

Blowing in the wind

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concert review by Audrey Pereira
LADY DOO-BOP SASKIA LAROO BAND
Esplanade Theatre Studio/Last Saturday
Mosaic Jazzfestival, Singapore.

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concert

LADY DOO-BOP SASKIA LAROO BAND
Esplanade Theatre Studio/Last Saturday

Audrey Pereira

THIS was one cracking concert from the first note. Saskia Laroo and her international band hit the stage running, offering a dizzying repertoire of jazz, rap, hip-hop, salsa, drum-and-bass and soul. Tight arrangements, seamless flows from one genre to another and an energy as mellow as it was driving worked like a charm on the audience, some of whom were fairly bouncing off the walls of the Esplanade Theatre Studio from the musical-high.

One of the few women trumpet stylists in the world, Laroo from the Netherlands has created her own edgy combination of jazz with rap and hip-hop, sometimes called doo-bop, and it's guaranteed to get people on the floor. Her band was truly fine. Most noteworthy were keyboardist Warren Byrd and Zoran Jager on guitar. Her two rap vocalists, MC Firestorm and MC Stewlocks, wove rapid-fire rap and beat-boxing into a jazz backdrop with ease and conviction. Through it all ran the sounds of Laroo's trumpet, often muted. By turns sultry, tender and yearning, and angsty and full of attitude, it was the main voice in an amazing musical conversation.

Clad in clingy black and glitter, the musician who has been dubbed the Lady Miles Davis of Europe for her expert improvisation looked like a rocker chick with serious attitude. Taking the stage for an impromptu moment were inspirational founder of the Montreux Jazz Festival Claude Nobs, who plays a mean harmonica, and jazz guitar virtuoso Lee Ritenour, who had just finished performing at the Concert Hall.

This was one of the best parts of the Esplanade's Mosaic Music Festival. It was a setting where magic happens because everyone – the musicians on stage, the audience and the musicians amongst the audience – was united in a passion for great music.



TRUMPETCARD: Saskia Laroo with her edgy combination of jazz with rap and hip-hop gets people on the floor.

PHOTO: ESPRANADE

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Saskia Laroo Band



Saskia Laroo Band ft Claude Nops and Lee Ritenour



Saskia Laroo Band ft Lee Ritenour



Saskia Laroo guest w Broken Social Scene



Saskia Laroo jamming at a radio performance