

nightlife

TONIGHT
 ■ Uncle B at Monkey Feather.
 ■ The Big Pay Back at Sekure, with Kellyn and Ric Rush.

TOMORROW
 ■ Tim Beveridge — the man described as “New Zealand’s answer to Frank Sinatra” — at Taupo Great Lake Centre. Tickets from Ticketek.
 ■ Main Street Dub at La Commune — reggae, dub, roots and dancehall selected by Cpt Nemo and DJ Atmosphere. 8pm-later, free entry.
 ■ The Mint Chicks, Sora Shima and The Lookie Loos at The Yellow Submarine. \$15 advanced tickets from Cds4nix, or \$20 on the door. Bands start at 9pm sharp.
 ■ Azza at Kremlin playing house and electro.
 ■ Fuzzy Logik vs Dan Bisley at Monkey Feather.
 ■ 5th Threat, Ghost Echoes and Final Chance at Sabbath, \$5 entry.
 ■ Soul-grabbin’ house at Sekure courtesy of Sophie.
 ■ Hamilton Underground Film Festival screenings at Sabbath.
 ■ Redline, Sinfura and These Four

Walls at Diggers.
SATURDAY
 ■ Hard dance at Kremlin — DJ First Aid’s sending-off shindig, with Fuzzy Logik and Cam.
 ■ Pumpin’ at Monkey Feather, featuring L8n, Hollis and Claude Sabatier.
 ■ Quarter2, North Shore five-piece blending punk, ska, alternative and rock, at Elevate Youth Hall. Support from Equinox, Kingston and Last Ride Home. All ages show, 7pm start, \$10.
 ■ Skelitor, Suckafish and Dcyphor at Sabbath Bar. \$5 entry.
 ■ S.H.E — Spinning House Electro — at The Loft and Sekure. DJs are Jamie White, Joe Johnson, Andy Crump, Johnny, Reuben R, Rob G and P Haeder.

TUESDAY
 ■ Rob Guest, veteran crooner, at Founders Theatre. Performing tunes from Les Miserables, Phantom of the Opera and West Side Story as part of his New Zealand Heartlands Tour, with guest soprano Elizabeth Marvely. 8pm start, tickets from Ticketdirect.co.nz

GIG GUIDE Thu 27 September – Thu 4 October

Thursday
Diggers Bar and Cafe
 FORGERY:
 This three piece: acoustic, bass, n drums, make a lot of noise and make it their purpose to rock your night! They're called FORGERY but they aint no frauds, its only the best from the best when FORGERY are in town.

Friday
Crossroads
 Racing today from Ashburton
 7.30 Rugby – Live – North Harbour v Southland
 7.30 Rugby – Live – BOP v Wellington
 8.30pm till late Karaoke with Wayne

Diggers Bar and Cafe
 SWEET ECHO
 These Tokoroa guys & gal are awesome!
 Every time they play they bring it! A wicked mix of funk, rhythm guitar, rock, R & B, and reggae. Covers from the best like the Doobie Brothers, Bob Marley, AC DC, G n R, Joss Stone, and Marvin Gaye. They're signed to Ardi Jah record label, and you can check them out at www.myspace.com/sweetecho
 . Do it @ DIGGERS with SWEET ECHO.

Hamilton Cosmopolitan Club
 8.00pm-12.00
 Havana Affair
 Your choice you asked for them

The Deck at Skycity
 FREE live entertainment at The Deck. Come along and enjoy the sounds of BETTY ANNE and FRIENDS in Friday Night, playing 8pm until Midnight

Saturday
Crossroads
 Premier Racing today from Ellerslie
 2.30 Rugby – Live – Waikato v Northland
 5.25 Rugby – Live – Hawkes Bay v Manawatu
 8pm Tim Armstrong playing Live

Diggers Bar and Cafe
 BOOGIE MONSTA: Groove your way through the evening with Boogie Monsta! You know all the songs... and it's always hard to keep off the dance floor! A very tasty 3 piece band that brings a funky and dynamic party mix to DIGGERS.

Hamilton Cosmopolitan Club
 From 6.30pm Hospice Fundraiser
 A Dance with a difference.
 Top Class Dance Clubs and Studios performing. Entertainment from X Factor

Sunday
Crossroads
 Harness Racing from Timaru
 2.30 Rugby – Live – Taranaki v Counties
 9.15 Grand Final Storm v Sea Eagles

Diggers Bar and Cafe
 No matter the weather, no matter the season, it's always blue @ DIGGERS on Sunday. Come get all the rhythm and blues you can eat this Sunday with THE B-SIDE BAND. This Tauranga three piece; harmonica, guitar and rock-a-billy drums, brings the best in jazz, rock-a-billy and blues to Diggers this Sunday. They've done it at the Tauranga and Rotorua jazz and blues festivals, and now they're doing it @ Diggers. Come check 'em out! Always a great atmosphere @ Diggers with Nick and his crew..... pizza deals, your favourite brew and awesome live entertainment..... what more do you want for your Sunday?

Monday
Crossroads
 TAB open 10.00am
 Racing from Australia

Diggers Bar and Cafe
 Sorry closed.... But always ready to take those bookings for functions... So check us out on line @ www.diggersbar.co.nz, or call 834 2228, or email diggersbar@xtra.co.nz. What-ever the occasion, you can probably do it @ Diggers!

Tuesday
Crossroads
 TAB Opens 10.00am

Diggers Bar and Cafe
 Our in house muso's Kelly and Jakey are always up for a party with the people of Digger's on Tuesday nights! Awesome sounds and loads of talent, these two will be performing only for you...and well, everyone else in the bar because they can't help pulling in a crowd @ DIGGERS. Don't miss out! (Don't forget to join the Handle Club..... guaranteed special rates so bring your mates!)

Wednesday
Crossroads
 Racing today from Avondale
 TAB open 10.00am

Hamilton Cosmopolitan Club
 Cool, smooth recorded music for Dancing from 7.00pm

Diggers Bar and Cafe
 Kell and Judd are two well known guys from the local muso scene and they'll be @ Diggers this coming Wednesday. No doubt they'll play the ones you know, songs that is, and will add their own flava to the mix. Come check 'em out @ Diggers.

Thursday
Crossroads
 TAB open 10.00am
 Cambridge Harness and Greyhounds
 Woodville Racing

Jazz Moon arising

Jeff Neems talks to jazz singer Carolina Moon about her new album and her show in Hamilton.



She might be the woman out the front with the silky voice, but Auckland-based jazz singer Carolina Moon doesn't consider herself a diva.

"Well I guess the word diva, for me, conjures up images of big women, big voice, big personality, huge bosoms, and a temperament to match!" jokes Moon, who performs in Hamilton on Sunday evening.

"Being very petite for starters, I don't really think of myself as being a diva. I do consider myself a teller of stories and secrets — a lot of my lyrics are very personal — and finding the heart of a lyric is for me very important, as is the musicianship with which I deliver that lyric."

English-born Moon — who moved to New Zealand three years ago with her Kiwi partner and musical collaborator Roger Manins, a saxophonist — impressed greatly earlier this year with the warm smooth vocals on her album *East Of The Moon* (Moon Records). But she's no newcomer to the jazz game.

"My first album was released in Australia in 2003. It's called the Shaman's Kiss and is under my (real) name Caroline Lynn — it's mainly original pieces of experimental world/jazz fusion. It was shortlisted for best vocal album in the Australian Jazz Awards 2003, and though there are things now I'd do better, there are still some stunningly beautiful pieces on it and some quite different, original work. It was a very creative time for me."

The move to New Zealand with Manins, and the subsequent *East Of The Moon* album, represented a major step forward for the "30-something" singer who attended London's Guildhall School of Music.

"I was considering my musical existence here when I came to the realisation that despite singing jazz for a good while, I didn't actually have a specific jazz recording. So I started looking and thinking about the concept, the musicians, had a rehearsal or two with Kevin (Field, piano), Nigel (Gavin, guitar), Rog and I — and felt I had a really stunning musical blend."

Moon's quick to praise the players who backed her on *East Of The Moon*.

"The musos on the album are all just exceptional and the textures we create are gorgeous."

As Moon stresses, she worked hard on *East Of The Moon*, ensuring it features a diverse selection of offerings.

"With no one knowing who the hell I was, I had to have some clear artistic goals. Firstly, to choose material I liked; secondly, it would have a wider appeal than a straight jazz album, a bit more modern and contemporary; thirdly, demonstrate — at least to an extent — some of the range of styles I cover within this genre, and what I can actually do as a vocalist; fourthly, that it was going to be high-quality in all aspects, as good as I could get it."

"So there's quite a mix of material on the album, and the arrangements are a bit different from the standard fare: there's a really groovy cover of (The Doors') *Light My Fire* and (Tony Hatch's) *Call Me*. There are also some French songs — I have a whole set of some lovely French songs, as well as Spanish/Latin American — and some lovely standards that sound quite fresh due to the arrangements and the musicians. And there's a couple of pieces that are for me and my art including a very personal piece by Jan Rutherford called *Coco*."

So is she a songwriter, as well as a singer?

"Not trying to sound high-faluting about it, the pieces I've written — though I'm not exactly prolific — I would describe as compositions rather than songs. Sometimes they don't have words as such — I might use text, for instance — but they tend not to be formulaic in the songwriting sense."

Moon's says she's excited to be performing for a Waikato audience.

"I'm really looking forward to this gig. We have a great line-up that is especially picked for the Hamilton Jazz Club — as I do with all my concerts. Along with me is Roger on tenor sax. He is stunning — though you probably think I'm biased. We've just got a fabulous band with Phil Broadhurst on piano and Pete McGregor on double-bass, and the wonderful Owen Kneebone on drums. You'll hear some fantastic music, great energy and you'll come out feeling — I hope — 'gee that was great!'"

◆ Carolina Moon and band perform at the Hamilton Jazz Club event on Sunday night at Te Rapa racecourse's Centennial Lounge. Entry is \$7 for Jazz Club Members or \$12 for non-members (under 16s are free). Doors open at 7pm.

albums

hip hop
Kanye West
GRADUATION (Roc-a-fella/Universal)
 Chicago's auteur rapper-producer Kanye West polarises people. Some say he can't spell his own name ("It's Kane, isn't it?"), and believe he's arrogant, talentless, self-obsessed even. Others think he's one of the most gifted musicians of his generation, a humble genius stunned by his impact and popularity beyond rap's usual listenership (my kids, for instance, love him). That impact and popularity will grow even more with *Graduation*, which follows the scorching 2004 debut *The College Dropout* and 2005's equally impressive *Late Registration* (both Grammy winners). The successful West formula remains true: hugely catchy soul-based grooves sit alongside symphonic string-backed numbers, over which West recites topical, intelligent and at times self-mocking lyrics. So, much like its predecessors, *Graduation* offers a mix of tunes. There are hands-in-the-air club hits (*Champion, Good Life* — on which he even makes T-Pain sound good — and *Flashing Lights* have the same sort of feel as *Through The Wire, Jesus Walks* and *Touch The Sky*), and synth-powered tunes, one featuring a rhythm from Kraut-rock legends Can, which push rap's boundaries more than any of West's contemporaries (check *Stronger, Big Brother, Can't Tell Me Nothing* and *Homecoming*, which features Coldplay's Chris Martin). Devoid of annoying skits, *Graduation* is shorter, tighter, smarter and shows West's growing artistic maturity. Who cares if he doesn't always rhyme? Listen to his comments on hip hop culture (come back, Lauryn Hill), materialism, his own personal experience of fame and fortune ("You don't see how fly my style is?") and more. There have been few better albums this year. Currently the hottest ticket in popular music, if West maintains his current creative and popular momentum, he will be bigger than any rap act to have gone before him. Great cover and inner sleeve package, too.

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 JEFF NEEMS



50 Cent
CURTIS (Shady/Aftermath)
 So how do you follow up albums which sold close to 25 million copies worldwide? That was probably the question Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson was asking himself leading up to the recording of this, his third solo outing. Known for straight gangster music in its greatest form, he is the leader of the pack in 2007. He has spawned a clothing line, video games, record company, you name it — he has capitalised on his name and image, a real ghetto entrepreneur. So how is Curtis, given the much publicised release the same week as Kanye West's *Graduation*? It's very good, a 17-track album, albeit with a few fillers like the terrible *Fully Loaded Clip* and *Man Down*. Thankfully, the rest of the album is classic G-Unit bangers, like the big street hit *I Get Money*, which flips a classic old-school Audio Two sample to great effect. It's produced by new beatmaker Apex, and features 50 Cent proclaiming "I run New York", showing he is never one to back down from conflict. An unusual collaboration is *Ill Still Kill* with R&B crooner Akon, but it works well and will end up on the radio soon enough. Super-producer Dr Dre pops up on two tracks, giving his signature sound and showing his versatility with the neighbourhood anthem *Come And Go*, before serving up the club hit *Fire* featuring Nicole Scherzinger (Pussycat Dolls) and Young Buck. Long-time collaborator and friend Eminem spits a crazy verse and produces *Peep Show*, telling the tale of male fantasies at a female late-night spot. Soul diva Mary J Blige lends sweet vocals to the smooth *All Of Me*. It shows 50 Cent's personal side and demonstrates why he called this album *Curtis*: to give the fans a closer look into his styles. A good solid third album, but it's largely business as usual.

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 BRETT "OMEGA B" WAGNER



homegrown
Shapeshifter
LIVE (Truetime)
 Shapeshifter live is an impressive beast: big, loud and in your face. Throw the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra into the mix and anything should be possible for the leading innovators on the local drum and bass and dance scene. I was expecting great things. The album was recorded at the Christchurch Town Hall in September last year at the end of the group's tour, and the live recording features tracks off three of Shapeshifter's earlier albums. The opening *Good Looking* is classic Shapeshifter: the band's driving beats blending seamlessly with the swirling strings of the orchestra to create an all encompassing 10-minute monster of a track. Radio favourites *Tapestry* and *Bring Change* have far more body and depth with the orchestra involved, and the closing *One* seems like it's coming at you from every direction. But just when you start getting into it, it's over after just six tracks. Aside from that, it delivers extremely good things, with excellent production and mixing from Victoria Kelly and former Salmonella Dub frontman Tiki Taane. It's the sort of album that makes you appreciate having good speakers — turn it up.

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 TRACEY COOPER

