sadness and struggle and managed to keep her confidence and vibrancy intact, pulling herself through these hostile lands and taking us along with her.

The legend of **Petty Booka**, Tokyo's favorite and perhaps only ukulele duo, comes to large life Wednesday, Dec. 17 at Sam Bond's. The two gals in Petty Booka, Shinobu Imai and Ren Takada, each play ukulele like they were born Polynesian. They throw in toy piano, slack key guitar, lap steel guitar and acoustic and electric guitar, while their five other bandmates handle bass, percussion, spoons, harmonica and Hawaiian steel guitar.

The twist is that the girls specialize in warping traditional popular songs into Polynesian/Country-Western gems you will never hear the likes of anywhere else: Blondie's "The Tide is High," Nancy Sinatra's "These Boots are Made For Walking," even The Ramones, "I Wanna Be Your Girlfriend." My favorites are the versions of "Pineapple Princess" and especially "Ukulele Lady."

The legend began in 1995 when their previous band, *Flamenco A Go Go*, disbanded. That band was set to record a version of "Karma Chameleon" for an '80s compilation. The two girls kept the commitment to record the song, backed up by a band called the Toconuts. That combination stuck and Petty Booka was born, with their first CD coming out the next year.

Opening the show will be **Manischewitz** — a new local act featuring at least one member of Mood Area 52 — who specializes in covering Henry Mancini tunes. Petty Booka will also be appearing for a short, free, all ages gig that same day at 5 pm at Feinstein's Museum of Unfine Art, on Willamette Street across from the downtown Post Office.

EW

Diablos Downtown Lounge ALL SHOWS START @ 10PM 21+

Fri Dec 12 **HOLLOWMAN** (Punk, Rock) **SubsidiE ELEMENT 241**

Sat Dec 13 **FUNKTIFINO & TRIO GRANDE** (funk, latin, jazz)

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Wed Dec 17 **[FUNK] DOWNTOWN FUNK ALLSTAR JAM SESSION**

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FRIDAY DEC. 12th

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