

CLUB REVIEWS

Side FX

Crash Mansion
 New York, NY

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The Players: Kim Cameron, vocals; Andy Shriver, guitar; Andy Hamburger, drums; Matt Everhart, bass; special guest Benji Harrison keyboards; special guest Riche Cannata, sax; special guest Brandon Ruchdashel, vocals.

Material: Call them the anti-indie band if you will. Amid the influx of solo singer-songwriters and boy rock bands, these Washington D.C. natives offer a refreshing departure. Side FX draw on various genres from pop, rock and jazz, leaning heavily toward a big top 40 sound. Kim Cameron, who writes most of the material, is also the lead singer. She draws lyrically on a multitude of deeply personal experiences. "If mountains could talk, I'd hear whispers," Cameron states in a dreamlike mid-tempo ballad. Along with their many originals, the band also perform an interesting jazzy treatment of the classic Carpenters' song "Rainy Days and Mondays."

Musicianship: Each band member is a seasoned professional and extremely proficient on his or her



Side FX: An anti-indie band with the drive and ambition to mix up several styles of music.

instrument and Cameron puts across her sultry alto voice with casual ease. The eclectic nature of the material changes grooves often, which drummer Andy Hamburger keeps a strong handle on (aided by the rest of the rhythm section).

Performance: The band performed a balanced mix of selections and it's evident that individually and collectively they are experienced live performers; Cameron made brief friendly patter between songs and band members occasionally

exchanged banter among themselves; however, they could have taken fuller advantage of their "breaking all the rules" stance with a tighter, more theatrical presentation. This was a large band aiming to make a particular statement and there was enormous potential to exploit their top 40 vibe that would have solidified their individuality to an even greater extent. A highpoint in the set, however, was surprise guest artist Riche Cannata on sax (Billy Joel) sitting in for a couple of songs.

Summary: Side FX is a professional group with drive and ambition. To the band's credit, they have made the brave choice of mixing several styles. Kicking it up a few notches to a showier, more theatrical presentation might further define a unique statement that will garner even more fans. The group are currently on a multi-city tour in support of their new release *Turning Point* which was released in January of this year.

—Ellen Woloshin

Mark Shroyer