

Saber slices clean through the local rock scene

by barbara goldberg

entertainment writer

The audience stared at the dark stage of the Blue Angel Lounge last Friday night, anxiously awaiting the headlining act. Finally, the bright stage lights revealed an awesome local rock band, Saber.

Two years ago, in a warehouse on the west side of Las Vegas, Terry Ripley, guitarist, formed the band with four other members.

About a year later, the original keyboard player and drummer both quit, being replaced by current drummer, David Vorce. Phil Rodgerson, singer, and Roland Smith, bass player, have been with the band since its inception in January, 1985.

David Vorce said the band is called Saber because Saber is, "...the blending of strength and energy, like the ancient cat whose name we bear."

This strength and energy of Saber draws standing room only crowds and standing ova-

tions from their fans. Their talent buys them into the Las Vegas rock scene, where they perform at many of the local clubs.

The band recently entered the *KOMP Album 5* competition. Their song, *Faster Faster*, was among one of the ten songs, out of over 250 entrants, chosen to appear on the album that promotes local rock.

Phill Rodgerson, who wrote the words to *Faster Faster*, began singing almost by chance. He would listen to music on the radio and sing along with bands like Kansas and The Beatles. Phill laughed, "...if I didn't know the words, I made up my own."

This die-hard attitude of Phill's can also be found in guitarist, Terry Ripley.

Terry not only writes almost all of the band's music, but plays so impressively, he leaves the fans in awe after every performance.

The audience is frequently impressed when he plays guitar while on his back, with the instru-

ment behind his head, or with reversed hand positions. He further impresses audiences by playing an original solo on his 12-string acoustic guitar.

Roland Smith does not play the acoustic guitar, but his soulful bass playing and strong back-up vocals add a special groove to Saber's music.

Roland and Terry entertain crowds with their precisely coordinated hand and body movements. All eyes were on Roland's crisp bass solo last Friday night. While four guys in the front stood and applauded, a girl in the audience yelled, "Can I have lessons, Roland?"

Although David Vorce is always "on time", one may not always find him behind his drum set during a Saber performance.

At a typical gig, Dave will walk to the front of his drums and play *The Show* with his back to the audience. Dave's drumming can easily be compared to the skill of Neil Peart (Rush) and the flash of



SABER— left to right: Terry Ripley, Phill Rodgerson, David Vorce, and Roland Smith.

photo courtesy of Saber

Tommy Lee (Motley Crue).

Dave also temporarily leaves his drums to sing *Lonely Man* along with the rest of the band. For this song, they put down their instruments and harmonize together.

Since they do not play any copy tunes, the entire band is constantly contributing their ideas for new songs. Phill said, "The concept of writing and performing our own songs is like a double-edged blade; challenging

and exciting on one hand, jobs during the day and yet a little scary to us as practice at night. The band said they feel that though their work sometimes interferes with practice time, it is necessary to maintain a strong band.

"Everybody dreams of getting a big break", Dave said. If Saber continues to perform with the same talent and emotion as they have in the past, this dream may very well become a reality.

They all work full-time

Candida plays to rave reviews

by sherri reid

staff writer

I have heard that a play is only as good as its actors. But what happens if the actors and actresses, the costumes and the set are so good, that one leaves the theatre with only one single thought in mind — to wit: "That was very good!" Does one then go on to critique the author?

In this case, I must say not. For how can one critique a literary genius such as George Bernard Shaw?

One might possibly argue for or against one of his counter-parts of the era, such as Freud and his theories of psycho-sexual stages. However, one could no more dissect e.e. cummings, Voltaire or Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, than could analyze Shaw's works.

With this in mind, on Saturday, April 4, I went to the Artemus Ham Concert

Hall to either rave or disparage the Guthrie Theatre's presentation of Shaw's thoughtful and witty play, *Candida*.

And so...

And so...the only course left open to me is to tell the reader a little about Shaw and the play.

The play revolves around *Candida*, a woman who in Shaw's words... "is the Virgin Mother and nobody else."

Candida gets caught between her husband, Reverend James Morrell and Eugene Marchbanks, a storm tossed, wimpy eighteen year old poet.

Between the two, they manage to thrust *Candida* into a situation where she must choose between them.

To the end, *Candida* remains the dignified, "power" of the family.

Through twists and turns of the plot, she always manages to keep her husband thinking that

he is the head of the family.

In his own way, Shaw, was a great supporter to woman rights. *Candida* was only an extension to his support. Shaw said, "The slavery of women means the tyranny of women."

No fascinating woman ever wants to emancipate her sex, her object is to gather power in the hands of Man because she knows she can govern him."

Throughout the play, *Candida* shows her stone will and strength of character—which she must have to put up with the ridiculous mentalities of both her husband and the young poet.

Guthrie, based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is a classical repertoire theatre at the tail end of its national tour. I feel that we are truly lucky to have such a fine company visit our town.

Music

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also cites V.A. as one of his favorites.

Sabina Letchford of Slab of Meat gives PapSmear as her favorite local band. **Patricia Simms also with Slab of Meat** (who in parts one and two of this article was mistakenly identified as Pati Richa) said Slab of Meat is her favorite band, followed by AWOL.

Chad MX and Royce Ramirez declined to give a favorite or a least favorite stating that they didn't want to make fun of anyone.

Gig Slaze of Herd of Lemmings said his pick for number one band in Las Vegas is V.A. handsdown.

Rick Jimenez of Lord Beasley: "I don't know any local bands but I've always liked Andy Zafuto, he is the Jerry Lewis of Las Vegas."

Any Zafuto of V.A. and the now defunked AWOL: "It's always been S.A. (Samson's Army), you gotta like their songs. they are with the times, but then again they can take you back."

Tod Sampson of S.A. gives Abeyance as his top pick.

Dalton Farmer (Drummer) said, "The Point on the *KOMP* album. *Here Today, Gone Tomorrow*, is good, well-rounded music with a professional stage presence — a fun band!"

Lance Little of S.A.: "It's hard to say, I like 'em all, I really do, because they all have a different aspect, with different types of music!"

KUNV D.J. Bobby: "V.A. and H.O.L. I love Homer with a serious touch"

Tonya Jaynes of Anthony Flynn Band said "The Young Brandos, when they came on the scene they started changing it, making it a more professional scene. Their act was and is more professional and together."

Frank Bisoono of the New Dinosaurs: "Hard to say, I like the young Brandos, there's not that many bands getting out there and performing. I'd like to see more folks get out there and play." The Two Chamleons show promise".

NEXT: More musicians, more views on the music scene, and finally at long last, the Young Brandos speak.