

Video panorama captures spirit of the West

Some Athens rock 'n' rollers believe the only music worth listening to was created during the '60s and '70s.

C'mon folks, music moves on, and so should the audience.

This Friday and Saturday the **Union** is introducing **Myriad Creatures**, a local five-member music team combining pop, new wave and eclectic music.

Myriad Creatures is prepared to give its Athens audience a mixture of music styles.

around town

with JOAN KUSHEL

The **Creatures** plan to perform an original set touched with a few songs from U2, Talking Heads and King Crimson.

Willie Phoenix and the Shadow Lords' rock 'n' roll comes close to imitating Bruce Springsteen's vital voice and romping stage presence, and they'll be appearing at the **Frontier Room** Friday.

At **Hangar Five** Friday, it's Ray Parker Jr.'s copycat **Jeffrey 80-Proof Green** spinning and scratching records all night long.

And for those who are addicted to the old stuff, let **Voices** soothe the withdrawal pains Saturday at the **Frontier Room**. This six-member band is back with some classic rock.

According to vocalist and guitarist Marte Falle, the band has practiced to give the audience — and themselves — a change of pace.

If you're a member of the "unofficial official Jimmy Buffet fan club," a meeting will be held Saturday at **One Particular Harbor**, where **Rick Miller** will be strummin' "Sounds of the Sea."

Images of western landscapes and ancient Indian architecture floated slowly across an arc of 10 video monitors to eerie, quadrophonic sound in Seigfred Gallery Thursday night.

Visiting artist Steina Vasulka's hypnotizing video, titled "The West," pans the red New Mexico land to the Anazi's Casa Rinconada in Chaco Canyon.

Working with barren, almost level scenery and monotone sound effects, Vasulka ingeniously emanates the empty, natural quietude of America's flatlands.

"You cannot take the overwhelming beauty of nature and put it in a box and be successful," Vasulka explained as "The West" glided behind her.

To capture nature's gifts with man-made technology, an artist must concentrate on smaller geographic areas, she said.

In color-tinted detail, the 30-minute tape delves into abandoned Indian buildings, focusing on window-like openings looking toward the vibrant blue sky.

About 800 years ago, the windows were used to mark the stars, moon and sun. "On certain days, a beam of light

will hit exactly one of these windows," she said. "It was a way for them to find space.

"This Indian settlement was abandoned in the 1200s and no one knows why," Vasulka said with an Icelandic accent. Vasulka was raised in Reykjavik, Iceland where she studied violin and music theory.

Later in "The West," Vasulka's lens centers on a video camera and a Very Large Array disk set in the same vicinity of the crude, stone architecture.

Man still uses his "high space technology" to look for intelligence outside the universe.

"The VLA is an impersonator of nature, but it is beautiful to see. It just sits out there and listens to the sky," Vasulka commented.

But behind Vasulka's aesthetic, ethereal concept lies experimental video techniques.

Probably the simplest yet most effective method Vasulka employs is showing "The West" in an A-B-A-B pattern. Every other screen displays the same image.

Vasulka discreetly adjusts

the timing so the landscape on screen A moves to the left as it is just beginning to appear on screen B.

Thus, the illusion of panorama is created with only a small arc of monitors.

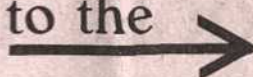
Vasulka uses 10 screens, but "I would love a thousand," she said.

In the near future, Vasulka and "The West" will head east to New York for a statewide tour.

review by JOAN KUSHEL



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