FANDORAS #1

Once upon a time in Los Angeles, there was a foxy girl band called the Pandoras who regularly played all the cool music havens in town. Their notoriety started to spread throughout the city and eventually caught the ears of Greg Shaw, president of Bomp Records who was impressed by their uncompromising 60's influenced punk/pop/ psych roots. He coaxed the girls into recording and the result was an excellent 4 song debut EP that was followed by an equally hot longplayer. "It's About Time".

The

player, it's About line . But just as the girls' fame started happenin trouble was brewin' in the ranks which resulted in the band splitin' in two. Lead vocalist and guitarist Paula Pierce left to form a new Pan-

PANDORAS #2

doras while the other three girls (Gwynne, Bambi, and Casey) decided they also had a good thing goin' and recruited a couple of new replacements themselves.Which all leads us up to the present and the greatest rock'n'roll battle since the early 70's when Frank Marino used to challenge Mike Pinera to see who would be heir to Hendrix's throne. But that was before most of our readership's time. It was also before Wrestlemania. So what I propose is as follows: a tag team wrestling match between both bands to determine who will keep the Pandoras name. Boy George could be the announcer and Lux Interior the referee. It'll be broadcasted live on closed circuit TV to punk clubs all over the world

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where viewers will pay 50¢ to see this media event. It'll be the biggest thing since Buddy Holly went gay.

So, until I can convince the WWF of my idea, I put together this instead; an interview with both opposing sides, represented in the form of Paula Pierce and Gwynne Kelly. I inter-viewed Paula first, who had no knowledge as to my intentions and to her I must apologize, 80 you might want to throw her a few extra points

as a handicap. I then arranged an interview with Gwynne and explained what I had planned and that I had just finished talking with Paula. I didn't need to say anything else cause she was eager, very eager to talk and that's just what we did. Anyhow, I'm not about to pick sides, so we'll leave it up to you, dear readers, to decide...is it Pandoras #1 or Pandoras #2??? Send in your votes now...don't delay!!!

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Paula with her Pandoras; with and without their bikinis. Yeah!

A: Yeah. They got 'em all wrong, too. She said "Cry in My Room" was by the Morning Rain or something and it's by the fucking Rockin' Ramrods. She named all these songs that were wrong. She said "Things You Do"...that's by the Morning After...she said it was by the Reasons Why. She's totally mixed up...She wasn't into that kind of music that much...she just happened to be around...a girl who could play an instrument ...I kind of knew her and she said, "Let's start a band.

Q: So, you started the band?

A: Yeah, cause it was all my ideas and everything. I found the other two girls. What about the new girls in the band ... are

0: they from other bands? No, they've never been in bands before ... A:

they're really good though...they can handle their instruments.

0: Tell us about your battles with El Duce at the Cathay ...

A: He used to try to say sexist remarks to try to get us all worried and stuff, but we didn't act like regular scared women...we acted like agressive women...I don't remember some of the shit we said, but we put him in his place ...We said sexist things back to him...he said something about us wearing tampons...it was funny.

Q: What about reactions from guys in the audience?

A: A lot of guys go and dig us. It's mostly guys...there's some girls who can go and relate, but I'd say 1/8 of the audience is girls, which

Pierce

How did the Pandoras form? I was just in little bands that played around A: ...little garage bands... I started the Pandoras then cause of all the music I listened to...all the 60's garage music and stuff ...

Q: How did you get into that type of music cause you're probably not that old?

I heard it off of "Pebbles" and stuff like A: that.

Q: Were you involved in the original L.A. punk scene...bands like the Weirdos...

I used to go around and see bands like that when I was real young.

0: Well, how old are you then?

Twenty-one. A. 0:

Paula

What about the break-up of the original band?

A: It was just like these chicks wanted to do more metal, you know ... I wanted to keep playing what we were playing already...so everybody kind of went their own way. So I got new members. So both of you are using the same name. Can we expect a court battle as to who owns the rights to the name?

A: Well, I don't know...Gwynne says she owns it. but I don't think she had any right to go file for it. I have just as much right to it cause I wrote all the songs and stuff. They got kind of vicious in the MRR interview saying you stole your songs from other songs

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is cool. The rock'n'roll audience is basically guys anyway.

Q: I wonder why that is... A: Cause it's mainly cool, agressive music. There's not too many kinds of girls into it. That's why males can appreciate us...girls that are into rockin' out

Q: Any girl bands you're influenced by? Nah. I don't like any girl bands. Not really A . There were no really all-girl bands back in the 60's to be influenced by. I like guy music and guy singers the way they growl and scream ... girls are too pretty and wimpy. There's some girl bands now that are pretty good.

Q: Anyone in particular? A: When we toured in M

When we toured... in Maine there was a girl band that was also really influenced by garage music, the Brewd...they were cool. They rocked out

Q: How about the Bangles? Well, the Bangles used to be good when they first started out...they were never garage...they were like a tight 60's influenced pop band...like the Turtles. They were good at what they were doing, then they just became like every other band...a little more laid back.

Q: What about all the new punk, psych bands? A: I don't like Plan 9. They're not garage to me...they're just a bunch of fat guys. I like the Chesterfield Kings. I like the Morlocks. Gravedigger V...I love the Fuzztones and the Vipers from New York ... I guess the Morlocks are really the best from out here in California cause they rock really hard ... they have a lot of fuzz and stuff.

Q: What about movies that have influences of A: I love <u>Riot on Sunset Strip...all</u> the beach party movies... I don't like Frankie and Annette. they're too clean cut.

Q: Motorcycle movies... Hotrods to Hell ... A -Yeah, those are the ones that are cool. The one with "Blues Theme" in it. The ones with motorcycle gangs are cool. The ones that have rats in it... Psych Out is really cool. I like 's a Bikini World especially...that's kind It of early but it doesn't have Frankie and Annette in it.

Q: How did you get involved with Bomp and Greg Shaw?

1 knew Greg Shaw from going to shows and stuff and hangin' out in the early days...like you said, the punk scene... I never got involved with him until I had the Pandoras. He came and saw us and stuff...after awhile we were gonna do a song on his "Battle of the Garages 3" which we did...when we were in the studio we were having a lot of fun, so we just said, fuck it,

let's go for the album...so we did it. Q: Who comes up with all the record sleeves cause I think they're really cool? A: It's kind of like our own ideas. The first

one Gweynne thought of...she designed the whole "Moxie" EP...which I don't like that picture of me very much...it doesn't look like me at all. I like the one on the album ... Bambi and Casey look so heavy metal. They don't fit in with that kind of style at all .. Do you think it's important to fit in with

0: a particular style of dress?

The image is very important cause you can't A: have two in the band who look totally opposite from the other two. We all look pretty much the same now. We agreed on the bikini thing on "Hot Generation"

Who did the original on that? 0.

The Sunsets. They're an Australian band. A: It's from a surfing movie. Actually the B-side of that single, "You Don't Satisfy", I think that's like my best song recorded. Q: Were you satisfied with your other releases? A: No, not the way Greg Shaw mixed them. I like the recording, kind of...but Greg Shaw mixed them like kind of weird with vocals too loud or something...the drums weren't loud enough ...like on "Melvin" it came out awful.

Are you gonna produce yourselves now or

is Greg gonna still do it? No, we're not associated with Greg anymore. We're not on Bomp anymore. We got some big com panies that are interested in us now like Elektra and stuff...and Capital...EMI...

0: Do you think you're gonna have the freedom you have now if you sign to a big company? Uh huh. Yeah. A:

Why is that?...cause a lot of bands lose 0. that freedom.

A: Cause we're girls. We do what we want. We can make it accessible to a wider audience. Raw and raunchy, but better recordings. There's no way they'll ever be interested in anything done by Greg Shaw. He never captured our sound. We sound much rawer and harder and raunchier live than we ever sounded on record ... We're doing some demos now ... we're getting to know the studio better ... we don't really have to compromise our style to make us more pop.. probably more of the direction we're heading is like "Satisfy"...

0: What would you say you're favorite 60's garage bands are...your all-time favorites? A: Oh my god...it's hard to narrow it down... could say all the popular ones like the Chocolate Watchband, the Seeds, the Standells... I could say all of them are my favorites cause they had a majority of good songs: but then also I think that the real raw, disgusting ones like the Humane Society are the best. Maybe they only had one good song but what they had was

the best...god there's so many...I think the Standells had most of the good songs...Blues Magoos had a lot of good songs...but I like the real sick obscure stuff...off of "Back From the Grave"...stuff like that...Larry and the Blue Notes... I like the raunchier stuff the better. the more screaming and fuzz, the better. Q: O.K. Any message for the youth of America? A: Oh boy. These spur of the moment questions are hard...that's a hard one...Buy our records!!! Buy our records!!!

> Gwynne says, We are the Fandoras

Gwynne Kelly

Q: How did the Pandoras form? A: Let's see...way back in '83...Paula was in this band called the Direct Hits which was also called Action Now ... she was in these power pop bands for a long time and then she had this boyfriend who was in the Unclaimed...she's one of those girls who lets her boyfriend do the thinking for her...so she wanted to form a side band and she asked Casey...she wanted me to play lead guitar, but I had just gotten a Farfisia organ from one of the guys in the Last, so I said how about organ cause all the great 60's bands had organ. So I played organ and rhythmn guitar. We had a girl named Debbie playing bass but we knew right from the start she wouldn't be a permanent member because she was everything

opera. Anyway, there was this guy named Gary. Paula wanted him to manage the band...see, after I had befriended him and introduced him to the band ... what he did was, he went behind our backs, the three of us (Gwynne, Casey, Bambi) and conspired with Paula to replace myself and Bambi in the band even though I thought we were kind of an important part of the band. They wanted to keep Casey and just replace the two of us... Well, another thing that culminated in a big argument was I had gotten us a booking with Agent Orange on the 4th of July and all of a sudden Paula said that since our record's out we can't play any shitty gigs like that...playing underneath Agent Orange and I said, "What are you talking about? Agent Orange have more than one record out and are very well known in this town." Granted we're getting somewhere, but we're not the Go Go's yet.

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Q: I heard you had wanted to go metal. A: No, of course not The column No, of course not. The only thing about the music we would get into arguments about was Paula wanted to do a more unmelodic 60's garage thing and we wanted to do more melodic stuff like "Come on Down to My Boat"...I didn't want to modernize the sound at all. I didn't

Gwynne feelin' romantic with El Duce! "We Love El Duce!"

ortr endi

David

you wouldn't want in a musician...anyway we were always looking for another bass player and finally this girlfriend of mine named Bambi came back from living in Europe and I had known that she played guitar and I said hey wanna play bass in my band? So Bambi said sure and she was in and Debbie out.

Q: Were you involved in any other bands before the Pandoras yourself?

No, not really, but I sang with the Des-A: cendents once. I had wanted to but I didn't have a car till I was 18. Anyway, when we got Bambi we really started taking off. Then right after the album came out...do you want to know why the band broke up?

Q: Sure, it was my next question anyway. A: This is kind of painful...first of all Paula started to become real hard to work with. She would refuse to go to practice unless someone drove her and once she got there she would refuse to reherse. She would hang out in the corner making out with her boyfriend or playing with her fuzz effects and stuff. She wanted to do (more and more songs that sounded alike and weren't very melodic...I mean I like 60's garage music and I always have but I'm more into the more melodic stuff like the Blues Magoos, the Castaways. I mean I like the song "Why" but she'd bring in three songs that sounded exactly like it. It was turning into "Louie Louie", the rock

Gwynne jumps around and gets hair in her face! ain't the Carrie Nations. It's the CALDAY

want to switch from farfisa to syntheziser (laughing). See Paula used to write more poppy songs when the band started and also more original songs...see as time went by she started making her plagiarism more blatant until...see I would lend her one of my records and 2 or 3 weeks later she would come in with a new song and it would be one of the songs off the record with 2 or 3 words changed. I would go, Paula, why are you ripping off these songs that are inferior to what you write anyway...and she would go, "Oh, fuck man, it's a cool song and if you don't want to do it then fuck you. 0: Since both of the bands are using the same name can we expect a court battle? A: I'd win in an instant. I made the name up, I own the rights to the name and I have 3 of the original members, but I don't have \$1500 for a preliminary injuction. Q: Would you say that with your current line-

up your style reflects were talking about?

A: We just made a very major change...see Bambi and Casey asked me if I wanted to switch to bass. They said, you don't play bass too badly. I said if I'm gonna be singing lead I'd love to switch to bass...now all we gotta do is find a keyboard player. Casey found this girl, Lisa, who is a great lead guitar player...so for awhile we were playing with Bambi on rythmn guitar and Lisa on lead guitar. Lisa kinda came out of a heavy metal background but once her shagg haircut grew out she was remarkably adaptable

Michael Quercio (3 O'Clock) jams with Bambi

to our style...anyway, we just added a keyboard player this week.

Q: Do you still do any of the old songs?
A: We still do "Melvin" and "The Hump" because those two covers were my ideas to do.
Q: Are you with Enigma now?

A: We are. Enigma's been great. They've been shelling out the bucks, I mean for a small label they've been shelling out the bucks...oh, do you want a scented album cover? Do you want it to smell like incense? They're really into mechandising.

Q: So let me sidetrack a moment...tell me about your battles with El Duce at the Cathay. A: Ohh, no real battles, El Duce is my buddy. First time I saw the Mentors I was laughing my head off. I've always considered myself somewhat of a feminist, but when I see a bnd like the Mentors or Fear that go way out of their way to be offensive I think they do more for the feminist cause than someone standing on a soapbox preaching.

Q: Cause it's like a parody?

A: Yeah. They're not sexist, they're a parody of it, like National Lampoon. When we played there we never had battles with him. We tried to see who could be more disgusting. Actually before Paula got this new boyfriend of hers she could out-disgust El Duce. She used to be cool. She was a rowdy shitkic'er chick. That's what caused a lot of personal fighting cause all of a sudden we'd used a four letter word at rehersal and she'd go, "How can you talk like that?" You don't know who's talking here this is a girl who had her picture in Flipside in 1977 giving a blowjob to one of the Sex Pistols and all of a sudden she became the virgin queen. She went out with everyone from Bruce Barf who later ended up in Wall of Voodoo to the Screamers to the Wierdos. Just look at your old issues of Flipside ... I was envious ... I looked up to cause she was such a scene-maker her How did you get interested in 60's garage Q: music?

A: When I was 12 I was really fascinated by the 60's cause I didn't have any friends at school and everyone hated me just cause I didn't wear platform shoes and stuff. We had this Mexican maid who was really young and she had all these Stones, Jefferson Airplane, and Moody Blues records and stuff and she had these books on the late 60's and I used to read about Janis Joplin and think how cool it would be to live in the late 60's...So when I was in the 6th and 7th grade I was really infatuated by the hippie thing...then I got into punk...I thought, wow, here's a scene where you can be an outcast and be cool for it...then I was a big Todd Run-Rundgren fan also and I wanted to know where I could find Nazz records...I had this cool

The

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cousin who told me to get the "Nuggets" record cause there was a Nazz song on it and that was the first 60's garage record I had. I don't know I just liked anything that had a good melody Then I went and saw the Last and fell in love with them. For two years I was going out with their singer and thought they were god's gift to music. I'd always go see the Last and gogo dance in the audience. Then the Unclaimed happened.

Q: Any current favorite bands you like? A: I love the 3 O'Clock. I love the Bangles and I love the Screaming Sirens. They are hot. I love them cause they're drunk rowdy females and they're not ashamed of it. I like Agent Orange a lot. For awhile back in '83 I was into all the early bands in L.A. doing the 60's revival thing, but after about three months of it I realized most of them were just playing the same covers. I also lived in New York for awhile, '82 and '83. Man, it was stupid there. What a stupid scene they had. Bands like the Fuzztones. They were so predictable. They all wore black turtlenecks, but their rockabilly haircuts hadn't grown out yet. They were like a 1966 band you would hire to play a wedding. I liked the Chesterfield Kings at the time. They had been at it so long you could tell they weren't trying to be trendy. So when I moved back here there was a little of that starting here and at the time Paula left the band it was so stupid. T mean it was getting where every girl in the audience was pseudo Pandoras...every boy was psuedo Chesterfield Kings and all they ever talked about was who had the most rare records. It was as dumb as when hardcore became trendy and everyone had a mohawk.

Q: So what movies have influenced the band or you in particular?

A: That's a good question. Originally I'd say <u>Riot on Sunset Strip</u> was one of the main inspira tions for my coming up with the name, but I'd say my biggest movie influence was <u>Beyond the</u> <u>Valley of the Dolls</u>. That's my favorite movie. Q: I just interviewed Russ Meyer a couple of weeks ago.

A: Really? I might interview him too for this book on exploitation movies that I'm helping on. We're doing as many interviews as we can. The other movies that influenced my life are <u>Faster Pussycat Kill Kill</u>...I always wished that the Pandoras could do a remake of that and Paula would play the hostage (laughing)... she'd be perfect...I like women in prison movies a lot...I like <u>Ilse She-Wolf of the SS</u> and I love Warner Brothers cartoons. I'm a big movie buff.

Q: As a final thing here...any message to the youth of America?

A: Yeah! Don't go see movies like <u>Porky's</u> cause the more people that go and see them the more of them they'll make. Go see good movies instead and then it'll be easier to see good movies. That's my message to the youth of today... don't support bad movies...don't see movies like <u>Where the Boys Are</u> and <u>Spring Break</u>.

*Note: Gwynne also wanted me to mention that they (meaning Bambi, Casey, and herself) never received any of the mail addressed to them from the Fan Club P.O.Box which was handled by Paula and Gary. They want to apoligize to anyone who wrote and didn't get a reply. They will be glad to write back to anyone who wishes to write to their new address: P.O.Box 84-158, L.A., CA 90073.

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