



Luna About to Eclipse

New York band's final tour brings them to WOW Hall.

Luna is the best band you've never heard of, and now they're breaking up. With the Oct. 26, 2004 release of *Rendezvous* on indie label Jetset Records,

founder Dean Wareham is calling it quits.

New Zealand-native Wareham formed Luna in 1992 with Feelies drummer Stanley

Demeski and Chills bassist Justin Harwood. Luna inevitably drew comparison to the Velvet Underground's minimalist mystique and Lou Reed's acerbic wordplay. Rightfully so, but Wareham notches down the smack-and-transvestite hookers references and ratchets up the late-night, urbane cool.

"Cindy Tastes of Barbecue" is Wareham cloaked in his Velvety finest. His version of Edward Lear's "The Owl and the Pussycat" shimmers in a golden light. *Rendezvous* intersperses sloe-eyed tunes with up-tempo sparklers such as the album's opener "Malibu Love Nest" and "Astronaut" which has this silver-tongued couplet: "I wear a styling moustache, you wear a frozen smile. We'll run like Tamil tigers, we'll drink from poison vials."

Bassist Britta Phillips, who joined in 2000 to replace Harwood, played pre-Luna bass in Ultrababyfat, jammed as the punky guitarist alongside Julia Roberts in the 1988 movie *Satisfaction*, and was the singing voice for cartoon character Jem. She said Wareham's decision to pull Luna's plug hasn't yet sunk in, though

their last show is at NYC's Bowery Ballroom Feb. 27. "This definitely makes our shows more loaded, more poignant, and more exciting as well," said Phillips in a recent phone interview.

Jetset's small potatoes budget doesn't pay the bills for four musicians living in the Big Apple. "It's bittersweet, but I think everyone sort of knew that we couldn't go on," she said.

But this won't be the last of Wareham and Phillips. The pair produced 2003's sexy *L'Avventura* and will collaborate again when Luna is laid to rest. "Maybe as early as spring we'll start working on that," she said. "And we're going to think more about how we'll present it live. With Luna it's so easy because it's such a great and tight band, but it's a lot harder when you have only two people."

Doing their part to rid the world of sucky soundtracks, Wareham and Phillips recently scored a film called *The Squid and the Whale*, written and directed by Noah Baumbach, co-writer of *The Life Aquatic*. Luna will share the stage with **Midnight Movies**, a luscious psychedelic rock band with a female singer who channels the voice of Teutonic rock goddess Nico. Do not miss this show! **EW**

Luna and Midnight Movies
WOW Hall, 8 pm
2/9 Wed. \$13 adv/

Coco Montoya Rocks Tsunami Benefit

Making music for a cause.

BY STEVEN SAWADA



Coco Montoya ranks among the best blues/rock guitar players ever to grace magnetic tape. In a genre of music that cites genius far beyond the invention of recorded sound, Montoya's skilled guitar work and soulful vocals reflect his lifelong love for the blues, sharing a level of emotion and passion that only the greats ever achieved.

Montoya's 30-plus-year career on the stage started when the late Albert Collins, the legendary blues guitarist dubbed "The master of the Telecaster," offered Montoya a gig as his

Coco Montoya and Have a Heart Tsunami Relief Dance

Eugene Hilton Ballroom
7:30pm, 2/9 Wed.
\$20 adv., \$25 door,
student discount available

drummer. Montoya's friendship with Collins grew and on the road, Montoya learned to pour his emotion into his guitar by watching Collins and practicing with him.

"Albert didn't know technically how to explain what he did," Montoya explained in a phone interview from Jamaica. "He always used to say, don't think about it, just feel it."

In 1984 Montoya went on to perform with John Mayall and his latest incarnation of the Bluesbreakers. The band once included a young Eric Clapton (Yardbirds, Cream), John McVie (Fleetwood Mac), and Mick Taylor (The Rolling Stones). Montoya called it "guitar academy." With the blessings of both Collins and Mayall, Montoya started his own band in the early '90s, and has since released five albums.

Since then, Montoya's blues guitar and vocals have reached legendary status worldwide. Staying true to the elements of blues style, Montoya also drops a heavy dose of rock in all his riffs. His "icy-hot" guitar licks and Herculean vocal abilities weigh heavy on the soul, while at the same time calling upon hope through catharsis.

"A lot of people say it's depressing music," Montoya said about the blues. "They don't realize that if you don't give yourself the chance to have a good cry, the pain gets to you. It's really healing."

Currently in Negril, Jamaica with Little Feat for their annual Little Feat Fan Excursion, Montoya will be making a quick turnaround for the Northwest leg of his current tour. He visits Eugene to perform at a benefit concert for tsunami victims in Southeast Asia. Faced with the level of death and destruction in the region, Montoya said, "It is a good opportunity to show these people that people all over the world care about them."

Proceeds from ticket sales will go directly to Oxfam, a humanitarian confederation assisting victims of the tsunami disaster. For more information about the event or Oxfam's tsunami relief efforts, log on to www.eventfulproductions.com and www.oxfam.org **EW**



ROBB D. COHEN

UO CULTURAL FORUM PRESENTS



DEREK TRUCKS BAND

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14 • 8PM

DOORS @ 7PM • EMU BALLROOM, UO

Advance Tix: \$8 students, \$16 General public

EMU TICKET OFFICE: 346-4363



\$2.50 Coupons Available at McKenzie River Guitar, Face the Music, and Buy & Sell Center