

THE HOT LICKS

Courtney Pine Will Blow At Ovens Auditorium

It isn't often that the British press gives enthusiastic coverage or any coverage at all to a rising, young British jazz musician. Courtney Pine has been called "a player of enormous potential" by *The Observer*, while *The Guardian*, noting the 22-year-old saxophonist's unanimous media accolades, pronounced that Pine "has suddenly shot to as much stardom as you can get on the jazz scene this side of the Atlantic."

Pine showed early promise at school. He honed his technique on the clarinet, and discovered an old saxophone in the cupboard. He was soon skipping homework to sit in with reggae and funk artists, and bands like Clint Eastwood and Hi Tension. That he discovered jazz at all is due to West Coast jazz photographer William Claxton. Courtney fell in love with the look of Sonny Rollins in stetson and gun belt, tenor hooked under his arm like a Winchester, on the cover of "Way Out West." "At that time I didn't know what improvising entailed," Courtney recalls, with a laugh. "I knew nothing at all about chord substitutions, I just knew how to play the instrument and the C sharp major scale, and that was it. I put the record on and tried to play what he played, regardless of whether he was flattening his ninths. I was ignorant." Rollins led him to John Coltrane, his other big influence, and to a growing impatience with what he considered the limitations of the reggae circuit. Meanwhile, his jazz listening education travelled back to Lester Young and Sidney Bechet, and forward to Albert Ayler.

Now the problem was where and with whom to play. He attended a few of drummer John Stevens' workshops, and sat in with Stevens' Free Bop outfit. Pine was beginning to have a name, and when Rolling Stone Charlie Watts formed his big band, Courtney was there in the sax section with veterans like Don Weller and Alan Skidmore. His volcanic solos tore up the



Courtney Pine

regulars during the big band's residence at London's Ronnie Scott Club.

But Courtney dreamt of more than being a sideman. Almost two years ago he formed an organization called The Abibi Jazz Arts as a rallying point for young, black British musicians trying to play jazz or, as Courtney puts it "Afro-classical music." Arts Council assistance (Great Britain's version of the

Arts) has not been forthcoming so far, but the young leader has set up a nineteen-piece big band drawn from TAJA enthusiasts. "We decided to form The Jazz Warriors to show people that we can play jazz, and to get into the public eye. A lot of the guys in the big band have come from reggae and funk, and they have the same problems that I had." Every gig so far has been a sell-out pretty much on word-of-mouth alone.

Pine believes in advancing on several fronts at once. In addition to The Jazz Warriors, Courtney also co-leads the all-saxophone quartet, The World's First Saxophone Posse, and his own quintet. "Ideally, each band is suitable for different venues. WFSP is a chamber band which I'd like to see in a small room, the quintet in clubs, and the Warriors at festivals.

In a remarkably short time, he has attracted the attention of touring Americans. Besides being chosen for the George Russell Orchestra tour, Courtney has sat in with Art Blakey & The Jazz Messengers at the 1986 Camden Jazz Festival, more than holding his own in that fast company. Playing with Blakey was a dream come true. "Standing on stage with the Jazz Messengers? Phew! Art Blakey gives you support everywhere so that you can be rhythmically free. It was like being in a big blanket. I've never felt like that before!" He has also sat in over several nights with Elvin Jones & The Jazz Machine at Ronnie Scott's, which has resulted in an offer to tour with the combo, finishing up in Japan for a John Coltrane Memorial concert.

Pine's debut album was released in the autumn of 1986 and entered the British charts at No. 38, making it the first serious jazz album to make the British listing. Three months later *Journey To The Urge Within* qualified for the platinum disc, with UK sales in excess of 60,000. Pine and his regular quartet have spent most of 1987 touring Britain and Europe, taking a summer hiatus to record a new album - *Destiny's Song & The Image Of Pursuance*. *Destiny's Song*, released on Antilles New Directions, is produced by Delfayo Marsalis, (younger brother of Branford and Wynton).

"I believe that West Indian culture -- elements of reggae, calypso, church and my parents' musical tastes like ska -- will come out in our jazz by osmosis. I think a black British style is going to evolve."

Quick results and Low Costs are Classified trademarks. Call 376-0496

YVONNE MIMS EVANS
District Court Judge

Braces For Children & Adults
Dr. PAUL A. MCGILL
D.D.S., P.A.
"Practice Limited To Orthodontics"
CONVENIENT LOCATION & SAT. HRS
(704)375-7005



1404 Beatties Ford Road
NorthWest Gateway Professional Center
Suite 200 • Charlotte, North Carolina 28216

Carole B. Ricks, A.C.S.W.

of Carole's Corner
Offers
Individual, Parent/Child & Marriage

Counseling

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
333-0140

"God Is Our Very Best Friend" Read your King James Bible, Pray and Thank God Every Day.

20% OFF

on dry cleaning only silk not included

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

10 Percent Off On Friday & Saturday

Offer Expires **OCTOBER 27, 1988**

Minimum \$5. After Discount

Coupon Must Accompany Order

Full Price After 30 Days

•Expert Alterations

• We Work Saturdays Too!

American Dry Cleaners & Laundry

1806 North Graham Street

(Next To Hutchison Shopping Center) 333-6111



The Gyriz: Terri Robinson (L), Tara Geter (C) and Monica Payne have just made their recording debut.

The Gyriz Come On With First Album

Terri Robinson, Tara Geter, Monica Payne of THE GYRLZ that's who! The GYRLZ captured the attention of the top teen-dream heartthrob singer and he convinced them to delay their own tour to add their voices to his show (and are in his latest video). Terri, the lead vocalist, said, "How could you look into those eyes and say no." Their own debut album *Love Me Or Leave Me*, just out on Capitol Records, is savvy progressive R&B music by three young women who write and sing songs that are a fresh blend of hip-hop funk dance grooves. Add to that the production punch of Andre Harrell, who's also produced Heavy D & The Boyz and Guy, and Teddy Riley, who's worked with Keith Sweat and Al B. Sure! In fact, it was Teddy who turned Al B. on to THE GYRLZ with their first single "Wishing You Were Here."

For those of you who don't know who the THE GYRLZ (pronounced with the Brooklynese "goylz") a little history is in order. A year ago South Carolina natives Monica and Tara were in

high school and in an all-girl rap group called Fantasy. One night the punky twosome met producer Andre Harrell at a Heavy D and The Boyz concert -- and treated them to a taste of their rapping. Harrell liked what he heard and invited them to come to NYC to put together a demo, but suggested they sing instead of rap.

Two months later Harrell, a year behind Tara, graduated from high school on a Friday, and by Sunday the two were in New York City, without the guarantee of a recording contract. Andre took them into the studio with Kyle West, and they recorded a song. Nothing came of it, so Tara and Monica flew back home to South Carolina.

Meanwhile, Andre signed a management contract with Terri (who at the time was in a group called Precise) and wanted to put her in a new group. A month later Tara and Monica were meeting with Terri in NYC. As Monica says, "It was like we had known each other forever. We went into the studio and cut a demo of 'It's Over,' and it was just

like magic." Terri adds, "The harmonies, the way our voices blended, it was incredible. We knew right then it was the three of us." By June they were recording an album for Capitol Records. Tara feels their music, which they write, will be popular "because there don't seem to be any songs that teenage girls can sing to their boyfriends. Everything out there right now seems to be from a boy's point of view in this type of music."

The tour, which runs through December, started last week. While you're waiting for them to hit your city -- check out their video "If It's Games You're Playing" with a cameo by Al B. Sure! himself.

JOIN THE CROWD!

Read

"THE VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY"

Subscribe Today!

Total ENTERTAINMENT Package!! only \$1.95 per call
New and Exciting
Dial 976-ROCK
Music Trivia Game
Daily, Weekly & Monthly CONTEST PRIZE WINNERS...
•MONTHLY WINNERS- Over \$15,000 Worth of Prizes To Choose From... Stereo Rack Systems, Diamond Rings and French White Rabbit Strollers just to name a few.
•WEEKLY WINNERS-Over \$10,000 Worth of Prizes to Choose From...
•DAILY WINNERS-Over \$7,000 Worth of Prizes to Choose From...
Call Today!!

NEW ...Dial 976-8000 Personalized Fortune Telling Program
Discover your Love, Prosperity & Happiness for the future. Only \$1.95 per call

DIAL 976-DATE Greatest Electronic Meeting Place • PRIVATE • CONFIDENTIAL • SELECTIVE
976-LAFF Must be 18 • 24 Hours A Day - Only \$3.00 per call New Message with every call
1313 For The Hottest JOKES, only 95¢ per call
24 HOUR SPORTS SCORES, Updated Every 10 minutes, Only 50¢ per call

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION
Saturday, October 22, 1988
Ribs-N-Such
Barbecue House
3001 Freedom Drive
Charlotte, NC 28216
FREE Prizes • Food • Entertainment
WQCC LIVE REMOTE
392-0200
EAT-IN OR CARRY-OUT