

THURSDAY

Feeling nostalgic



The California Aggie

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Steve Oliver and Momo Hernandez bring jazz to the Crocker Art Museum at 216 O St. with the help of KSSJ 94.7 FM, Sacramento's Smooth Jazz radio station. The music will be enhanced by featured winery Perry Creek Vineyards. The event is free with admission to the Crocker. Call (916) 764-5423 for more information.

THEATER — A one-woman show written by and starring Aviva Jane Carlin, *Jodie's Body*, fearlessly explores the issues of acceptance based on physical appearance. Performed in the nude, the show may not be suitable for those under 18. The production will be presented on Stage Two of the Sacramento Theatre Company, located at 1419 H St., at 8 p.m. and continues Tuesday through Sunday evenings (with weekend matinees) through Dec. 5. Call (916) 443-6722 or 888-4ST-CTIX for tickets.

ART — Immerse yourself in *Soft Pastels*, the artwork of Merreal Taylor, on display at Hart's Gallery, Frames, Etc. on 714 Second St. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

friday

Sacramento's Jovial: Gallery 13 presents *Drawings, Insanity and the Pursuit of Happiness*, a series of over 30 drawings by Elizabeth Mary. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday 3 to 7 p.m. at 283 Arden Way.

FILM — A tough English ex-con travels to Los Angeles to avenge his daughter's death and takes on an army of the city's hardest criminals in *The Limey*, playing nightly on Screen Three at the Crest Theatre. Show times are 7:15 and 9:15 p.m. during the week with matinees on weekends.

The Minus Man (don't bring a dumb date — conversation usually follows) plays daily at the Lower Theatre at Land Park Drive and Broadway Avenue in Sacramento with shows at 3:05, 5:15, 7:20 and 9:30 p.m.

The Third Annual Tower of Youth Film Day begins at 9 a.m. at the Crest Theatre. The day's events include speakers Michael Kahn and filmmaker Mark and Michael Polish, who will

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Mikhail Tank

By BETH ROSE MIDDLETON
Photo By SHAUNA LEYTUS

He danced to gypsy music when he was 3 years old — pretending he was a flamenco artist — and dressed in gypsy outfits, fascinated with the sounds and the culture. At the age of 12 he was still dancing and singing, and by the time he was 13, Mikhail Tank had recorded his first tape — the first of hundreds. Now Tank has released his first CD, *Prove to Me*, made a music video and continues to tour around coffeehouses in the Bay Area like Berkeley, Calif.'s Freighton-Salvage, where he played Monday night.

With a unique mix of techno, flamenco guitar and effects he calls "dark-soul," *Prove to Me* appeals on multiple levels of danceability, intrigue and artistic merit. For Tank, it is the fruition of many years of creativity.

"All art, light or dark, comes from a void within the artist that I call the well," he began. "You take from that well and do whatever the instruments and emotions of that time allow you to."

Now Tank said he hopes his music will inspire others.

"Music awakened my soul, allowed physical survival and served as an unconditional source of strength," he said. "I want people to listen and to live, to think and to believe — if my music can do that for someone, that's my dream."

Tank, who emigrated from Russia with his family at the age of 8, suffered a rocky transition into American culture. Within their first year in the country, living in New York, Tank's family endured a debilitating physical attack on his aged grandfather, a mugging of another family member, a monstrous language barrier — none of them spoke English — and, for Tank, the cruelty of unaccepting children at the local schools.

"It was the hardest part of my life so far — coming from a different culture," he admitted. "I was totally alone and alienated. Then I heard two songs that changed my life and I was inspired to express myself through music."

Tank's efforts began as a "Halloween-ish landscape of sounds" emphasizing the organ and electronic instruments to create a ghoulish, penetrating effect. Elements of this style still whisper on songs like "Aggressor." As an independent musician and a design student at UC Davis, Tank struggles to get his music out to promoters and to perform for larger audiences

within the Central Valley. Commuting to Davis four times a week from his Walnut Creek, Calif. home, Tank said he dreams of the foundation he will find once his unique rhythms of gypsy guitar and driving techno beat make it big time.

"My foundation will be called the Foundation of Dreams and Freedom," he described. "To live, to survive and to be happy, every person needs to have goals and to work for them."

"I would try to open roads for people in little ways, to help them keep their dreams although it sometimes seems impossible," he added.

And Tank knows the meaning of surmounting odds. The passionate musician and student now speaks perfect English and is proud to retain his individual musical style.

"I dream to always be an individual, to have enough self-confidence to never fall," he added.

Tank's *Prove to Me* is available at Armadillo Records as well as Rasputin/Tower in Berkeley. Watch for him in local clubs and cafes.



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