

Beats Antique awes crowd at The Orange Peel and takes

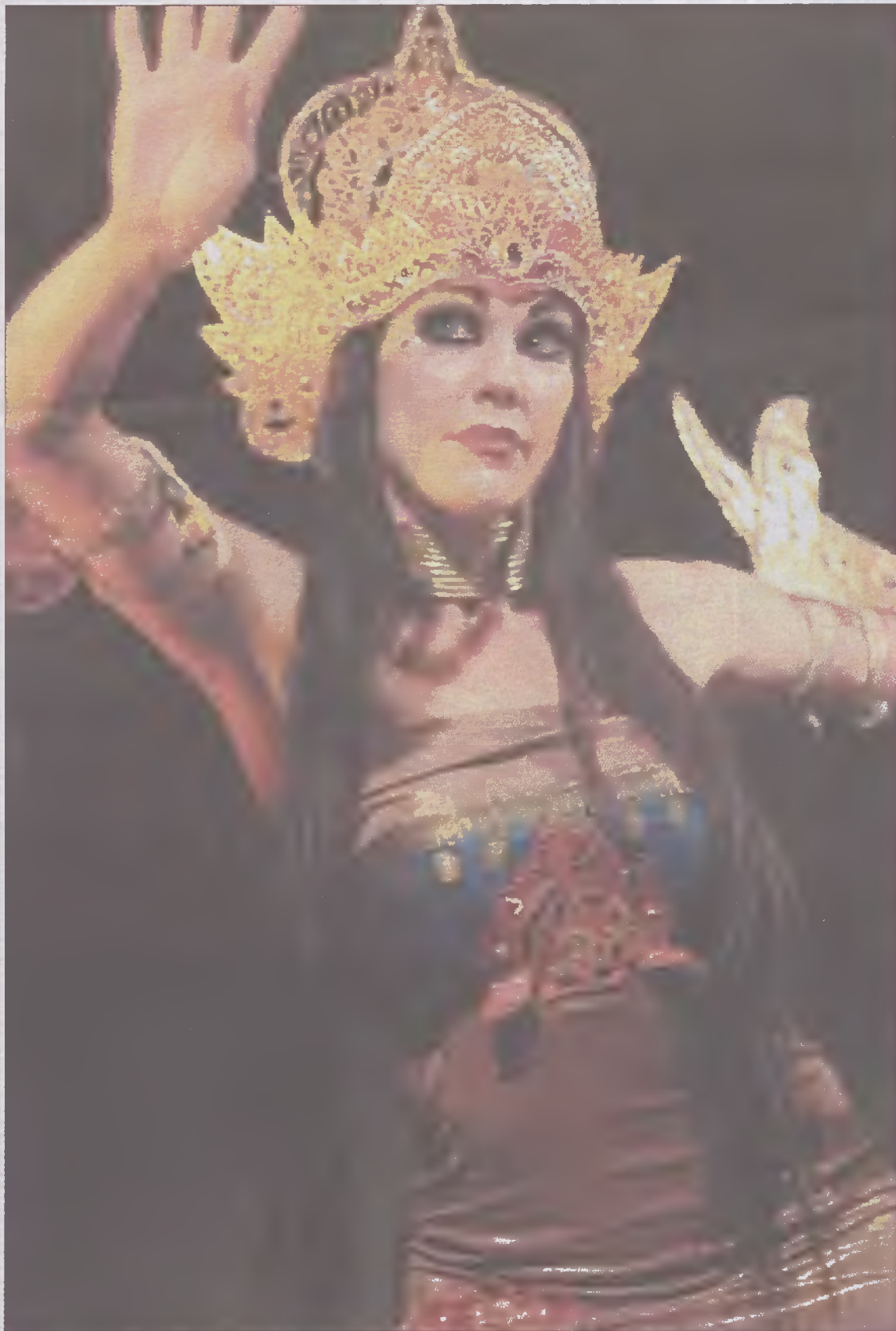


Photo by Jorja Smith - Photography Editor

Zoe Jakes, belly dancer for Beats Antique, entertains the crowd with her dance moves and vibrant clothing during Thursday's performance at The Orange Peel.

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People from all walks of life ventured out into the night last Thursday to experience the orchestral freak show known as Beats Antique.

The trio, made of the belly dancing/drum banging Zoe Jakes and musicians/producers Tommy Cappel and David Satori, took the audience on a very intentional trip through their "A Thousand Faces" touring show.

The concept for their most recent album, *A Thousand Faces – Act I*, comes from Joseph Campbell's idea of the monomyth, or hero's journey. With the audience members playing the role of the heroes, Beats Antique simply provided the arena in which the audience could roam and explore.

The night started out like any other show at The Orange Peel, with Don Winsley as the opener who effectively warmed up the crowd for Ill-esha, who played second. Ill-esha, a female producer and vocalist, set the stage for all the "girl power" the audience would soon witness.

As The Orange Peel began to fill up for the sold out show, the audience's anticipation for Beats Antique's new projection-mapped stage setup became obvious. When the house lights went down and the stage lit up, the audience released every bit of anxiety and yielded to the sounds to come.

Starting with "Overture" from the new album, the show began slowly and gracefully compared to past Beats Antique shows, which tended to throw the audience right in the middle of the action without letting up for more than an hour. It was clear the trio was building up for something huge. The beginning was simply the exposition of this narrative.

With Jakes at the front of the stage enticing the audience with her beauty and graceful movements, she seemed to be playing a role in an epic; she was the siren. Only hours before the show began, she taught a belly dancing class at Studio Zahiya. Oh, how things had changed.

Playing mostly songs from the new album until the end, the trio astounded the audience with what sounded like world music mixed with bluegrass, dub, electronica and even ska. For the new album, the group enlisted guests such as Primus vocalist/bassist Les Claypool, singer/songwriter/beat-boxer Lynx, and Sarod player Alam Khan.

After the first couple of songs and multiple costume changes for Jakes, the action got going with "The Approach." The song sounds much like the name implies, like encountering something mysterious and



Ill-esha opens for Beats Antique performance on Thursday

potentially dangerous. In the heavy percussions and Beats Antique fans know the road a bit, the audience blow-up cyclops bear-like thing even Homer could not

Next on the journey, the audience upon a carnival game show "Clap your hands, you demanded the announcer. 'The gentleman, you have a chance of eternal damnation, everlasting limited bandwidth and one-on-one support.'"

Jakes then brought an a