

**JIM DRAKE'S ENTERTAINMENT BLOG**

# A different side to Pamela Parker

By **JIM DRAKE**  
Hood River News

Pamela Parker started out playing music at a super-young age — in fact, based on our phone conversation last month, she detailed her entire musical upbringing in a very clear and organized way.

She remembers playing "Heart and Soul" with her brother when she was in first grade, and she brought me right up to date by talking about her college music internship stint in California, which was helped along by various friends in the music business, including Micheal Franti.

Pamela has multiple degrees in music — she majored in vocal performance, with minors in piano and classical guitar. After that, she got another degree in music technology — which she uses at her current job at Hyde Street Studios in San

Francisco, where she helps produce music for other bands.

"It's a legendary, historic studio, the Grateful Dead, Janis Joplin and Jefferson Airplane, recorded here. James Brown recorded 'It's a Man's World,' it's just amazing stuff, and I've been working here for six years," Parker said.

Pamela currently fronts a rock band called Pamela Parker and the Kings, and the band combines her original songwriting skills and rock guitar ability with her upbringing on the classic rock sounds she heard as a teenager.

"It's kind of my dream to combine Janis Joplin and Jimmy Page into one person, and I'm headed that way. I'm not quite as good as Jimmy, yet, but I've got the Janis thing down," Parker said.

Pamela makes a stop in Hood River on May 22, at the

**TRILLIUM SHOWS**

**May 20:** Lorin Walker Madson & the Hustlers and special guest Randall Conrad Olinger.

**May 21:** Kristen Ford. One-woman-band performance includes guitars, percussion and a variety of looping effects pedals, to create a unique musical experience that's different every night.

**May 22:** Pamela Parker. Stunning vocals, clever guitar licks, classical piano chops, and a colorful twist on songwriting.

Trillium Cafe, for a solo show, and she's looking forward to bringing what she's calling a "different side" to her music out to the audience.

"I think solo shows are fun because I like to showcase the other sides of me, ones that people don't normally

get to see with the full band. Right now we're kind of diversifying our set, and featuring the other styles of music that I do. One example is a kind of a New Orleans ballad style. I'm also writing a rock opera called 'Circles of Time,' so I have a few songs that I feature from that. I wrote a pop-rock song to try out, and I'm bringing a keyboard, acoustic and electric guitar with me. I feel we're branching out in our genre," Parker said.

Pamela said her third solo CD is a mix of "everything she's about."

"My first solo album was acoustic, and the second was rock and roll. Those two were really planned that way. My next one is going to be everything I do, and I feel like I'm getting more into a place where who I am is coming out more in all the songs. It's different when the whole

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Pamela Parker

## Gorge Restaurant Guide

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