Charlotte Pride hosts Sister Funk and Weigle

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render it souless. My intent is to handle it with realness and style.

Because of the album's themes and Weigle's honesty as an songwriter, SoulSex" might stall his steady move into the mainstream — but he doesn't care.

My music will stay the same whatever degree of success I may reach," he explained. "To me, I'm successful as long as I keep getting emails from people telling me that my songs mean a lot to them. I won't water down my music."

Funky divas

With plenty of groove, a pinch of fate and an assist from a N.Y. producer, five

female musicians -Troy (keyboards), Tina (sax), Vange (guitar), Wendy (bass) and Blaze (drums and percussion) - united in 2000 to create a rollicking sound that defied the conventions of "womyn's music."

A year after their founding, Sister Funk released their self-produced, independent album "Pursuit of the Groove." The set was well received (Chris Los Angeles called it

"an incredible CD" and the track "Truth Will Set You Free" was named Best Original Song by the Stonewall Society) but it was the supporting live performances that best displayed the band's strengths.

"These girls know how to put on a show, you wouldn't believe their energy," wrote Mike Begun in a review for New England's Metroline magazine.

Out comedian Suzanne Westenhoeffer offered a similar assessment: "Hot gals playing music that's impossible to stay in your seat for.'

Anybody who's seen one of the band's previous performances in Charlotte knows that the local LGBT community has similarly fallen for Sister Funk. And the feeling is mutual according to keyboardist Troy. "Sister Funk has performed at Charlotte



Pride twice and 2004 will make our third appearance," she told Q-Notes. "We have been called Charlotte Pride's official party band. We love the rambunctious crowd."

Festival-goers can look forward to hearing songs from the band's second album, "Girl" (2003), whose 10 cuts cut across funk, pop and reggae with equal abandon.

Troy explained that Sister Funk enjoys performing at events like Charlotte Pride because "we are able to share our creative gift of music and love for our community without having to censor ourselves or be judged. We can feel proud for who we are and what we stand for."



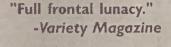
Allen of IMRU Radio in Sister Funk will get the party started at Charlotte Pride.

Throughout the spring and summer Sister Funk has a full schedule of Pride shows and club bookings. When asked about the band's goals beyond these performances, Troy reeled off a short list she'd obviously thought about this before.

'We want to continue to write music that is uplifting and makes others feel. We would like to become financially self-sufficient through our music and quit the nineto-five jobs, be featured on Ellen DeGeneres' show and win Outvoice's Outsong of the Year. Oh, and getting any of our songs on the Billboard Top 40.

info:

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"Hefty laughter." -New York Times

WONDER EF'THE

by David Linsday-Abaire Starring Cate Zeggert, Michael Nester, Sheila Snow Proctor, Tanya McClellan, Jorja Ursin, Tom Scott and Lee Thomas

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April 28-May 23 Actor's Theatre of Charlotte 650 E. Stonewall Street

Showtimes are Wed/Thurs at 7:30 pm, Fri/Sat at 8:00 pm, and Sun, May 23 at 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$17-22 Tuesday, May 4 at 7:30 is "Pay What You Can Night." Opening right performance on Wed.April 28 followed by a free wine and cheese reception. For more information, please call 704.342.2251, or visit our website at www.actorstheatrecharlotte.org.

She's back.



This summer.

Life changes in one minute for Cass when

she discovers something shocking in her hushand's sweater drawer. In a firsh, she realizes her hushand isn't the man she

thought she married and so begins her

hilarious, non-stop adventure on the road of self-discovery and a new life. She packs her bags and hops a bus to Niagara Falls where she encounters a hilarious cast of eccentric characters that propel her

perilously closer to the water's edge

This wild ride helps us remember - it's flever too late to escape.

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