

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers coming to town

The concert is still a week away, and though tickets were still available earlier this week, they were going fast for **Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers** at the Sun Dome on July 12. Petty is a Gainesville native, a local boy who made good, and made it big with lots of determination and push.

Southern Accents is the sixth album for the group, and its first in almost three years. Recently released, it has many firsts for the group. Petty co-wrote three songs with **Dave Stewart** of Eurythmics, bringing in outside collaboration for the first time.

It also is the first time the group has used an orchestra — 26 pieces in all, rounding out the hard rock edges. Female backup singers are a new addition on several tracks. All these changes simply mean that Petty and his Heartbreakers have what it takes to keep up with, and perhaps stay a step ahead of, rock music's school of hard knocks.

The foursome of Petty, lead guitarist **Mike Campbell**, keyboardist **Benmont Tench** and bass player **Ron Blair** emerged from northern Florida as a group called Mudcrutch. They made their mark locally, then broke up. But that wasn't the end. They all turned up in Los Angeles pursuing individual careers. The idea to get together again did not come from Petty, but from Tench, who called on his old buddies to help him with a demo tape. Stan Lynch was asked to join as drummer for the group. Petty then became the leader, and Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers was born in 1976 with a self-titled debut album.

The album did not set the rock world spinning, taking almost a full year to enter the charts and find favor outside a small circle of adventurous radio stations. But then the group released *You're Gonna Get It* a year later. Both albums moved up the charts and subsequently were certified gold.

Petty had a reputation for being a little weird and a little wild, and when MCA purchased his group's label, ABC Records, Petty refused to allow his contract to be switched, saying he was not to be treated like a piece of meat.

MCA claimed rights to *Damn the Torpedoes*, the group's third album in progress, but Petty kept hiding the tapes, hiring security guards, and footing the bill for studio sessions until he finally had to file for bankruptcy, still secreting the tapes.

Eventually a compromise was reached in court, with an MCA subsidiary shooting *Torpedoes* over the 3-million seller mark. *Hard Times* came next, went

platinum, and produced four videos. Petty had been producing videos since 1979, before there was an MTV to market him.

Before the fifth album, *Long After Dark*, Ron Blair left the group, to be replaced by Howie Epstein.

The Heartbreakers are again going in individual directions, playing on recent and upcoming albums with Bob Dylan, Stevie Nicks (her hit *Stop Draggin' My Heart Around* was co-authored by Petty and Campbell) and Don Henley (Campbell co-wrote his smash *The Boys of Summer*). But the group members are committed to each other as well, and will continue with their uncompromising rock.

Opening act is Lone Justice, previewing songs from its debut album, including *Ways of the Wicked*, again written by Campbell.

The concert is at 9 p.m.; tickets are \$14. Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers should be revved up for their Tampa date, as they are scheduled to play the next night at the Live Aid mega-concert in Philadelphia.

Johnny Winter to wail at London Victory Club

Looks can be deceiving, as we all know. In **Johnny Winter's** case, it may be especially true. His long blond hair, intricate dragon-like tatoos on his chest and arms, and an earthy, aged hippie appearance bely the fact that he is one of the fastest and flashiest rock bluesmen around. He and his electric guitar have been fighting for a niche in the world of popular music since the late '60s, and his 12 albums prove he has staying power.

A boy from Texas, Winter rocked 'n' rolled as a teen-ager in a group he formed with his brother Edgar, who later-gained his own credentials as a keyboardist. But he constantly listened to the local black radio station, even making friends with a disc jockey there. When he wasn't hanging around Houston music studios, cutting tunes as a sideman, he would sit in with touring blues artists like B.B. King and Bobby "Blue" Bland. He played the deep south bar circuit, slipping in blues between Top 40 bubblegum hits and cocktail jazz, and word of mouth spread that he was committed to the blues.

In 1968, he formed a blues trio, but couldn't get beyond the local Texas scene. Even some sin-



Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers appear at the Sun Dome on July 12 while Johnny Winter is at the London Victory Club on Monday.

gles he cut for dozens of little labels could not get national airplay. He went to England, hoping to take his group to a musical climate more open to the blues. Then an article on him appeared in *Rolling Stone* magazine, and record offers suddenly were coming from every direction.

Winter hooked up with Steve Paul, owner of New York's then-hippest nightclub, The Scene, who negotiated him a lucrative, longterm contract with CBS Records, and went out to promote him as America's answer to Britain's Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page and Jeff Beck.

His first albums, *Johnny Winter* and *Second Winter*, included his original blues trio. He formed a new band, released two more albums, including *Johnny Winter and Live*, his best seller ever and considered a hard rock landmark, then went on the road. It was life in the fast lane until performing at Woodstock forced him to cool his heels in 1972, but

he re-emerged in 1973 with *Still Alive and Well*, which continued to establish his blend of rock and blues. In the late '70s he began producing records, including one for his idol, Muddy Waters, which proved to be a comeback album for the classic Chicago bluesman. After that album, called *Hard Again*, came another Muddy Waters LP, *I'm Ready*. They both won Grammy Awards and again proved Winter was not faking in his dedication to the blues.

Winter just turned 40, still cross-crosses the country playing clubs and arenas, and returns to the London Victory Club in downtown Tampa on Monday. Though he often has favored hard rock as the times dictated, he never abandons the blues. And his latest album, *Guitar Slinger*, features many Chicago blues greats helping Winter wail in anything but a subtle style. Tickets are \$12 for the 9:30 p.m. show.

Power Station pairs with Spandau Ballet

Power Station, double-billed with Spandau Ballet at Florida State Fairground's huge Expo Hall. It's Wednesday at 8 p.m. for \$15. *Power Station*, their debut album, has been holding in the top 10 album chart for many weeks. The group features veteran singer Robert Palmer and Duran Duran members John and Andy Taylor.

Happy anniversary, DuMochel Theatre

The DuMochel Theatre Company is having a party to celebrate its first anniversary in Boatyard Village, and everyone is invited for wine and cheese, a review of excerpts from past productions like *Hair* and *Happy Birthday*, *Wanda June*, and even a preview of next season. Cost is \$5, time is 7 p.m. Saturday.



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