

# Hers Tabula Rasa gets 'Perverse,' and it works

by Tricia Romano

The following is the first of a three-part series reviewing local artists' new releases. This week features Hers Tabula Rasa's *Perverse* on Exodus Records.

The name Hers Tabula Rasa conjures images of a hard-core industrial band, perhaps leaning heavily on synthesizers and keyboards. It comes as a surprise, then, to hear the band and discover they are anything but synthesizer-driven.

Instead, singer Brent Legault, guitarist Espealious

and bassist Ty Metten whip together the popular blend of funk and rock with their unique style. Unlike most funk-based rock bands, Hers Tabula Rasa strays from the prototype of funk n' roll the Red Hot Chili Pepper style of vocals, choosing to exclude Chili Pepper Anthony Kiedis-style rapping, and instead use Legault's voice as an instrument in itself. Legault doesn't rap and talk-sing, a la other funk bands (Faith No More, Primus); instead he actually sings out melodies. There aren't too many true singers left in alternative music nowadays, save for the Morrisseys and the Robert Smiths.

Incidentally, Legault's voice slightly resembles the Cure's lead vox, minus the whine.

The band differs also in that they don't have a live drummer on the recording. A drum machine was used with more positive effects than anticipated. Most programmed drums sound flat and technically cold and don't usually work well with bands that have a concert feel to them.

What fails in the recording is not the musicianship or the songwriting. Recorded on a low budget in Espealious' home studio, it is the poor production that fails to keep this boat afloat. Sadly,

the weak production only distracts the listener from otherwise good songs. HTR would have benefitted from cutting the length down to EP size and put that money toward a more professional recording.

A few tracks stand out, namely "Love and Fucking," a danceable rocker and the ballad "December Second." "Love and Fucking," features a funky bass line (a signature of the Hers Tabula Rasa sound), but, alas, the title and lyrics will keep it from receiving airplay. A more accessible tune is "December Second," which, with some luck and local audience

support, could possibly receive airplay.

Despite the weak production, Hers Tabula Rasa deserves a pat on the back. It has an album out on a label, whereas, most bands here feel they are confined to playing the local bar circuit and never get around to getting their money and their act together to put out a demo, much less a record. Hers Tabula Rasa has gotten off its collective butts and put a record out for the world (or at least Las Vegas) to see. Suffice to say, there aren't too many local bands that can hold to that claim. Pick it up, it's worth checking out.

## Ice-T from page three

ing any flags. He isn't calling for the President's head or He and Body Count play music. They haven't the time to chuck bombs into buildings, killing the armed and the unarmed "enemy" in the name of some "higher, nobler purpose." Leave that to the U.S. government.

What Ollie North,

Andy Anderson and any skittish cops need to understand is that Ice-T is simply an entertainer, and to some, an artist. His lyrics are there for consumers to enjoy. They aren't worthy of such overwhelming prosecution. Or is it persecution?

Of course, since the First Amendment does indeed apply to everyone, Andy Anderson is within his rights to say

whatever he wants. Let's just hope his actions do not reflect his words, and that he is still willing to uphold the law, "to serve and protect," even if it means helping Ice-T, or other people he doesn't like.

**"A SEXY, EROTIC THRILLER."**  
-Vernon Scott, UPI

IN A GAME OF LIFE AND DEATH,  
ONE WRONG MOVE COULD BE HIS LAST.

CHRISTOPHER LAMBERT DIANE LANE  
TOM SKERRITT DANIEL BALDWIN

A CARL SCHENKEL FILM  
**KNIGHT MOVES**  
WRITTEN BY BRAD MIRMAN

MPAA: R  
DISTRIBUTORS: INTERSTAR RELEASING

STARTS FRIDAY, JANUARY 22nd AT A THEATRE NEAR YOU !!

91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV NV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV  
91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV NV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV  
91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV  
91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV  
91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV  
91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV  
91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV  
91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV  
91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV  
91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV  
91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV 91.5 KUNV

**DOUBLE DOWN**  
POOL • PINBALL • SHOOTER SPECIALS *saloon*

Hottest Jukebox on the Planet  
Home of Jennifer's  
**FLAMINGO MUFF**

**BACK TO SCHOOL BASH**  
**FRIDAY & SATURDAY**

4640 Paradise (between Harmon & Tropicana) Enter off Swenson or Paradise

TEMPEST