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Mercurial Visions
See Them Before They Vanish
G. Beaubien

Press releases are hype. They're supposed to be, supposed to excite people about something, but most of the time, the copywriter is blowing hot air, and even the time spent seeing how full of BS he is isn't worth it. But the copywriter of Mercurial Visions' press release is the lead singer, and for once, every word was spot on; nothing was exaggerated. If anything, he was modest.

Simply put, this band rocks. All-original songs that avoid merely parroting postpunk or trying to sound "alternative"; their sound rides waves from the mellifluous to pounding dance anthems, from heartache to venom and regret. And Jonathan Starks—PR man, keyboard player, lead singer—sets them aloft, chased by Nancy Mauer's richly sensual voice, which seems to have, finally, found a true home. The guitarist, Scott Marshall, knows he's not Eddie Van Halen or Michael Schenker; nor does he even try to be, understanding guitars don't *have* to be played fast and loud, or be the center of attention.

You will want to dance, pound your fists on the table, and sink into the luscious riffs, all in turn. "Walk Away," their closing song, is a sure club single—one that will be on a radio near you soon.

And this was their first show—*ever*.

No insult to the Sound Kitchen—I've lost many a great evening there—but what is this band doing playing there? Cabaret Metro is where they belong.

Mercurial Visions is at Sound Kitchen one more night—next Saturday at midnight.